

Why study Jude?

- It is written for us today. It is written for the end times, for the end of the Church Age.
- Jude is the only book devoted to the great apostasy, helping to answer Luke 18:8 –

“Shall the Son of Man find faith on the Earth?”

- Jude is an entry to the book of Revelation.
- It is filled with fascinating Old Testament references and allusions.

Who was Jude?

- Jude (Judas) was Jesus’ youngest brother.

“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all his sisters with us?” Matthew 13:55-56

- The Lord’s oldest brother, James, (Gal 1:19) was head of the Church in Jerusalem and the author of the Epistle of James.
- Neither James nor Jude were early believers.

The Structure of Jude

Greeting

Body

Benediction

The book of Jude fits the common structure of Biblical Epistles.

Is anything missing?

The Structure of Jude

Greeting

Body

Benediction

Assurance for the Christian, v 1-2

The Believer and the Faith, v 3

Apostates Described, v 4

Apostasy in OT History, v 5-8

Apostasy in the Supernatural Realm, v 9-10

An Ancient Trio of Apostates, v 11

Apostasy in the Natural Realm, v 12-13

Apostasy in OT Prophecy, v 14-16

Apostasy Described, v 17-19

The Believer and the Faith, v 20-23

Assurance for the Christian, v 24-25

Jesus Christ	1a
Believed in God the Father	1b
Kept for Jesus	1c
Our common salvation	3a
Contend earnestly for the faith	3b
Certain persons... marked out for condemnation	4a
Ungodly persons, perverted grace into licentiousness	4b
I desire to remind you	5a
Destroyed those of Israel who did not believe	5b
Angels who did not keep their own abode	6
These in their dreaming defile the flesh	8a
Reject authority and revile	8b
Satan disputes with Michael	9
They revile what they do not understand	10a
Act instinctively as animals	10b
They are destroyed	10c
Woe to them	11a
Act as Cain	11b
Balaam's error	11c
Korah disputes with Moses	11d
Clouds without water, shepherds feeding themselves:	12c
Wild waves and wandering stars	13
Behold, the Lord came with his holy myriads	14
These are grumblers, malcontents	16
You must remember the predictions of the apostles	17
Scoffers following their ungodly passions	18
Those who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit	19
Build up on the faith	20
Save some; keep yourselves in the love of God looking for mercy	21-23
Able to guard you from stumbling	25a
The only God our saviour	25a
Through Jesus Christ our Lord	25b

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Who was Jude written to?

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, to those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Jude 1:1-2

- Christians:
 - “Called” – “I have chosen you.
 - “Loved” – John’s Gospel
 - “Kept” – under watchful care
- You and me

Something happened

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

Jude 1:3

- Jude was going to write of salvation...
- ... something changed his mind, so ...
- he wrote urging us to contend for the faith!

What's the problem?

- **Christians face persecution in 225 countries.**
 - The Church thrives on external pressure
 - Pressure from within is a greater threat to faith.
- **The early Church faced false teaching from:**
 - Legalism (Pharisees); "You are not free to sin."
 - Liberalism (Sadducees): "If saved, it's OK to sin."
- **Jude criticizes these false teachers.**
- Paul and 2 Peter also warn of them.
- Revelation 2 and 3 warn of the Nicolaitans.

Contend for the faith!

- **How should we follow this exhortation?**
 - Strengthen the hands of faithful people (Rev 3:2);
 - Unflinching witness; diligent preparation (Jude 20);
 - Withhold support and encouragement from those who compromise or deny the whole counsel of God; speak out against the preaching of "another Gospel" (Proverb 19:27);
 - Work with a sword at your side (Nehemiah 4:17).
 - Pray in all things (Philippians 4:6)
- **Only protection is the Word of God.** (Ephesians 6)

Where We're Headed

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The first half of Jude is about
a dangerous corruption
in the churches

Where We're Headed

The last half of Jude is about
how to deal with that situation
in a delicate way

An Ancient Trio of Apostates, v 11

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Corruption in the Body of Believers!

Four ways corruption affects believers:

- **Creed** – false teaching is like a cancer
 - A sentimental view of God (“Forgive and forget”)
 - Jesus was a great philosopher (like many others)
- **Conduct** - immoral conduct follows
- **Character** – character is the result of conduct
- **Conversation** – whinging, moaning, contempt, flattery, scorn

Apostates Described

For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Jude 1:4

Creed – false teaching is like a cancer

- A sentimental view of God (“Forgive and forget”)
- Jesus was a great philosopher (like many others)

Apostasy in OT History

Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

Jude 1:5

Conduct – when a group’s creed is corrupt, their conduct soon follows:

- Israel in the wilderness
- Angels cohabiting with human women
- Sodom and Gomorrah

Supernatural dimensions!

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Jude 1:6

- Fallen angels impregnated human women, who gave birth to giant hybrids (Nephilim).

The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

Genesis 6:6

DIGRESSION
 DIGRESSION
 DIGRESSION
 DIGRESSION
 DIGRESSION

WHAT THE BIBLE Is ABOUT

FALLEN ANGELS AND NEPHILIM GENESIS 6:1-13

Genesis 6:1-4

¹And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

²That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

³And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

⁴There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

בְּנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים

sons of God = *Bene HaElohim* = angels =
(directly created beings, e.g., Adam, angels)

OT (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7); NT (Lk 20:36); Book of Enoch; Septuagint (LXX).

בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם

daughters of men = *Benoth Adam* =
“daughters of Adam” (human women)

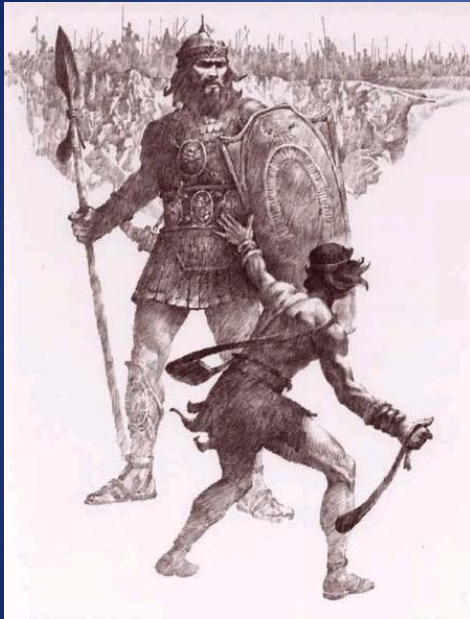
הַנְּפִלִים *Nephilim*: “the fallen ones; a
bully or tyrant.”

נָפַל *naphal*: “to fall, be cast down
to fall away, desert.”

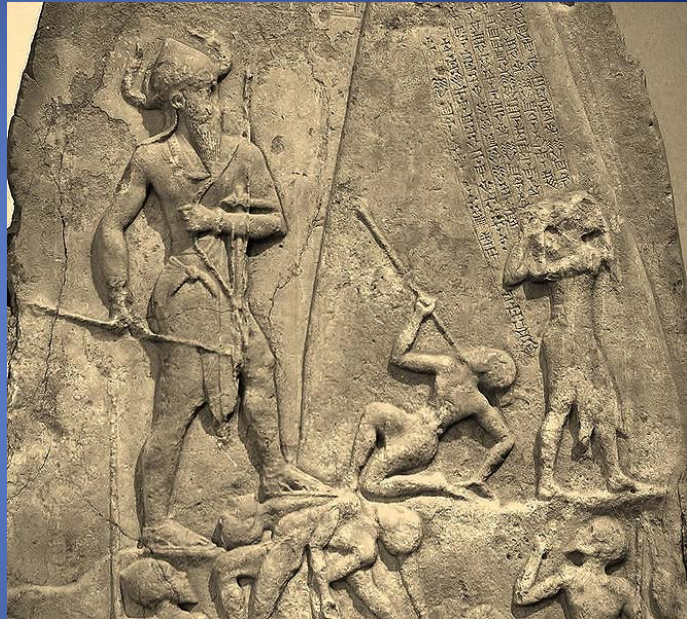
הַגִּבּוֹרִים *HaGibborim*: “the mighty ones.”

אֲנָשֵׁי הַשֵּׁם *'enowsh shem*: Men of renown

אָנוּשׁ *'enowsh*: properly, a mortal (thus
differing from *adam*), wicked



David and Goliath



Akkadian Bas Relief

The fall of the angels

Genesis 6:4

⁴There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

- Psalm 68:33
- 2 Peter 3:5
- Jude 1:9
- Genesis 2:4-5
- Genesis 6:12-13

Genesis 6:5-8

⁵And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

⁶And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

⁷And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

רַע *ra'*: wickedness = bad, evil, malignant, unkind (vicious), wicked (ethically)

נָחַם *nacham*: repented = sigh breathe strongly), to be sorry, rue, suffer grief

מָחָה *machah*: destroy = to blot out, obliterate

חֵן *chen*: grace = favour, grace, acceptance

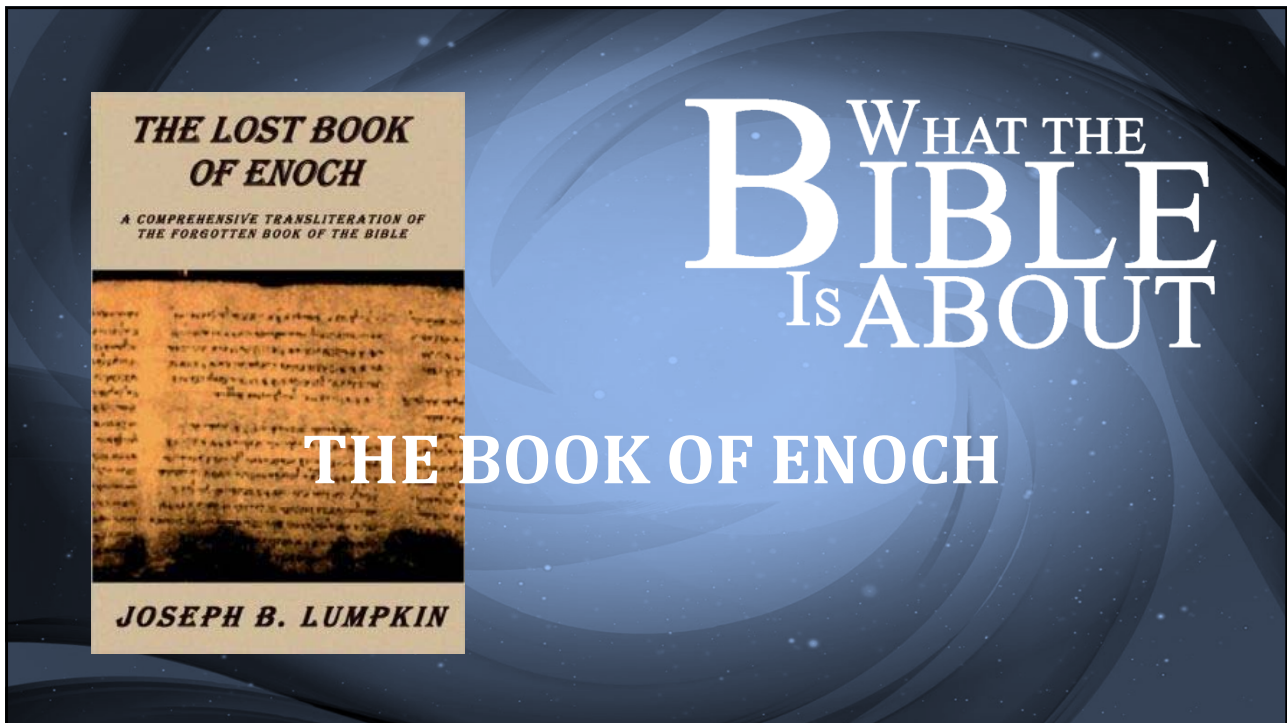
Genesis 6:9

“⁹These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

תָּמִיִּם *tamiym*: perfect = without blemish, sound, healthful, without spot, unimpaired.

דּוֹר *dowr*: generation = period or age, those living during a period, a race of men.





An aside on supernatural dimensions!

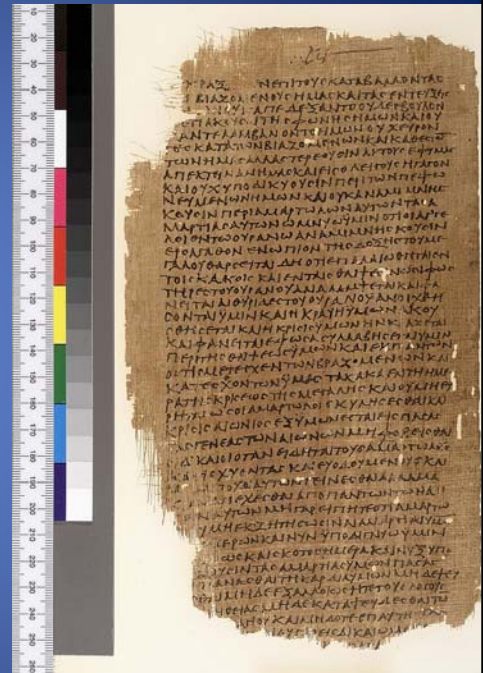
- The **Book of Enoch** is an ancient Jewish religious work. Scholars estimate the older sections (mainly in the *Book of the Watchers*) to date from about 300 BC.
- No Christian groups other than the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church and Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church consider it canonical.
- Although evidently widely known during the development of the Hebrew Bible canon, 1 Enoch was excluded from both the formal canon of the Tanakh and the typical canon of the Septuagint.
- The Book of Enoch was considered as scripture in the Epistle of Barnabas and by many of the early Church Fathers, such as Athenagoras, Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus and Tertullian, who wrote c. 200 that the Book of Enoch was rejected by the Jews because it contained prophecies pertaining to Christ. However, later Fathers denied the canonicity of the book, usually stumbling over the first part (1 Enoch 1-25), which describes the fall of the Watchers, the angels who fathered the Nephilim.

Supernatural dimensions!

- The Book of Enoch states it was written by Enoch, the seventh from Adam. It is considered an apocryphal book and part of the Pseudepigrapha (literally means “falsely ascribed”), although not a part of the canonical Apocrypha.
- Once considered to be of Christian origin because of its obvious references to Christ, ten fragments of The Book of Enoch found at Qumran in the Dead Sea Scrolls show it to have existed since at least the 2nd Century BC.
- It was ascribed by tradition to have been composed by Enoch, great-grandfather of Noah. Modern scholars believe it was begun in the 2nd or 3rd century BC as a collection of works that includes writings for the 1st century BC as well. Some believe it contains the actual words of Enoch as handed down through the ages. There is no real way to know if that is so. What we know for certain is that fragments of the book date back to the 2nd century BC.
- It is believed that the Apostles and the writers of the New Testament were fully aware of the Book of Enoch, as it is directly quoted in the Bible.

Supernatural dimensions!

1. It happened after the sons of men had multiplied in those days, that daughters were born to them, elegant and beautiful.
2. And when the angels, the sons of heaven, beheld them, they became enamoured of them, saying to each other, Come, let us select for ourselves wives from the progeny of men, and let us beget children....
7. Then they swore all together, and all bound themselves by mutual execrations. Their whole number was two hundred, who descended upon Ardis, which is the top of mount Armon.
8. That mountain therefore was called Armon, because they had sworn upon it, and bound themselves by mutual execrations.
9.These were the prefects of the two hundred angels, and the remainder were all with them.
10. Then they took wives, each choosing for himself; whom they began to approach, and with whom they cohabited; teaching them sorcery, incantations, and the dividing of roots and trees.
- 11. And the women conceiving brought forth giants....**





Yet another example

In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.

Jude 1:7-8

- The two cities went against God's laws.
- God hates pride, idolatry and immorality.

A peek behind the veil

But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Jude 1:9

- Moses died on Mount Nebo, "but to this day no one knows where his grave is." (Deuteronomy 34:6)
- The spirit world is real. Scripture warns against meddling with it.

Apostasy (in the supernatural)

Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—these are the very things that destroy them.

Jude 1:10

- Angels can appear in human form (Gen 19:5, 10, 16)
- "... some people have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2)
- They are capable of combat. (Gen 19, Ex 12, 2 Ki 19)
- They are forces behind world powers. (Daniel 10)

An Ancient Trio of Apostates

Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

Jude 1:11

Character - character is the result of conduct.

- **Cain** (a man of anger)
- **Balaam** (a man of avarice (love of money))
- **Korah** (a man of ambition)

Apostasy in the Natural Realm

These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.

Jude 1:12

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Shepherds feeding selves | ➤ selfishness |
| • Hidden rocks | ➤ unseen danger |
| • Clouds without rain | ➤ false promise |
| • Trees without fruit/uprooted | ➤ barren profession |

The coming apostasy

They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

Jude 1:13

- Wild waves of the sea ➤ **wasted effort**
- Wandering stars ➤ **aimless course**

Summarising Jude 12-13

Verse	Meaning	Jesus	Believers
Hidden rocks	Unseen danger	Rock of our salvation	Living stones
Waterless clouds	False promise	Comes with clouds	Source of living water
Fruitless trees	Barren profession	Tree of life	Tree of righteousness
Raging waves	Wasted efforts	Leads beside still waters	Peace like a river
Wandering stars	Aimless course	Bright and Morning Star	Shine as stars forever

- Observe the craftsmanship of the Holy Spirit!

Apostasy in OT Prophecy

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Jude 1:14-15

Who should we be wary of?

These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

Jude 1:16

Conversation –flows out of character.

- Signs of inner decay: whinging, grumbling, scorn, moaning, contempt, flattery, ridicule, etc.
- Rejecting anyone else's authority.
- Fault finders.

Apostasy described

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires."

These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

Jude 1:17-19

A call to persevere

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Jude 1:20-23

The Grand Benediction

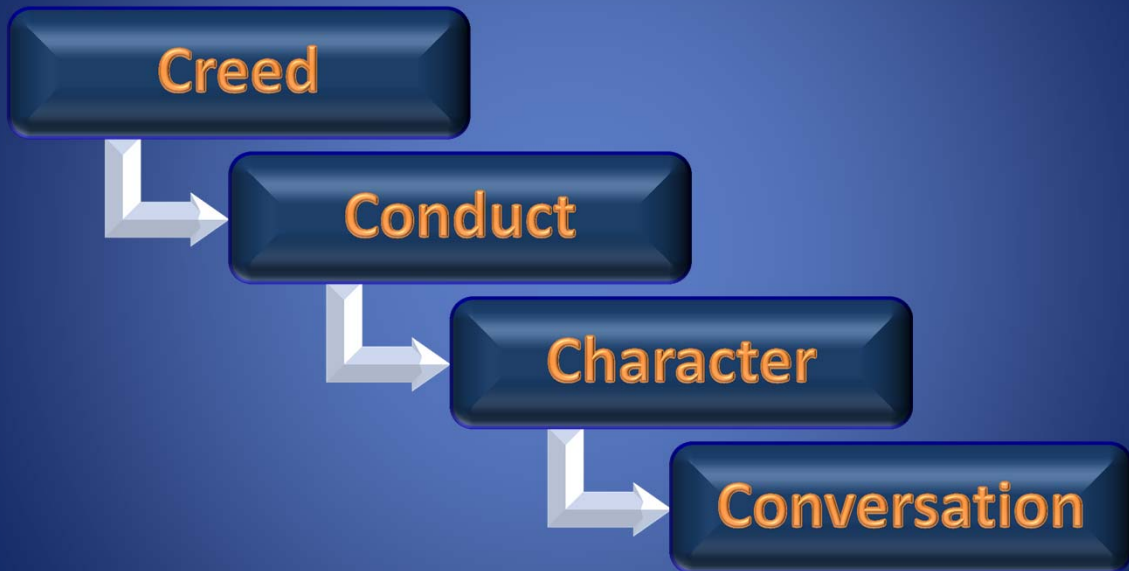
Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Jude 1:24-25 (KJV)

The book of Jude

- Jude begins and ends with assurance to believers.
- There is nothing to suggest that a true child of God can become an apostate.
- Biggest danger to the Body of Believers is from within. Persecution only tends to strengthen it.

The book of Jude



The book of Jude

- We must be clear about the truth. The truth about today (and every day) is in His Word.
- Fight for the truth and contend for the faith.
- Weak on our own, we are strong in Him!