

EPISTLE OF JUDE

Author & Audience:

Jude, brother of James and half-brother of Yeshua, writing to Jewish and non-Jewish Believers in the Mediterranean basin

Date:

50s or 60s C.E. *or* 80s C.E.

Purpose:

Jude addresses either (1) the beginnings of the problems discussed in 2 Peter, or (2) more likely a more developed and concentrated manifestation of the problems warned against in 2 Peter.

Salutation

¹ Jude, a servant of Yeshua the Messiah, and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Yeshua the Messiah:

² May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you.

Judgment on False Teachers**2 Peter 2:1-17**

³ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write to you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you, appealing you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the holy ones.

⁴ For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long ago written about for this condemnation, ungodly persons, turning the grace of our God into licentiousness, and denying our only Master and Lord, Yeshua the Messiah.

⁵ Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord^a, having saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

⁶ And angels who did not keep their own domain, but left their proper habitation, He

has kept in everlasting bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, which likewise as these indulged in fornication and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

⁸ Yet in like manner these people, also in their dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority^b, and blaspheme glories.

⁹ But Michael the archangel, contending with the Devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a blasphemous judgment, but said, "THE LORD REBUKE YOU" [Zechariah 3:2].^c

¹⁰ But these people blaspheme the things they do not understand; and the things they know by instinct, like irrational animals, by these things they are corrupted^d.

¹¹ Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay abandon themselves to the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

¹² These are hidden reefs at your love feasts when they feast with you without

^b Grk. *kuriotēs*; "lordship" (Brown and Comfort, 848).

^c Much of this statement is believed to be rooted in non-extant fragments of the Pseudepigraphal work, *The Assumption of Moses*. (Cf. R.H. Charles, revised by J.P.M. Sweet, "The Assumption of Moses," in H.F.D. Sparks, ed., *The Apocryphal Old Testament* [Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984], pp 601-616).

^d Grk. *en toutois phtheirontai*; "in these things they are corrupted" (Brown and Comfort, 848); "in those/these things they corrupt themselves" (KJV/NKJV).

^a Various textual witnesses of v. 5 actually do include *Iēsous* or "Jesus" (ESV, NLT; cf. Metzger, *Textual Commentary*, pp 723-724).

fear, tending to themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted;

¹³ wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴ And about these also Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with myriads of His holy ones,

¹⁵ to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."^a

¹⁶ These are murmurers, complainers, following their *own* lusts; and their mouth speaks arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an* advantage.

Warnings and Exhortations

¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words that have been spoken previously by the apostles of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah,

¹⁸ that they said to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts" [2 Peter 3:3].

¹⁹ These are the ones who cause divisions, natural-minded^b, not having the Spirit.

²⁰ But you, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah unto eternal life.

²² And have mercy on some, who are doubting;

²³ and save some, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Benediction

²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy,

²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Yeshua the Messiah our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

^a 14-15 has some sort of quotation issued from the Pseudepigraphal *1 Enoch* 1:9: "Behold, he will arrive with ten million of the holy ones in order to execute judgment upon all. He will destroy the wicked ones and censure all flesh on account of everything that they have done, that which the sinners and the wicked ones committed against him" (E. Isaac, "1 (Ethiopic Apocalypse of) Enoch," in James H. Charlesworth, ed., *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, Vol 1 [New York: Doubleday, 1983], pp 13-14).

^b Grk. *psuchikos*; "lit. pert. to the life of the natural world and whatever belongs to it, in contrast to the realm of experience whose central characteristic is [*pneuma*], *natural, unspiritual, worldly*" (BDAG, 1100).

^c Grk. *diakrinomenous*; "wavering" (Brown and Comfort, 849).