

Chapter count: 1**Original language:** Greek**Author:** Jude**Notable themes:** The great controversy; judgment; second coming; eternity.

This epistle, written by a half-brother of Jesus, has a “great controversy” tone to it. This was written around the time when Gnostic heresies were creeping into the church. The book of Jude has similarities with 2 Peter, and these books might as well be studied together. An interesting portion of this book is *a quotation from Enoch*—an antediluvian whose writings we never know of. Jude closed his epistle with the scene of the redeemed standing in the presence of God. This was the “joy that was set before Him” in Hebrews 12:2, and echoes “the faith of Jesus” in Revelation 14:12. The resurrection of Moses is hinted in this book (verse 9; cf. Matt. 17:3, Mark 9:4, Luke 9:30). Jesus, here called *Michael*, did not respond with retaliation against Satan when disputing the body of Moses. Christ referred all to His Father, saying, “The Lord rebuke thee.”

SALUTATION AND PURPOSE

Jude introduces himself as a brother of James (and James, Joses and Simon were half-brothers of Jesus). Jude tells the church to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” He cautions them of those who crept into the church to introduce heresy and deception. (These dangers are mentioned in the next verses.)

WARNINGS AGAINST BACKSLIDING

Jude refers back to the Old Testament (though not in chronological order): the Exodus and their unbelief; the fall of Satan and his angels; Sodom and Gomorrah and their sins; a special mention of Michael and Satan; the way of Cain, the error of Balaam, the opposition of Korah. The writer compares false teachers to unfruitfulness, uncertainty, and confusion of nature.

END-TIME EVENTS

A prophecy given by Enoch shows the Second Coming of Jesus and the reward of the wicked. The spiritual and moral darkness of the last days is also mentioned.

EXHORTATION AND CONCLUSION

Jude gives encouragement to the church to pray “in the Holy Ghost” and abide in Jesus. In light of the previous themes, the readers of the epistle are exhorted to loathe sin. Jude closes with a doxology—a scene of the redeemed standing undefiled in the presence of God. The last words ascribe glory and majesty to God, “dominion and power, both now and unto all ages. Amen.”

VERSES 1-4**VERSES 5-13****VERSES 14-19****VERSES 20-25**