

# THE LETTER OF JUDE

{*This General Epistle (or, Catholic Epistle) is declared to have been written by Jude, "a servant of Jesus Christ, a brother of James" Tradition identifies him with Mark 6:3. Scholars are divided in their opinions. Some hold that he was, as he declares, "a brother of James". Others feel that the author is unknown and used the name James to assure that his Epistle would be accepted and read.*}

## INSCRIPTION

{*"Jude" Aleph & B. "The Epistle of Jude" P72, K, Psi, and several minuscules. "The Catholic Epistle of Jude" A, 614, 1739 and in an alternate form, 1505. "The Catholic Epistle of Jude the Brother of James" 1881. "The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Jude" L & 049. Other variants also occur.*}

## SALUTATION

<Jude 1-2>

<sup>1</sup> Jude <*The name means "Let Him (God) be praised". It is a form of Judah.*> a servant (or, bond slave) of Jesus Christ, brother of James. To those who have been chosen and [loved] <sup>1</sup> by (literally, in) God the Father and kept by (literally, for) Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> May mercy, peace and love increasingly be granted to you.

## JUDGMENT ON FALSE TEACHERS

<Jude 3-16>

<sup>3</sup> My dear friends, while I devoted all my energies to write to you about the salvation [we] <sup>2</sup> all share in common, I discovered the necessity to write to you, appealing that you vigorously defend the faith that has been delivered (or, handed down) to the believers (literally, saints) once and for all.

<sup>4</sup> Certain persons have crept in <*The Greek word "παρεισδύω" would be used for a seductive pleader who's pleas gradually seep into the mind of the judge or jury.*> unnoticed, people (literally, men) who have been written about in the ancient writings that condemned them as 'ungodly people (literally, men) who pervert the grace of our God into immorality (or, unbridled lust) <*The Greek word "ασεβης" describes blatant and open immorality. Most persons would seek to hide their immorality but these are open about it.*> and deny Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.'

<sup>5</sup> I am anxious to remind you that at one time you were very familiar with all the facts; how the [Lord] <sup>3</sup> upon rescuing the people from the land of Egypt <*cf. Exodus 12 ff.*> God afterward, destroyed those who had no faith. <sup>6</sup> Additionally, for the angels who did not observe their own rank and who abandoned their proper abode, He has reserved everlasting bonds (or, chains) in utter (literally, under) darkness for the judgment on that great day. <*There is a play on words in the verse. It is almost impossible to convey this in a translation. The angels did not "keep" their rank. He "keeps" them in everlasting bonds.*> <sup>7</sup> In like manner Sodom and Gomorrah along with their

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1 {B} So: P72, Aleph, A, B, Psi, many minuscules, Old Latin, Peshitta and Hareclean Syriac, Sahidic & Bohairic Coptic, Armenian & Ethiopic. "holy" K, P, 049, 056, 0192 & many minuscules.

2 {B} So: P72, Aleph, A, B, Psi, many minuscules in two alternative forms. Omitted by K, P, 049, 056, 0142 & other minuscules.

3 {D} So Nestle-Ahland 27th edition. "Jesus" in Nestle-Ahland 26th edition along with several minuscules. "Lord" C & some minuscules. "God" C in the second corrective hand. "the Divine Christ" P72. Many other variants are extant.

neighboring towns <These would include Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar. cf. Genesis 19:26,27. Sodom means "burnt". Gomorrah means "submersion". Admah means "red earth". Zeboiim means "hyenas" Zoar means "little".> who abandoned themselves in a similar fashion, being guilty of gross sexual immorality and were pursuing their unnatural lusts. These are now before us as a warning to provide an example of eternal fire in the punishment which they are suffering.

<sup>8</sup> Nonetheless, in the same way these idle dreamers also defile their bodies for they reject authority and speak contemptuously of angelic (*literally, glorious*) beings. <Cf. Enoch 7:1; 9:8; 10:11; 12:4, 15:3,4.> <sup>9</sup> When Michael <The name means "who is like God".> the archangel, was contending with the devil, he argued about the body of Moses. <The name means "drawn out".> He did not dare to pronounce condemnation on him in abusive terms (*or, blasphemies*) but rather said, 'The Lord rebuke you!' <Cf. the first century "The Assumption of Moses."> <sup>10</sup> Yet these people (*literally, men*) are abusive in those matters about which they have no understanding and in matters which they, like irrational beasts, only understand instinctively -- evilly -- for by those things they are corrupted. <Note the sense of sarcasm.> <sup>11</sup> Their fate will be tragic (*or, woe to them*) because they are traveling in the footsteps of Cain <cf. Genesis 4:8. The name means "smith" or "spear".> and permit themselves to be rushed on, headlong, in the errors of Balaam <cf. Numbers 22:5-35. The name means "destroyer of the people".> and to perish like the rebellious Korah. <cf. Numbers 16:1-35. The name means "baldness".> <sup>12</sup> They are like dirty spots (*or, stains*) <The Greek word "σπιλας" can also mean "reef" or "rock", thus being destructive toward the love feasts.> on your love feasts. They shamelessly gorge themselves in your presence, clouds which yield no rain, they are driven by the winds. trees in autumn that are fruitless -- twice dead and uprooted; <sup>13</sup> wild waves of the sea that foam out their shameless acts. They are wandering stars for whom dense darkness has been preserved for eternity.

<sup>14</sup> It was about these that Enoch prophesied, being the seventh generation from Adam <The name Enoch means "dedicated" cf. Genesis 4, 5. The name Adam means "red earth". cf. Genesis 1,2.> 'The Lord comes with his myriads <The Greek word "μυριας" is the root of our word myriad. Literally it is translated, "ten thousand".> of holy ones <i.e. angels> <sup>15</sup> to carry out judgment against everyone and to convict all who are ungodly for all their ungodly deeds which they have committed along with all the rude words these ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.' <The quote is from the pseudo-epigraphic Book of Enoch.> <sup>16</sup> These are grumblers who complain about their lot (*or, who are malcontents*). They conduct their lives as if led only by their evil passions. Their mouths give vent to insolence and arrogance while they flatter those persons through whom they hope to gain advantage.

### **WARNINGS AND EXHORTATIONS**

<Jude 17-23>

<sup>17</sup> But you, dear friends, remember the predications (*literally, words previously spoken*) by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>18</sup> when they said to you, 'In the final time there will be scoffers who lead their lives in obedience with their own impious passions.' <There is no exact reference to this quote in the books of the New Testament canon. It no doubt comes from the oral tradition of the time.> <sup>19</sup> These are the ones who cause disruption, are worldly and lack (*or, are devoid of*) the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> You, however, my dear friends, build yourselves upon the foundation of the most holy faith and keep on praying in (*so, literally*) the Holy Spirit <i.e. guided by the power of the Holy Spirit.> <sup>21</sup> Keep yourselves in the love of God, awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the end result of

which is (*literally, in*) eternal life. <sup>22</sup> You ought to [have pity] <sup>4</sup> toward some who waver in the faith. <sup>23</sup> Others you must [rescue (*literally, save*) by snatching them from the fire] <sup>5</sup> and on [others again, you must have pity mixed with fear (*or, caution*)] <sup>6</sup> abhorring even the clothing that has been polluted by their sensuality.

**BENEDICTION**

<Jude 24-25>

<sup>24</sup> Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and present you without blemish in the presence of His glory, with glad rejoicing, <sup>25</sup> to the only [wise] <sup>7</sup> God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might and authority before all time, now and forever (*or, eternally*). Amen.

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4 {C} So: Aleph, B, C in the second corrective hand, Psi ,88 & Harclean Syriac. "expose those who are wavering" A, C in the originally hand, 33, 81, 326, 436, 1244, 1739, 1881, Old Latin, Bohairic Coptic & Armenian. Other similar variants occur.

5 {C} So: Aleph, A, Psi & many minuscules. "You must rescue them from fear by snatching them from the fire" C & many minuscules in a variety of minor variants.

6 {C} So: Aleph in the original hand, A, B, Psi, 33, 81, 181, 326, 1739, 1881. "separating others..." P72, Palestinian Syriac & Bohairic Coptic. Other variants of omission or transposition occur.

7 {C} So: P & the Majority Text. Omitted by P72, Aleph, A, B, C, Psi, 33, 81, 323, 630, 1241, 1505, 1739, Old Latin & Coptic Syriac.