

## THE BIG READ (23)

### Jesus in Jude

#### A. Introduction

1. Every book of the Bible has one dominating theme – Jesus is the Christ.

“Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”  
(Luke 24:45-47)

Jesus is the Christ who will suffer and die.

Jesus is the Christ who will rise from the dead on the third day.

Jesus is the Christ who will forgive the sins of all who repent.

Jesus is the Christ who will be preached to the nations.

2. The New Testament contains a number of epistles or letters sent to individual Christians or churches.

These letters address specific situations in the lives of believers and through them we are taught how to live as God’s people today.

Thirteen of these letters were written by the apostle Paul. The remaining nine letters were written by other church leaders, including this letter of Jude.

Jude has been called by some commentators as *“the most neglected book in the New Testament.”*

3. Jude was the brother of James, the leader of the church in Jerusalem.

“Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James.” (Jude 1)

He doesn’t mention that he was also the half-brother of someone else.

“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?” (Matthew 13:55)

“When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.” (Mark 3:21)

Jude was someone who once thought that Jesus was out of His mind, but a transformation had happened in his life whereby he now sees himself primarily as a servant of Jesus.

4. Jude is writing to Christians.

“To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.” (Jude 1-2)

Christians have been called. They have been summoned by God to turn from their sins and trust in His Son and be saved.

Christians are loved by God the Father. This is the reason why they have been rescued from sin and death.

Christians are being kept by Jesus. He is preserving them and protecting them from untold dangers, so they make it to the end.

#### B. Why did Jude write this letter?



"Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home – these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. In the same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals – these are the very things that destroy them." (Jude 5-10)

They also lead people away from God.

"Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion. These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm – shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind, autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted – twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever." (Jude 11-13)

The end result for them and those who follow their advice is that they won't have the safe position that Jesus provides.

Enoch, the seventh from Adam prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage." (Jude 14-16)

3. In verses 17 to 25, Jude moves from why we need to fight to how we need to fight.

We fight by remembering that false teachers will come.

"But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus foretold. They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit." (Jude 17-19)

We fight by building up our faith.

"But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith..." (Jude 20)

We fight by praying in the Spirit.

"But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit." (Jude 20)

We fight by living a godly life.

"Keep yourselves in God's love..." (Jude 21)

We fight by waiting for Jesus to return.

"Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear – hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh." (Jude 21-23)

We fight by trusting that God will keep us from falling and will present us blameless in his sight.

"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen." (Jude 24-25)

#### **D. Jesus in Jude**

1. Jesus is able to keep you from falling.

“To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ.”  
(Jude 1)

“To him who is able to keep you from falling.” (Jude 24)

2. Jesus is able to present you before God without fault and with great joy.

“To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen.” (Jude 24-25)