

## Chapter 25: Jude

### **JUDAS, THE BROTHER OF JESUS**

- Who wrote Jude? –the author identifies himself as Judas, the brother of James (v.1)
- English Bibles usually abbreviate the name to “Jude” to avoid any confusion with Judas Iscariot.
- This letter’s salutation most likely means that Jude is also the brother of Jesus, even though this is not explicitly mentioned.
- The brothers of Jesus are rarely mentioned in the New Testament (Mark 6:3; John 7:1-10; Acts 1:14), and Jude is never singled out apart from the others. Jude is rarely mentioned in later church traditions as well.
- Some New Testament scholars have suggested that the letter was written pseudonymously by someone else in the name of Jude, but this seems unlikely since Jude was such an obscure character.

### **UNGODLY INTRUDERS**

- Why was “Jude” written? –ungodly people had intruded into an early Christian community composed of Jude’s “dear friends” (v.3)
- These intruders threatened to lead the readers astray from standard Christian faith and practice.
- Jude was concerned that there were ungodly intruders in the church who perverted God’s grace, denied Jesus, and were devoid of the Spirit (vv. 4, 19)
- These people were characterized by immorality, rebellion, slander, grumbling, and boasting (vv. 4, 8, 10, 16, 19)
- Jude argued that they were so ungodly that they deserved comparison to such Old Testament villains as Cain, Balaam, and Korah (v.11)

### **“CONTEND FOR THE FAITH”**

- In the face of these ungodly intruders, Jude deeply desired that the believers to whom he wrote remained faithful to the Lord.
- The continued presence of these dangerous intruders threatened to divide the church.
- Jude told the faithful to contend for the faith by emphasizing true doctrine, prayer in the Holy Spirit, love, hope, and mercy and by rescuing those who were susceptible to being led astray (vv. 3, 17-18, 20-23)
- The readers needed to heed warnings from the Old Testament, other Jewish traditions, and even Jesus’ apostles (vv. 5-7, 9, 11, 14-15, 17-18)
- At the beginning and end of the letter, Jude expressed his confidence that God was able to safeguard their faithfulness and keep them from falling (vv. 1, 24-25) so that they would experience eternal life (vv. 3, 21)