

## Jude -- This is what it is to contend for the Faith

**1** Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: **2** Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance. **3** Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. I recently heard Dana Coverstone share another dream of his and I think it was directly related to this. They were urging people to contend for the faith and instead they just watched. Also they were urged to cross the silver line which I understand to indicate salvation. Instead they were slaughtered by dark forces. **4** For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. This has been a recurring theme in his dreams with dark ninja-like warriors slipping in among those who were spectators and in other dreams described them as wolves with red eyes. 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. Christians have been condemned repeatedly for being sexist and for being judgmental towards homosexuals. Ridiculed for questioning the theory of evolution, and pressured to open up to all religions as all worshipping the same God. **5** Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. One of God's goals in that deliverance was that the Egyptians would know that He is God. Likewise at the end of this age everyone will know that Jesus is Lord and savior. **6** And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. The book of Enoch goes into great detail on what happened when they fell, were judged, and were bound. **7** 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. We are given several historical examples for our admonition concerning the end of this age. One example of course is Noah, when they entered the ark and closed the door then the rain came and destroyed the then known world. A second example is Egypt, one plague after another, each becoming more and more severe, until Pharaoh thrust the Israelites out of Egypt. Once again the crossing of the Red Sea while Pharaoh's armies were destroyed is quite symbolic. Another example is Sodom and Gomorrah, the day Lot left God rained fire down on the cities. **8 In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.** The ungodly people are acting in the very same way as the angels that fell. If they heap abuse on you as you share the gospel know that this has all been prophesied. For some the gospel is a sweet fragrance of life unto life. For others it is the smell of judgement unto condemnation. **9 But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"** We need to be careful. It is possible to overreact to their rejection of authority with our own insubordination. Jesus is Lord, not us. We are not in a position to judge, only to preach the saving grace that still operates. **10 Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.** Slanderers, not only so, but ignorant of what it is they are slandering. They are acting irrationally in a way that is very destructive not only to others but to themselves as well. **11 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.** It is as though all the negative examples throughout history are all on display today. Cain killed his brother out of jealousy. For

what? Because his business selling sheep and wool was outperforming Cain's business selling vegetables and fruit? Greed, envy, jealousy, hatred all expressed by Cain. Balaam is more subtle. A professional prophet, a prophet for hire. Like the "fake news" agencies. We don't have to shoot you, slander your business and we can kill you that way. We can't be obvious, we hire someone known to be faithful to tell us God's word and let him show us how to do it. The cigarette companies hired a PR firm that pushed the idea that "we don't know" that cigarettes are addictive. It was a lie and when it got exposed they all went down the tubes. The NFL hired the same firm to teach them to say we don't know that football causes brain injuries. And now we see those caught up in Korah's rebellion, trying to rebel against God's law, against His word, against the church His representative on the earth. Today the churches are the embassies of the kingdom of the heavens. But in country after country they violate the sovereignty of that embassy. It will provoke sudden destruction from the Lord. **12** These people 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. **13** They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever. You don't just see them as leaders of corporations, PR firms, and governments. They have also infected the church. Shepherds who only feed themselves with their "prosperity gospel". **14** Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones **15** to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." This is a quote from the book of Enoch (Enoch 1). It is clear that Jude and John both quote from the book of Enoch, but I would extend

that to Peter and Paul as well. There are passages in both of their writings that seem to be taken straight from Enoch 1 or based very much on what is written in Enoch 1. So I think it is fair to say the prophecies in the book of Enoch have been certified by the apostles. However, it is not part of the Old Testament, that doesn't mean it isn't of God. The Old Testament is His covenant with His people. It is a contract. It isn't part of that contract, yet it is a prophecy of what is going to happen. [Isaiah 45:3 I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. 16 These people are grumblers and fault finders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. We are not ignorant of Satan's devices or what is about to happen. We can see it unfold, worship God, but do not be dragged into the pit with them. 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." 19 These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. 20 But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Today you can see those who appear to have no purpose other than to divide people. They are scoffers, they are insulting, derisive, and mocking. You have to keep yourself in God's love, you have to wait for mercy. 22 Be merciful to those who doubt; there are others who legitimately doubt, be merciful to them 23 save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. This is what it is to contend for the faith. 24 To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great](#)

joy— **25** to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.