



Jude: God Who is Able

Memory Verse: Jude 1:24-25 "To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."

Background

Jude is the 65th book of the Bible and the 26th book in the New Testament. The author of this letter identified himself as "Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James" (1:1). In the New Testament Church there were two Judes: Judas, one of the twelve disciples also known as Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus (Luke 6:16), and Judas, the half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55). Jude, the brother of Jesus and also the brother of James, is the most widely accepted author of this final epistle in the New Testament. Like James, Jude was not a follower of Jesus during His time here on earth (John 7:3-10), becoming convinced of Christ's deity only after the crucifixion and resurrection (Acts 1:14). Jude became an important part of the early church and travelled to promote the faith (1 Corinthians 9:5), possibly establishing or, at least, teaching in various churches. Jude addresses his letter "To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:" (1:1). Because he does not name a particular individual, congregation, or place, the dating of Jude is difficult to identify. However, as the letters of Jude and 2 Peter are very similar in both language and subject matter, most scholars place the writing of Jude near the same date as Peter's letter around 67 AD.

The Short Story

Christians are to expose false teachers, stand firm in their faith, and fight for the Truth.

What's the Big Idea?

Jude had planned to write to these Christians about "the salvation we all share" when he changed his plans and wrote instead to encourage his readers to "contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people" (1:3). Jude had heard about false teachers who had "secretly slipped in" and were dangerous to the church, causing divisions and leading people astray. He wanted to expose these adversaries of the faith and strengthen the church against them. Jude makes two charges against these "ungodly people": first, they "pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality" and second, they "deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord" by failing to follow His teachings (1:4). Jude writes that these false teachers will be judged when the Lord returns (1:14-16) and gives several historical examples of God's judgment (1:5-11). For these false teachers, their doom is certain and they can expect to "suffer the punishment of eternal fire" (1:7). Jude then counsels his readers that, as Christians, they are to stand firm, contending for the faith. They were to remember the teachings of the apostles and evaluate the false teachers correctly (1:17-19). They were also to cultivate spiritual growth, have a Spirit-based prayer life, keep themselves in God's love, show compassion for those who doubt, be evangelistic, and separate themselves from sin (1:20-23). Jude closes his book by giving God great praise.

So What? Why is this book so important? What was God's purpose for the book?

Jude's letter is meant to encourage and warn believers still today. Christians everywhere are called to stand firm in the faith and defend God's Truth from error. We do not do this alone or in our own power. In the midst of trials, temptations, and dealing with adversaries of Christ, our God is to be praised. As Jude declares, our God is able. He "is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—" (1:24). Believers are loved in God the Father and are kept, guarded, and preserved in Jesus Christ (1:1). God is able to do all of this and much, much more. He alone is worthy of our praise. "To him...to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen." (1:25).

Teaching Text

Jude 1:24-25 “To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.”

Sermon-Based Discussion Questions

- What is God doing on your behalf according to this passage? What does it mean to stumble?
- What does it mean to come before God “without fault” guilt free in worship?
- What does it mean to be presented before God? Who is presenting you? Why is He doing this?
- Why is it important for us to recognize God’s glory, majesty, power and authority?

Practical Application

- Where do you find yourself “stumbling” & making repeated mistakes? Why does it keep happening?
- As you think about “without fault”, ponder your feelings of guilt. Where do you need to surrender your guilt to God? How can you acknowledge more of God’s majesty during your worship of Christ?
- Where do you need to increase your understanding of Christ’s power and authority in your life?
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Hitting the Highpoints

- Jude 3-4 “...⁴ For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. “
- Jude 17-18 “¹⁷ But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.”
- Jude Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.”

Bonus Features

God is able, and as willing as able, to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory. Not as those who never have been faulty, but as those who, but for God's mercy, and a Savior's sufferings and merits, might most justly have been condemned long ago. All sincere believers were given him of the Father; and of all so given him he has lost none, nor will lose any one. Now, our faults fill us with fears, doubts, and sorrows; but the Redeemer has undertaken for his people, that they shall be presented faultless. Where there is no sin, there will be no sorrow; where there is the perfection of holiness, there will be the perfection of joy. Let us more often look up to Him who is able to keep us from falling, to improve as well as maintain the work he has wrought in us, till we shall be presented blameless before the presence of his glory. Then shall our hearts know a joy beyond what earth can afford; then shall God also rejoice over us, and the joy of our compassionate Savior be completed. To Him who has so wisely formed the scheme, and will faithfully and perfectly accomplish it, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen. “

Excerpted from Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

Personal Takeaways and Notes