



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Remember the Words

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The Epistle of Jude (AD 68-70), considered one of the general epistles, likely author was Jude. Jude was the half-brother of Jesus Christ and the brothers (Mt 13:55) of Joseph, Simon and James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church and the Jerusalem Council. While Jude had initially rejected Jesus as the Messiah (Jn 7:1-9), he, along with other half-brothers of Jesus accepted Jesus as the Messiah after Christ's resurrection (Ac 1:14). Jude likely wrote this epistle from Jerusalem and while the exact audience is unknown it was likely to Jewish believers and to a body or region that was under the influence of and plagued by false teachers. While Christianity and Christians were under political attack from Rome, the bigger threat to the church was false doctrine being preached by gnostic-like apostates. Jude sites OT examples of rebellion and rejection to God and the character traits of these apostates. Jude calls the church to fight for the truth. (Jude 17-19 NASB)

“But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.” (17-19)

Apostles forewarning. Jude reminds the readers that the warnings he has shared in prior verses regarding the false teachers and apostates were also declared before by the apostles of Jesus Christ. Peter warned, *“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”* (2Pe 2:1) Paul warned, *“I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;”* (Ac 20:29) John warned, *“Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.”* (Jn 2:18)

Jesus also warned and said, *“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves”* (Mt 7:15) We see Jude uses the warning language from Peter second letter to the gentiles when he states, *“In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.”* (2Pe 3:3). Jude, in referring to time; *“..In the last time..”*; the time of the Messiah from His first coming until His second, is sharing that the ‘last time’ is now and the mockers, false teachers and apostates are here.

Jude further describes that they, the mockers, will follow after their own ungodly lusts. Those ungodly (4) lust desires and actions Jude described in earlier verses and include; moral perversion (4); deny Jesus Christ (4); dreamers (8) defile the flesh (8); reject authority (8); revile holy angels (8); ignorant (10); self-destructive (10); grumblers (16); fault finders (16); selfish (16); arrogant (16); flatterers (16); mockers (18); cause division (19); worldly minded (19); and without the Holy Spirit (19).

False Teachers are devoid of the Holy Spirit. Jude continues to refer to specific false teachers, apostates, or mockers as “these” (19, 16) or “certain persons” (4) or “these men” (8, 10, 12, 14); those that “have crept in unnoticed” (4) and teach false doctrine, causing division in the church. Additionally, these men are worldly-minded and not concerned and reject God's direction and will. Jude is sharing that rejection of Jesus Christ, by false teacher, apostate and unbeliever, results in the absence of the Holy Spirit residing within them. Apostates are spiritually blind and dangerous.

For Your Consideration:

- Are you discerning? Do you test someone's teaching by God's Word?
- ***“But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,”*** (17) Have you checked-out the words spoken by the apostles of our Lord Jesus the Christ?
- Have you rejected or accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44