



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Jude, Sounding the Alarm

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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 calls the church to fight for the truth. (Jude 3-4 NASB)

*“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.” (3)*

**Beloved;** Jude is addressing those fellow saints that are called the children of God. Jude shares that his original intent was to write a message on salvation. However, Jude was detoured and convicted by the Holy Spirit to write a message urging the beloved to fight or contend for the faith. Jude was sounding a warning about the apostasy in the church. Apostasy is the departure from the faith and rejection of God's truth faithfully handed down to the saints.

What is the specific threat that Jude is warning his fellow believers?

*“For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” (4)*

**Certain people have crept in unnoticed, teach false doctrine and are sinful.** Prior to Jude's letter many have sounded the warning. Jesus warned and said, “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Mt 7:15) 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)

Jude declares that they are here! Jude says their mode is that they creep in or slip in to the church unnoticed. Their manner or method is as sinners who irreverently flaunt God's truth and grace. Their message is that Jesus is not the Messiah and only Master and Lord.

Paul warned and said, “But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.” (Ga 2:4)

Jude is calling the church to fight for the truth.

### For Your Consideration:

- Do you test what you hear by the Word of God, the Bible?
- Do you earnestly contend for the faith? How?
- Do you recognize apostates, those who have departed from the faith and rejected God's truth?

### 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