



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Jude, a Bond-Servant

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The Epistle of Jude (AD 68-70), considered one of the general epistles, likely author was Jude, also rendered “Judah” in Hebrew and “Judas” in Greek. 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. So how does Jude identify himself? (Jude1-2 NASB)

“Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,” (1a)

“A bond-servant of Jesus Christ.” Jude could have shared that he was the half-brother of Jesus. However, that representation would have been his worldly identification and he first wanted to share his most important identity, his submissive spiritual position with Jesus Christ and as His bond-servant. Jude was a bond-servant (Gk *doulos* a slave, one who has a permanent relationship of servitude to another, his will being all consumed in the will of the other). Jude’s will was all consumed with the will of his Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Jude was the brother of James. James, the author of the epistle that carries his name, was the leader of the Jerusalem Church, the Jerusalem Council, and was recognized by most, including Paul, as a leader and a pillar of the church. To whom was Jude addressing this epistle?

“To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:” (1b)

The Called, Beloved, and Kept. Jude is directing this epistle to his fellow believers in Christ Jesus. Jude refers to them as the called, those who answered the call of the Holy Spirit and accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Also Jude refers to them as the beloved or loved, referencing the unending love of God the Father to His children. Finally, Jude refers to them as the kept, referencing that God has not only provided the method of salvation through Jesus Christ but also kept the believer secure to eternal life for Jesus Christ. Paul declares that believers in Christ are sealed with the Holy Spirit. (Eph 1:13) What does Jude desire for these Christians?

“May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you.” (2)

Mercy, Peace and Love. Jude desires that the believers receive not justice but mercy, not getting what the believer deserves due to his sins but rather God’s forgiveness through His mercy. Additionally, Jude desires that they receive God’s peace, the peace that passes all human understanding. (Phil 4:7) Finally, Jude desires that they receive God’s love, a love that is greater than any human can imagine. (Jn 3:16)

For Your Consideration:

- Are you a bond-servant of Jesus Christ?
- Are you called, loved and kept for Jesus Christ?
- Have you received the mercy, peace and love found only in Christ?

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