

Contending for the Faith

Jude

Jude was the brother of James (author of the book of James and the first pastor of the Jerusalem church) and the half-brother of Jesus. This short book deals with apostasy which is the renunciation of faith.

1st The problem of apostasy: vv. 3-4

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ."

2nd The description of apostasy: vv. 8, 10, 16, 19

"Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries...But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves...These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage...These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit."

3rd Historical examples and causes of apostasy: vv. 5-7, 9, 11

"But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire...Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"...Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah."

4th The metaphors of apostasy: vv. 12, 13

"These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."

5th The judgment upon apostasy: vv. 14, 15

"Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

6th The safeguards against apostasy: vv. 20-25

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."

**In His Love,
Joel**