



"Clouds Without Water"

Part One of Two - Pages. 1-8

These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; (Jude 1:12 NASB)

~Introduction~

Good day, thank you for letting me speak to you today. Hope all are having or had a good week.



Just remember Jesus Christ is coming back; How many here believe that? Just because it's been 2000 plus years since He told us that, doesn't mean that He is not true to His Word. Keep the faith, He is returning. II Samuel 7:22 tells us about this great God. *"For this reason You are great, O Lord GOD; for there is none like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. (2 Samuel 7:22 NASB)*

You know, every man, woman and child has the opportunity to spend eternity with God. Jesus said in John 17:3; *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.* (John 17:3 NASB) Folks, there is only one true god; there may be many gods out there that people worship, but let me tell you there is only one true god. From Genesis through the book of Revelation, the Scriptures declare and explain how that becomes a reality. It's what the Bible is all about.

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~Book of Jude Overview~

Today we want to go through the book of Jude. I have read where Jude is the most neglected book in all the New Testament and I'm inclined to agree with this because I hardly ever hear any quotes or preaching from the book of Jude. Jude is tucked



between the epistles of I, II, III John, written by the Apostle John and the book of Revelation also written by the Apostle John. We all probably do a lot of memory verses from the Epistles of John and the book of Revelation is probably dog-eared from reading, trying to learn what is going to happen in the future, which we are all interested in.

Jude is probably a page or two in your Bible and is easily over looked since it is so small. Jude only has one chapter with 25 verses, “but is smoking with scripture about the apostasy of the last days.” So Jude was written for these last days, for you and me. Jude 3 tells us to “Get back to Scripture.” *Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.* (Jud 1:3 NASB)



Remember all Scripture is inspired by God as we are told in II Timothy 3:16. *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;* (2 Ti 3:16 NASB) And Paul goes on to say in the next verse which is often not quoted with the above verse says; *so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.* (2 Ti 3:17 NASB)

Jude was the half-brother of Jesus and he also had another, maybe more famous brother, by the name of James, a leader or moderator of the church at Jerusalem for twenty years. James was also the author of the book of James. *“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?”* (Mat 13:55 NASB) Also see Mark 6:3.

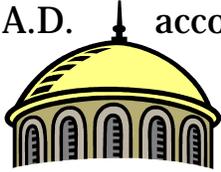
Like James, Jude must have believed in Jesus (their half-brother) as the Messiah, only after the resurrection¹, and was numbered among the waiting group on the day of Pentecost². As you read both books (James and Jude) you

¹ John 7:5

² Acts 1:14

can see similarity in their writing styles and convictions. Both are tense and graphic in expression and both are characterized by a certain ethical sternness. In my terms; “they told it like it was,” “no beating around the bush,” as the saying goes. It was plain and simple; as you may expect from two brothers that were raised in the same household as Jesus.

This little book called Jude was written somewhere between 60 and 80 A.D. according to most of the commentaries. Most writers try to tie the



book in with II Peter 2 since some of the verses are along the same lines, apostasy. I believe II Peter was written first and then Jude because Peter talks about the apostasy or false prophets arising in the true church and in Jude the apostasy is here, “NOW.” This is the reason it is written for us, today. All you have to do is look at the Church today and see the apostasy or false teaching in the Church. Man made traditions that have nothing to do with the true God and the Bible.

Since Peter was martyred during the reign of Nero, his death must have occurred prior to A.D. 68; so it is very likely that he wrote II Peter between A.D. 65 and 68. Therefore Jude, I believe, was probably written prior to A. D. 72 and probably most agree about A.D. 70; somewhere around the year of the destruction of Jerusalem.



According to Foxes’ Book of Martyrs, 1833 edition, Jude was crucified about the year A.D. 72. It reads; “The apostle and martyr, the brother of James, was commonly called Thaddeus. Being sent to Edessa, he wrought many miracles, and made many converts, which stirring up the resentment of the people in power, he was crucified about the year A.D. 72.” So obviously it has to have been written before A.D. 72.

Can you imagine how many people have given their life for this man, called Jesus? Paul said in Phillippians 1:21 NASB

(21) *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

Do you feel this way today? How many would honestly give your life for the sake of Christ? Think on this one!

There have been whole books written about Christians that were, tortured, murdered or slain all for the sake of Christ.

~Book of Acts~

Before we start off in Jude, we need to look in the book of Acts, we will start with Chapter 20, verse 17 because this is Paul looking into the future. This gives us little hints of what will be coming up in Jude.



Paul's address here is to the Ephesian elders and probably written by Paul somewhere around A.D. 56. He prophesied to them of apostasy, false teaching and corrupt leadership which would later be wrote about. II Peter 2 was written probably between

Paul's writing in Acts and the book of Jude. We will go over the 2nd chapter of II Peter maybe later on in this writing.

~Acts Chapter 20:17-32~

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. (Act 20:17 NASB)

And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, (Act 20:18 NASB)

-serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; (Act 20:19 NASB)

how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, (Act 20:20 NASB)

solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Act 20:21 NASB)

"And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, (Act 20:22 NASB)

except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. (Act 20:23 NASB)

"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. (Act 20:24 NASB)

"And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. (Act 20:25 NASB)

"Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. (Act 20:26 NASB)

"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. (Act 20:27 NASB)

Here Paul is declaring the whole counsel of God, not just part of it, but



all. Does anybody have any trouble with “all?” All! Don’t leave parts of it out because you don’t understand it, or don’t agree with it or want to change it. He had a warning..... true advice that they should take to heart.

"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Act 20:28 NASB)

"I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; (Act 20:29 NASB)

and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. (Act 20:30 NASB)

"Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. (Act 20:31 NASB)

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Act 20:32 NASB)

Paul gives the Ephesians a warning. He told them some particulars about how it would be, and then he says, “I commend you to God,” and in essence is pointing them back to the Scriptures. Which is somewhat interesting because that is where Jude points them to; the Scripture.

In Jude 3 it reads; “contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints.” The truth is found in the Scriptures.

I would like to mention some details about some of the above verses. Most of them you may recall when we get into Jude next time.

One – Verse 28, Paul tells the elders to be careful how they shepherd the flock, He emphasizes that this is a God given duty and a God given responsibility. He said, “The Holy Spirit has made you overseers.” They were especially called out to watch over the flock, to guard it, to help it and to lead it. This was no light matter.

Two – Verse 29, Paul calls them future apostates, these future false teachers “savage wolves.” Jude later calls them in Jude 10, “brute beasts.” The idea that this is to conjure up in our mind the animalistic nature that man has, what you would call the physical side of his nature, a nature he shares with the beasts, is what’s driving these false teachers. It’s not necessarily their mind and the ideas they have that is driving them, but it’s their bodies or their flesh. They desire gain, or being at the top of the pack, or things along that line. These false teaches are letting their “animal nature” get the best of them!

Three – Verse 29 and 30, They will be people who are in leadership positions, or who are at least considered to be pillars in the Church and highly respected, from their advantageous position they can do the most damage. Paul says that savage wolves will come in among you and from them men will rise up.

Four – Verse 30 also, says they will do damage with their tongues. They will manipulate the brethren with cunning sermons and with seeming large arguments, but the motivation is to get for themselves and in Jude 16; Jude says they “speak arrogantly.” It may sound good, but there is something you have to look at and notice. Go beyond the surface, get into the Word and check them out.

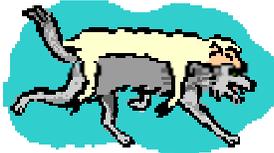


Five – Also Verse 30, they will do evil deeds to gain a following. Remember we said their motivation is gain for themselves. They want people to follow them, to love them, to do things they do and they like things such as money, power, prestige and they are happy for other people to join them. One word may be used here; they are “self-seeking.” Jude’s description is very similar as we will see later.



Have you had enough of Paul in Acts yet? Well let’s move on to Matthew 7:15, the Sermon on the Mount. It’s the opening up of the spirit of the law and the spirit of how a person should live. Here we have Jesus giving the Sermon on the Mount and in these set of verses he is talking about false prophets. So now we have had Paul, Peter, James, John, Jude and even Jesus warning us to some degree with each verse they wrote about this apostasy or false prophets.

~**Matthew 7:15-20**~



"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.
(Mat 7:15 NASB)

"You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? (Mat 7:16 NASB)

"So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.
(Mat 7:17 NASB)

"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.
(Mat 7:18 NASB)

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
(Mat 7:19 NASB)

"So then, you will know them by their fruits. (Mat 7:20 NASB)

Keep this thought in the back of your mind throughout Jude because most of the book describes these false teachers and their false teachings in detail. I think God may have included Jude in His Word so there would be at

least a second warning especially for us believers. As the Bible reads; “Out of the mouths of two or three witnesses.” It tells us about how you can spot or ferret out the false from the true. So, as we get into Jude, keep in the back of your mind all the verses we went over today.

The more we know about false prophets and the apostasy that is in the churches today, the easier and quicker we will be able to spot their heresies. Remember we have the true gospel, Jesus Christ and the Holy Bible. How are we going to know these false prophets and false teachers? You will only know them if you know the Word of The Scriptures and you know your Savior Jesus Christ. Remember they will come to you in sheep clothing, but will inwardly be ravenous wolves. How do I know, the Bible tells me so!

Error is like leaven, of which we read, “A little leaven leavens the whole lump.” Truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error,



except that it is more innocent looking and therefore, more dangerous. God hates such a mixture! Any error, or any truth-and-error mixture, calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word and deceitful to imperiled souls for whom Christ died. H. A. Ironside

Mr. Ironside was quoting from Galatians 5:9.

Remember – “A little untruth mixed with truth is still untrue.”

“It’s not the whole truth; it’s not the whole counsel of God.”

Amen in the name of Jesus



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