

Hey, Jude – it's only 25 verses long

If 2-3 John was about wrong beliefs (denying the Incarnation), Jude is about wrong actions – bad behavior.

Read the last 2 verses first – the most familiar part – his benediction

“to keep you from falling” – “after warning throughout the letter about falling away, Jude praises God's ability to keep Jude's hearers steadfast in the faith.”

Read vv. 1-4 Salutation & Occasion of the Letter

- 1 Jude, a servant of JC & brother of James This lack of elaboration suggests Jude was well known? Brother of James = James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church, also the brother of Jesus? (cf James 1:1 = also says “a servant of JC”)
Look for triads throughout (called, beloved, kept safe, etc.)
- 4 although the (half) brother of Jesus, Jude refers to him as Master & Lord
- 3 Jude eagerly wanted to write about their salvation!, but...
- 4 The occasion: intruders have “stolen in” among you
They 1) pervert the grace of God into licentiousness
(false prophets denying God's grace = God forgives me, thus my sinful actions don't matter)
2) deny Jesus

Read vv. 5-16 A long section on false teachers – he gives ample evidence of God's judgment

- 5-7
- 5 in Egypt, God destroyed those who didn't believe (the Golden Calf, they rebelled in the wilderness)
6 angels - fallen angels (from Genesis 6, “sons of God” who left heaven to have intercourse w women)
7 Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 19 = men gang-raping men)

8-13

- 8 They defile the flesh, reject authority, slander the “glorious ones” (other versions?)
9 The angel Michael (he & Gabriel the only 2 angels mentioned by name in the OT (in Daniel)
The body of Moses – Deut 34:5f
M. dies & is buried, on Mt. Nebo, in sight of the Promised Land but no one knows where
- 10 slander
11 go the way of Cain, Balaam's error, Korah's rebellion – all symbols of error, of going against God.
Cain (Gen 4), Balaam (Num 22-24), Korah (Num 16 – rejects Moses' authority)
12 blemishes on love-feasts – communion was a whole meal – they didn't share
Waterless clouds, trees w/o fruit, wild waves, wandering stars

14-16

- 14-15 Enoch Jude quotes from 1 Enoch 1.9 (Jewish apocryphal literature)
Enoch was before the Flood (died at 365 when “God took him” = didn't die)
Book of Enoch prophesies judgment on ungodly sinners
- 16 grumblers, malcontents, lusts, bombastic speech, flattering others to their own advantage.

Read vv. 17-22 But you, beloved... Warnings, Exhortations

- 17 remember what the apostles said re the last days –
18 scoffers, indulging in their own lusts
19 worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who cause divisions

20-22 but you... build yourselves up, pray, keep yourselves in the love of God, look forward to God's mercy, have mercy on those who are wavering, save others, have mercy...