

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME SEVEN
THE FINAL WORD—A SURVEY OF HEBREWS—REVELATION
JUDE: MANUAL FOR SURVIVAL
A SURVEY OF JUDE



The Heart of the Matter

Someone has correctly tagged Jude's little letter with the title "The Acts of the Apostates." The primary apostates in the first century were the Gnostics, who embraced the incipient philosophy that matter is inherently evil and spirit is inherently good. Such heresy was on the rise, producing and cultivating the idea that because the flesh is evil, humans could do anything they liked, as no one is under any moral obligation in regard to his or her physical body. In that day, this disregard for physical restraint was called *antinomianism*—in our day, *hedonism*. Regardless of the title, this mind-set led to rebellion against authority, irreverence, presumptuous speech, and a lifestyle marked by unbridled license. Jude wrote his letter to defend the apostolic faith and to stir up his readers to do the same. The tone of the letter is polemic and its message is perfectly in league with our times.



Discovering the Way

1. Introductory Facts to Remember

Jude was the half-brother of Jesus, but called himself Christ's "bond-slave." The recipients were the "beloved in God"—believers under attack. The theme is "contend earnestly for the faith," and the letter was written in a pointed, no-nonsense style.

2. Key Questions to Answer

Why did Jude change his plan of topic (Jude 1:3–4)? What characterized the heretics (1:4)? How is the theme developed (1:5–23)?

3. Explanatory Reasons for "Contending"

We contend for the faith because of the false teachers' certain doom (1:5–7); because of their blasphemous tongues (1:8–10); because of their spiritual emptiness (1:11–13); and because of their godless deeds (1:14–16).



Starting Your Journey

Jude concluded his letter with four commands to obey. First, remember Scripture (1:17–19). Second, keep in the love of God (1:20–21). Third, have mercy on those who doubt (1:22). And fourth, save others (1:23).



Tools for Digging Deeper



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JUDE

	Greeting and Purpose	Exposure of False Teachers	Warnings and Commands to Christians	Benediction
	Mercy, peace, and love What to do: Contend for the faith! Why: Certain persons have secretly slipped in. VERSES 1–4	Doom is certain Guilt is sure Spirituality is empty Lives are godless VERSES 5–16	“Remember!” (1:17) “Keep yourselves!” (1:21) “Have mercy!” (1:22) “Save!” (1:23) VERSES 17–23	Our ultimate hope Our infinite God VERSES 24–25
Emphasis	Appealing	Revealing	Reminding	Praising
Tone	Personal concern	Bold exposure	Strong exhortation	Great hope
Directed to	Those “beloved in God the Father” (1:1)	Those who “indulged in gross immorality” (1:7)	“But you, beloved . . .” (1:17, 20)	“The only God” (1:25)
Theme	Exposing false teachers and standing firm in the faith			
Key Verses	1:3, 21–23			
Christ in Jude	Jesus is our only Master and Lord, who will judge the false prophets at His coming (1:4, 14–16).			

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