

INTRODUCTION

- Do you feel the passion?
- Do you hear the urgent appeal?
- Do you hear the scary examples of judgment?
- Do you hear the stories not mentioned anywhere else?
- Do you hear the cry to apply God's mercy?
- Do you hear the tender conviction of our security in Jesus?

OUTLINE

- Vs 1-2 **GREETING** – Security as CALLED, BELOVED and KEPT
- Vs. 3-16 **WHY we are to contend**
- Vs. 17-23 **HOW we are to contend**
- Vs. 24-25 **BENEDICTION** – Security in STANDING – blameless and with great joy

GREETING AND PURPOSE

v. 1-3 Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: may mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you. Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about your common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

- Who is this Jude?
- What does Jude claim for himself?
- Note his special greeting of “mercy”
- Note the 3-fold description of his recipients
- Note the keynote purpose of the letter

WHY WE ARE TO CONTEND (vs. 3-16)**1. Because God hates rebelliousness** (vs. 5-8)

Summary of the 3 examples (v. 8)

- a) “Defile the flesh” – the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah (v. 7)
- b) “Reject authority” – the sin of the wandering Israelites (v. 5)
- c) “Revile angelic majesties” – the sin of the demons (v. 6)

2. Because God contends for His own (v. 9)

Michael the archangel “contended” with the devil for the body of Moses

WHY WE ARE TO CONTEND (vs. 3-16)**3. Because many revile and oppose what they don’t understand** (v.10)

- a. Ex. of Cain – opposing the blood sacrifice (Gen. 4:3-8)
- b. Ex. of Balaam – opposing the direction of God (Num. 22-24; Rev. 2:14)
- c. Ex. of Korah – opposing the leadership of Moses (Num. 16:1-3; 31-35)

4. Because judgment on rebellion is sure

- a. Enoch prophesied of God’s destroying the ungodly in the flood – v. 14-15
- b. Jesus’ apostles prophesied of mockers in the last days – v. 17-18

DESCRIPTION OF OUR OPPONENT (v. 4)

1. Crept in to our very midst (churches)
2. “Long beforehand marked for this condemnation”
3. Grace is turned into license to sin
4. Lordship of Jesus is turned into a noble Jesus

EMPTINESS OF OUR OPPONENT (vs. 12-13)

1. Self-absorbed
2. Empty threats
3. Fruitless
4. Wild and wandering

HOW WE ARE TO CONTEND (vs. 17-23)

1. **With awareness of growing contention** (v. 18-19)
2. **Building up our faith** (v. 20a)
3. **Praying in the Holy Spirit** (v. 20b)
4. **Keeping ourselves in the love of God** (v. 21)
5. **Drawing on the mercy of Jesus** (v. 22-23)
 - a. Mercy on doubters 1
 - b. Mercy on willing resisters, “snatching them out of the fire”
 - c. Mercy with fear in dealing with those polluted
6. **Staying unpolluted by those with whom we contend** (v. 23)

Jude 24-25 *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen*