

Outline of the Book of Jude

The book of Jude, written by Jude, the brother of James, is a short yet powerful letter warning believers against false teachers and urging them to contend for the faith. Jude emphasizes the importance of holding fast to the apostolic teachings and living godly lives. Below is an exhaustive outline of Jude, highlighting the dangers facing believers.

I. Introduction (1:1-2)

- A. Salutation (1-2)
 - 1. Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James (1a)
 - 2. To those who have been called, loved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ (1b)
 - 3. Mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance (2)

II. Purpose of the Letter (1:3-4)

- A. Appeal to Contend for the Faith (3)
 - 1. Urgent appeal to contend for the faith once for all entrusted to the saints (3)
- B. Warning Against Certain Men (4)
 - 1. Certain individuals have secretly slipped in among you (4a)
 - 2. Godless men who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality (4b)
 - 3. Denying Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord (4c)

III. The Condemnation of the Ungodly (1:5-16)

- A. Historical Examples of Judgment (5-7)
 - 1. The unbelief of those delivered from Egypt (5)
 - 2. The rebellion of angels who did not keep their positions of authority (6)
 - 3. The immorality of Sodom and Gomorrah (7)
- B. Characteristics of the Ungodly (8-13)
 - 1. Polluting their own bodies, rejecting authority, and slandering celestial beings (8)
 - 2. Comparison to Michael the archangel's dispute with the devil (9)
 - 3. Speaking abusively against what they do not understand (10)
 - 4. Following the way of Cain, Balaam's error, and Korah's rebellion (11)
 - 5. Descriptions of ungodly individuals (12-13)
 - a. Blemishes at your love feasts, shepherds who feed only themselves (12a)
 - b. Clouds without rain, blown along by the wind (12b)
 - c. Autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead (12c)
 - d. Wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame (13a)
 - e. Wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever (13b)
- C. Enoch's Prophecy of Judgment (14-16)
 - 1. Enoch's prophecy about the Lord's coming with thousands of holy ones (14-15)
 - 2. Executing judgment on all the ungodly (15)
 - 3. Description of grumblers, faultfinders, and followers of their own evil desires (16a)
 - 4. Boastful and flattering people for their own advantage (16b)

IV. Exhortations to Believers (1:17-23)

- A. Remember the Apostles' Warnings (17-19)
 - 1. Remember the words spoken by the apostles of Jesus Christ (17)
 - 2. In the last times, there will be scoffers who follow their own ungodly desires (18)
 - 3. These are the people who divide you, follow mere natural instincts, and do not have the Spirit (19)
- B. Building Yourselves Up in the Faith (20-21)
 - 1. Build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit (20)
 - 2. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life (21)
- C. Show Mercy to Those in Doubt (22-23)
 - 1. Be merciful to those who doubt (22)
 - 2. Save others by snatching them from the fire (23a)
 - 3. Show mercy mixed with fear, hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh (23b)

V. Doxology (1:24-25)

- A. Praise to God (24-25)
 - 1. To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy (24)
 - 2. To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore. Amen. (25)

Dangers Facing the Believer Highlighted in Jude

1. False Teachers (1:4):

- **Danger:** Certain individuals who secretly slip in among believers and pervert the grace of God into a license for immorality.
- **Application:** Be vigilant and discerning, contend earnestly for the faith, and reject those who deny Jesus Christ.

2. Unbelief and Rebellion (1:5-7):

- **Danger:** Following the example of those who did not believe, rebelled against authority, or lived immorally, leading to judgment.
- **Application:** Learn from historical examples of judgment, remain faithful, obedient, and morally upright.

3. Rejecting Authority and Slandering Celestial Beings (1:8-10):

- **Danger:** Polluting their own bodies, rejecting authority, and speaking abusively against celestial beings without understanding.
- **Application:** Respect spiritual authority and speak with reverence about spiritual matters, following Michael the archangel's example.

4. Following the Path of Cain, Balaam, and Korah (1:11):

- **Danger:** Emulating the errors of Cain (jealousy and murder), Balaam (greed and leading others to sin), and Korah (rebellion against God's chosen leaders).
- **Application:** Avoid jealousy, greed, and rebellion, and follow the paths of righteousness and submission to God's will.

5. Being Deceived by Ungodly Individuals (1:12-13):

- **Danger:** Being led astray by those who are self-serving, unfruitful, and spiritually dead, described metaphorically as blemishes, clouds without rain, and wandering stars.
- **Application:** Be discerning about those who influence you and ensure they exhibit godly character and fruitful lives.

6. Scoffers and Divisive People (1:17-19):

- **Danger:** Scoffers who follow their own ungodly desires and create divisions within the church, following natural instincts rather than the Spirit.
- **Application:** Remember the apostles' warnings, stay united in the Spirit, and guard against divisive influences.

7. Lack of Spiritual Growth and Prayer (1:20-21):

- **Danger:** Neglecting to build oneself up in the faith and to pray in the Holy Spirit.
- **Application:** Actively build up your faith, maintain a strong prayer life, and keep yourself in God's love while waiting for Christ's mercy.

8. Failing to Show Mercy (1:22-23):

- **Danger:** Not showing mercy to those who doubt or are led astray.
- **Application:** Show mercy, save others by bringing them back from error, and exercise caution while doing so to avoid being corrupted by sin.

Well-known Passages from Jude

[Jude 1:3-5 ESV] Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

[Jude 1:9-11 ESV] But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.

[Jude 1:14-16 ESV] It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

[Jude 1:20-23 ESV] But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

[Jude 1:24-25 ESV] Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Conclusion for Jude

By understanding these dangers and applying Jude’s exhortations, believers can safeguard their faith, live godly lives, and effectively contend for the faith amidst challenges and false teachings.