

The General Epistle of Jude

The Argument

Saint Jude admonisheth all Churches generally to take heed of deceivers which go about to draw away the hearts of the simple people from the truth of God, and willeth them to have no society with such, whom he setteth forth in their lively colors, showing by divers examples of the Scriptures what horrible vengeance is prepared for them: finally he comforteth the faithful and exhorteth them to preserver in the doctrine of the Apostles of Jesus Christ.

Jude a servant of JESUS CHRIST, and brother of James, to them which are called and sanctified^a of God the Father, and^b reserved to Jesus Christ:

2 Mercy unto you, and peace and love be multiplied.

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you to exhort you, that ye should earnestly^c contend for *the maintenance* of the faith, which was^d once given unto the Saints.

4 For there are certain men crept in which were before of old^e ordained to this condemnation: ungodly men *they are* which turn the grace of our God into wantonness, and^f deny God the only Lord, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, forasmuch as ye once knew this, how that the Lord, after that he had delivered the people out of Egypt, ^gdestroyed them afterward which^h believed not.

6 The ⁱAngels also which kept not their first^j estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the^k judgment of the great day.

7 As ^lSodom and Gomorrhé, and the cities about them, which in like manner as they did, committed, and followed^m strange flesh, are set forth for an example, and suffer the vengeance of eternal fire.

8 Likewise notwithstanding theseⁿ dreamers also defile the flesh, and despise government, and speak evil of them that are in authority.

9 Yet^o Michael the Archangel, when he strove against the devil, and disputed about the body of Moses, durst not blame him with cursed speaking, but saith, ^pThe Lord rebuke thee.

10 But these speak evil of those things, which they know not: and whatsoever things they know^q naturally, as beasts, which are without reason, in those things they corrupt themselves.

11 ^rWo be unto them: for they have followed the way^s of Cain, and are cast away by the deceit^t of Balaam's wages, and perish in the^u gainesaying of^v Core.

12 These are spots^w in your feasts of charity when they feast with you, without^x all fear, feeding themselves: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds, corrupt trees and without fruit, twice dead, and plucked up by the roots.

13 *They are* the raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame: *they are* wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

14 And Enoch also the seventh from Adam, prophesied of such, saying, ^y*Behold, the Lord cometh with thousands of his Saints,

15 To give judgment against all men, and to rebuke all the ungodly among them of all their wicked deeds, which they have ungodly committed, and of all their cruel speakings, which the wicked sinners have spoken against him.

16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts^z: ^{aa}whose mouths speak proud things, having men's persons in admiration, because of advantage.

17 But, ye beloved, remember the words which were spoken before of the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,

18 How that they told you that there should be mockers^{ab} in the last time, which walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These are makers of sects, fleshly, having^{ac} not the Spirit.

20 But, ye beloved, edify yourselves in your most holy faith, praying in the holie Ghost,

21 And keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto eternal life.

22 And have compassion of some, ^{ad}in putting difference:

23 And other save with^{ae} fear, pulling them out of the fire, and hate even the^{af} garment spotted by the flesh.

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you, that ye fall not, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with joy,

25 *That is*, to God only wise, our Saviour, *be* glory, and majesty, & dominion, and power, both now and forever, Amen.

1 a The faithful are sanctified of God the Father in the Son by the holie Ghost.

1 b That he should keep you, John 17.6

3 c Against the assaults of Satan and heretics.

3 d That we should keep it forever.

4 e He confirmeth their heart against the contemners of religion and Apostates, showing that such men trouble not the Church at all adventures, but are appointed thereunto by the determinate counsel of God.

4 *2 Pet. 2.1

5 *Num. 14.37

5 f Their incredulity was the fountain of all their evil.

6 *2 Pet. 2.4

6 ^Or, original

6 g Then shalbe their extreme punishment.

7 *Gen. 19.24

7 h Most horrible pollutions.

8 i Which show themselves dull and impudent.

9 k It is most like that this example was writ in some of those books of the Scripture which are now lost, Num. 21.14, Jos. 10.13, 2 Chro. 9.29.

9 l In Zach. 3.2 Christ under the name of the Angel rebuked Satan as knowing that he went about to hinder the Church: but here we are admonished not to seek to revenge ourselves by evil speaking, but to refer the thing to God.

10 m By their carnal judgment.

11 *Gen. 4.8

11 *Num. 22.23, 2 Pet. 2.15

11 n For as Core, Dathan and Abiron rose up and spake against Moses, so do these against them that are in authority.

11 *Num. 16.1

12 o These were general feasts which the faithful kept, partly to protect their brotherly love, & partly to relieve the needy, Tertullian Apologet chap. 39

12 p Either of God, or of his Church.

14 *Rev. 1.7

14 q This saying of Enoch might for the worthiness thereof have been as a common saying among men of all times, or else have been written in some of those books which now remain not: yet by the providence of God, so many are left as are able to instruct us in the faith of Jesus Christ to salvation, John 20.31.

16 In ungodliness and iniquity.

16 *Psal. 17.10

18 1 Tim. 4.1, 2 Tim. 3.1, 2 Pet. 3.3

19 r Of regeneration. , other by sharpness.

22 s Some may be won with gentleness, other by sharpness.

23 t By sharper protests to draw them out of danger.

23 u He wills not only to cut off the evil but to take away all occasions which are as preparation and accessories to the same.