Spots in Your Love Feasts—Part I (Jude 1:1-13)

Who is Jude?

"Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and **brother of James**, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you." Jude 1:1-2 NKJV

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About the Author

Jude is the "brother of James" who led the community of Jesus-followers in Jerusalem [see Acts 15:6-21 (the Jerusalem Counsel) & 21:15-25 (Paul's Nazarite Vow)].

- James is also the same person who wrote the book of James.
- ☑ That would make Jude the younger brother of Jesus. In lists of Jesus' brothers James is always listed first and Jude is listed last.
 - "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?" Matthew 13:55 NKJV
- Note that neither Jude nor James mentions a family relationship between them and Jesus.
- ☑ The name itself is Judah in Hebrew or Aramaic—Jude or Judas is the Greek form—is unremarkable, especially for a Jewish family that claimed Bethlehem in Judah as its ancestral home.
- Jude differentiates himself from other leaders in the Jesus movement of the same name—Judah son of James (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13) and of course Judah son of Simon Iscariot (John 6:71).

Special Note

There is a very extensive teaching on the warnings against heresy on our website, which includes Jude's letter. You can read the notes and watch the video here:

Without Blemish or...Apostate Religion

Contend for the Faith

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ." Jude 1:3-4 NKJV

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"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our **common salvation**, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints." Jude 1:3 NKJV

☑ Common salvation...

Your born-again status has made you part of a new family. Jude was passionate to connect to the body of believers on that level and this connection later gave him relational equity to offer them strong advice and clear warnings.

<u>✓</u> Contend earnestly for the faith...

As we will see shortly, the faith family you have become part of will be challenged on all sides. And, quite frankly,

you do not get to sit around passively while the faith is being assaulted from both insiders and outsiders.

"For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ." Jude 1:4 NKJV

Unnoticed

These are insiders who have joined the club. They are faith pretenders who, on the surface, may seem like part of the family, but really God has known all along that they would never be true believers.

You can pick them out of the crowds because they are the ones who want to cover everything up with grace. Literally, there is no behavior that they won't simply dismiss by bathing it with God's lovingkindness and endless forgiveness. Ultimately, they are hardly distinguishable from any confessed unbeliever except for this one thing—they confess to be believers. Their persistent sin and dismissal of such behavior by spreading grace-jam all over it is the very denial of Yahweh and His Son.

Not All Who Looked Saved are Saved...

"But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not **keep their proper domain**, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of **dignitaries.** Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves." Jude 1:5-10 NKJV

Jude 1:5-10

"But **I want to remind you**, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, **afterward destroyed** those who did not believe." Jude 1:5 NKJV

<u>Example # 1: Egypt</u>

- When you remember the story of the Exodus and the mixed multitude who came out of Egypt, you must recognize that not all of those who exited were really part of the faith family. As they journeyed, those who were not really believers were destroyed along the way as their true colors rose to the surface. So, this warning I am giving you is not a new thing. Pretenders have always been around.
- "And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Jude 1:6-7 NKJV

Angels

Even angels who showed their true colors and left their assigned domain because they lusted after the daughters of men were removed from their place and assigned for permanent judgment.

☑ Sodom and Gomorrah

- If you want a perfect example of what happens to mankind when they go off the deep end, then look no further than these two cities. They were reduced to a pile of ashes.
- "Likewise also **these dreamers** defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries." Jude 1:8 NKJV

▼ They are like illusionists!

- About these men who have crept in, who apply grace over their constant sin and pretend to be part of the family, you will also notice that they are very subversive—they reject leadership and undermine authorities with their slick words. Very often they will try to draw your allegiance to themselves.
- "Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!""

 Jude 1:9 NKJV

✓ How do you handle these imposters?

Remember, they are not rejecting you, but Yahweh and His Son. And it is not by your authority that they will be rebuked. Yes, the Lord may use you, but the rebuke is not

- of you. They are not sinning against you, but against Yahweh.
- "Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge." Psalms 51:4 NKJV
- "But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves." Jude 1:10 NKJV
 - **☑** It's simple—they do not have the Holy Spirit
 - They could not possibly understand the things of God.
 Only those with the Spirit can. If you read II Corinthians
 2:1-16, you will see very clearly that those who are not
 of God can only understand the the things of man, and
 those with the Spirit can discern the deep things of God
 as we have the mind of Christ.
 - Plus, there is no doubt that a man who only indulges in his own flesh will ultimately be corrupted by it. For clarity, even the things that might otherwise seem good in the natural, will in the end consume someone because he will have no control over his runaway passions, like a wild animal.

Spots in Your Love Feasts

"Woe to them! For they have **gone in the way of Cain**, have run greedily in the **error of Balaam** for profit, and perished in the **rebellion of Korah**. These are **spots in your love feasts**, while they feast with you without fear, **serving only themselves**. They are **clouds without water**, **carried about by the winds**; **late autumn trees without fruit**, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; **raging waves of the sea**, foaming up their own shame; **wandering stars** for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. " Jude 1:11-13 NKJV

Jude 1:11-13

"Woe to them! For they have gone in **the way of Cain**, have run greedily in the **error of Balaam** for profit, and perished in **the rebellion of Korah**." Jude 1:11 NKJV

- **The way of Cain (see Genesis 4:1-15) ⊻**
 - ✓ A murderer who becomes a fugitive and a vagabond...
 - And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.
 - If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.

- ☑ Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.
- The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.
- ☑ A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.
- ☑ In the End—My punishment is greater than I can bear!
- You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth.

☑ The error of Balaam

■ Balaam is tempted by a bribe to prophesy against God's people. In the end he is killed for his greed! (Full story in Numbers 22-24)

<u>The rebellion of Korah</u>

- ☑ Korah is jealous of Moses and accuses him of assuming authority of his own, beyond what God has given him. In the end all those involved are brought to severe judgment by Yahweh. (Full story in Numbers 16:1-40)
- "These are **spots in your love feasts**, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are **clouds without** water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom

is reserved the blackness of darkness forever." Jude 1:12-13 NKJV

Spots in your love feasts Spots in your love feasts

- ☑ Despised feasts and unsavory sacred assemblies...
 - "Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it? "I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies." Amos 5:18-21 NKJV
 - What people in the earth are "desiring the Day of the Lord"?
 - ☑ Is it not the Church?
 - What will that day be like to some of them and why?
 - It will be darkness and not light because of their feast days and sacred assemblies.
 - Christians the world over have adopted, in many cases unknowingly, pagan practices. They have become a regular part of Christian culture. Holidays like Easter and Christmas have nothing to do with

authentic Christianity, but have been borrowed from pagan traditions of sun god worship (simple research will easily reveal such to you). Most Christians become horrified when they discover from where these pagan feast days originated. "I despise your feast days..."

- It's not too late! Millions of Christians around the world are now rejecting these pagan practices and returning to their Hebrew Roots. Yahweh has given us many Feast Days that we should participate in, as we reject those He calls an abomination. Please refer to the teachings about the Biblical Feasts on our website: The Feasts of Yahweh
- Also, most "sacred assemblies," now known as "church services," have become nothing more than a brand of G-rated entertainment. Yahweh is not pleased! "I do not savor your sacred assemblies."
- Again Please See: Without Blemish or...Apostate
 Religion
 - Apostate Religion: This is what "spots in your love feasts" look like!
 - Apostate Sacrifices
 - Apostate Practices

Apostate Determinations

☑ Clouds without water: NO LIVING WATER

- "Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of V God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."" John 4:10-14 NKJV "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood V and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **He who believes** in Me, as the Scripture
- **☑** Trees without fruit: NO TRUE TESTIMONY

water."" John 7:37-38 NKJV

"Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our

has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living

- father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." Matthew 3:8-10 NKJV
- "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them." Matthew 7:15-20 NKJV
- **Wandering stars without light: NO LIGHT IN THEM**
 - "To the **law and to the testimony!** If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is **no light in them**." Isaiah 8:20 NKJV
 - ""You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before

men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV

NEXT WEEK

Spots in Your Love Feasts—Part II (Jude 1:14-25)