

# Jude

Jude was probably written shortly after 2 Peter was circulated to the churches, in the late 60s AD. Jude is brother to James, and so half-brother to Jesus. James and Jude both describe themselves as servants.

Note the intention to write an uplifting letter in 3:1, and Jude's perception that instead found it more urgent to write about challenges to the faith. The faith he writes of is a singularity, "once for all delivered to the saints." God's holy people have Jesus' message through his chosen apostles and prophets, and that's the final word on what faith is and how it is lived.

Deliverance can be real, and yet not fully received, as in v5. Power and glory can be lost by failure to be obedient, v6. Egregious sins merit extreme judgment, v7. Yet the same errors and rebellions continue to occur, justifying sinful self-indulgence and, as Peter described in 2 Peter 2:10-12, so also Jude warns against the folly of blaspheming great spiritual powers, even fallen angels, v8-10.

As in 2nd Peter 2, the abusive folks here described are attending the meetings of the church, v12, enjoying the shared food of the Christians, while also living lives of hedonistic self-indulgence. Only the outer darkness Jesus warned of in his parables can be the outcome of such lives, on the edges of faith.

Jude's citation of Enoch's prophecy is unique in the Bible, no other reference to a prophecy of Enoch is in scripture, though literature ascribed to him exists in other non-biblical materials.

Jude 17 seems to be a reference to 2nd Peter 3:3.

Jude 1:20-23 gives some notion of the kind of positive message about our common salvation Jude wanted to write, instead of the urge to contend earnestly against troublemakers.

And again, the final focus is on the doing of God in Christ, which we depend on for everything that matters, now and forever.