

Jude

INTRODUCTION

Jude has 25 verses and 613 words

Authorship

According to the testimony of the book itself; it was written by "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James" (1) I take this to be the Apostle Jude based on Acts 1:13, also known as Lebbaeus and Thaddaeus. The same language appears in Acts 1:13 as does in Jude 1 : " Judas the brother of James" Yes, there is the italics in Acts 1:13 but the meaning is the same and their addition is necessary for the reading I thus hold to apostolic authorship James then must have been the Apostle James, the son of Alphaeus (Matthew 10:3). Based on the similarity of the language between Acts 1:13 and Jude 1, I hold to apostolic authorship. I don't think the "Jude" who was one of Jesus' half-brothers (Mark 6:3) is the author as this Jude was not an apostle.

Authenticity

Hermas, Polycarp, Athenagoras, Theophilus of Antioch, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, and Eusebius give early attestation to the book.

Jude is more strongly attested than 2 Peter This is somewhat astonishing when one considers its question of apostolic authorship, its shortness, its polemic character, and its alleged reference to apocryphal literature.

Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Augustine, Jerome, and other church Fathers maintained that since Jude made reference to the Apocrypha and non-canonical books, many early Fathers rejected it. Verse 9 was thought to have been a quotation from the Assumption of Moses. Verses 14-15 were supposed to be taken from the book of Enoch. Even if Jude did quote a passage from non-canonical books and other uninspired literature, it was not an endorsement of the material, but because he used was accurate and useful to make his point. The Holy Spirit obviously had no problem with it. Paul did something similar in Acts 16:28 and in Titus 1:12. So why get all upset when Jude does it?

Background

The general character of the epistle does not permit a certain determination of the locality of its composition or its destination

Date

The date is undeterminable. It could have been written any time from A.D. 66 to 80. Liberals, as usual, push the date back as far as they can. One reason they give to justify this is since Jude tells his readers to "remember the words of the apostles" (17), then Jude is not a contemporary of the apostles, hence the need for a late date. But what the liberals do not realize is that by this writing, all of the apostles except John are probably dead, so their words must be remembered since they are now gone Such an admonition argues for an earlier date as opposed to a later one

Occasion

Warnings and descriptions of the apostasy are the motivation for the epistle. Jude desired to write about the "common salvation" of all Christians but was so moved by the urgency of warning of the apostasy of the day that he wrote about it instead.

Remarks and Observations

Jude gives capsule summaries of the following doctrines:

1. The trinity 1,20
2. The historicity of the Old Testament 5-1 1
3. Existence of angels 6
4. Satan's existence and power 9
5. Judgment and retribution 6,7,13,15
6. Second coming of Christ 14,15
7. Deity of Christ 25
8. Security of the believer 24

While Jude reads in a similar manner and style as 2 Peter, Jude is actually more severe and uncompromising against the apostates than is Peter. "One of the differences between Jude and II Peter seems to be that while Peter warned that "there shall be false teachers" (2:1), Jude states that "there are certain men crept in unawares" (Jude 4). One anticipates the problem, while the other realizes it as present (H. T. Spence, *The Canon of Scripture*, page 208)."

Names and titles of Christ in Jude

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Jesus Christ 1 | 4. Wise God 25a |
| 2. Lord Jesus Christ 4 | 5. Savior 25b |
| 3. Lord 14 | |

Names and titles of God the Father in Jude

1. Father 1
2. Lord God 4
3. The Lord 5

Names and titles for the Holy Spirit in Jude

1. The Spirit 9
2. Holy Ghost 20b

Old Testament references in Jude

1. Satan rebuked, 9 with Zechariah 3:2
2. Israel's exodus from Egypt, 5 with Exodus 12:41
3. Israel's unbelief in the wilderness, 5b with Numbers 14:22-29; 26:64,65
4. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, 7 with Genesis 19:24; Deuteronomy 29:23
5. Moses' body after his death, 9 with Deuteronomy 34:5,6
6. Cain's sacrifice, 1 1a with Genesis 4:5
7. Balaam's error, 11b with Numbers 22:7-21
8. Korah's rebellion, 11c with Numbers 16:1-3
9. Enoch. 14 with Genesis 5: 18

From W. Graham Scroggie, *The Unfolding Drama of Redemption*, 3:328

1-4	5-16	17-23	24,25
Introduction	An Exposition of the Danger	An Exhortation to the Duty	Conclusion
The address 1,2	Apostates Doomed 5-7	The Biblical Duty 17-19	The God Addressed 24,25a
The keynotes 3,4	Apostates Denounced	The Personal Duty	The Praise Ascribed

Jude

A. Duty 3 B. Danger 4	8-11	20,21	25b
	Apostates Described 12-16	The Relative Duty 22,23	

The Profile of an apostate as revealed by Jude:

- 1 Ungodly- 4
- 2 Morally perverted- 4
- 3 Deny Christ- 4
- 4 Defile the flesh- 8
- 5 Rebellious- 8
- 6 Revile holy angels- 8
- 7 Dreamers- 8
- 8 Ignorant- 10
- 9 Corrupt- 10
- 10 Grumblers- 16
- 11 Fault finders- 16
- 12 Self-seeking- 16
- 13 Arrogant speakers- 16
- 14 Flatterers- 16
- 15 Mockers- 18
- 16 Cause division- 19
- 17 Worldly-minded- 19
- 18 Without the Spirit- 19

THE DISPENSATIONAL CHARACTER OF JUDE

Jude, along with Hebrews, James, the epistles of Peter and John are known as “General” or “Catholic” Epistles. While they all contain much church age doctrine, these epistles are unique in that their primary doctrinal and dispensational thrust is tribulational. The church age only accounts for 28.5% of human history, as it makes up about 2000 years of the 7000 years of history. It is not logical then to assume that they entire Bible is written in a church age context. The Old Testament deals with the nation of Israel, not the Church. Acts 2-7 is a theological minefield, as it is a transitional period between the Old Testament and Church Age. I teach that it was very possible that Christ could have returned at any time between Acts 2-7, where Israel had a “second chance” to accept the kingdom. That open door was closed at the death of Stephen when Israel rejected his witness. After that, the gospel goes to the Samaritans in Acts 8. In Acts 9, the Apostle to the Gentiles is saved. In Acts 10 and 11, we have the Gentile Pentecost. Then the missionary call to the Gentiles is given in Acts 13 and we move solidly into the Church Age. That lasts until the Rapture.

We find church doctrine primarily in Paul’s epistles, although they are also sprinkled through the gospels, Acts and the other epistles. But since Paul is the Apostle to the Gentiles, we would expect him to deal with doctrines that deal with the Church. But Peter was the Apostle to the Circumcision in Galatians 2:7-9. If he was involved in a Jewish ministry, his preaching would be more Jewish in context and this would be reflected in his two epistles.

There are several verses in Hebrews 3 and 6 that simply make no sense in a church age context as they seem to teach that a believer can lose his salvation. Many commentators simply gave up trying to expound these verses. The root of the trouble was that they were trying to fit a round peg (church doctrine) into a square hole (tribulation doctrine). But if the verses were applied to a tribulational context, they make more sense.

James has caused a lot of consternation over the years. Martin Luther hated it because he couldn’t reconcile it to Romans. But Luther’s problem was that he was trying to compare apples and oranges, church doctrine with tribulation doctrine.

John and Jude are also primarily aimed at tribulation saints, although there are many church age applications to be made in all four epistles. The burden of the commentator is to discern the proper zip code or a certain verse. Is this verse written to me as a Christian or is it written for a saint in the tribulation? Or maybe it has a millennial application?

The root for the majority of heresies today is a dispensational misapplication of verses. When someone claims that a Christian can lose his salvation, he is taking a tribulation doctrine

and is trying to apply it to a Christian. If a man claims that a Christian has to “endure to the end to be saved”, citing Matthew 24:13, he is taking a tribulation doctrine and is trying to apply it to the church age. Seventh Day Adventists, with their fixation on Sabbath observance today, have the right doctrine but the wrong dispensation. Ditto with their insistence that Christians have to keep the moral law and the ceremonial law to be saved. That’s good tribulational preaching, but it is heresy for the Christian. But if we can “rightly divide” these verses and place them in the correct dispensations, we will avoid such errors. But this can still be tricky because such verses may be mixed in with church age doctrines and some verses may have a double application that can apply to multiple dispensations. It can be very confusing! This is why the ministry of the Biblical commentator is not for the faint of heart or weak of spirit.

The Bible has to be able to minister and guide to yet future generations, including those who will be saved in the tribulation period. Since the tribulation is a totally different dispensation that the church age is, we would expect a different set of doctrine to be presented for those who go into that dispensation, just as much as we would if we were considering the dispensation of the Millennium. Why do we assume that all of the Bible, especially the New Testament, has to apply only to Christians in this dispensation? The Bible is for all dispensations, so we have to expect there are going to be sections of it that apply to other dispensations than our own. This is not to say that the Christian should totally ignore anything that Paul didn’t write, for there are doctrines and applications all over the Bible that still apply to the Christian. But we must know which ones do and don’t.

With all this in mind, we will delve into Jude, recognizing it as primarily a tribulational epistle with church age applications. After all, look at its neighbor- the book of Revelation, which primarily deals with the tribulation period!

1. Introduction 1,2

1 Jude,^a the servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to them that are sanctified^{b-c} by God the Father; and preserved^f in Jesus Christ, and called.^d

1a Jude does not call himself an apostle (if this is the Apostle Jude). But this is not an automatic disqualification for apostolic authorship. Paul didn’t always identify himself as an apostle in the introductions to his letters (see Philippians and Philemon). John never did in his letters and neither did James, nor the author of Hebrews. Jude may have simply not felt worthy to compare himself to the “greats” or he did not feel it necessary to stress any apostolic credentials he might have had to his audience. He simply refers to himself by a higher title- servant.

1b The perfect tense indicates that God’s positional sanctification, once bestowed on us, continues to remain on us. Sanctification is the setting apart of something or someone for a special or dedicated purpose In terms of religion, God sets us apart unto holiness, service and discipleship, Every Christian is positionally sanctified at salvation The practical sanctification is something that takes the entire lifetime to work out and develop

We notice that Jude mentions that we are sanctified "by God", referring to our standing before God rather than the process of sanctification that every believer undertakes in his own life in a practical sense.

1c There are a number of “trinities” in Jude. The first one is here, referring to the saints as:

- 1. **Sanctified.** We have been set aside for the Lord’s use and pleasure at salvation. We are sanctified positionally at salvation, and this is worked out in our lives practically through the rest of our lives.

There is a threefold sanctification of the believer, mentioned in the New Testament:

- 1. Sanctified by God the Father- Jude 1
- 2. Sanctified in Christ Jesus- 1 Corinthians 1:2
- 3. Through sanctification of the Spirit- 1 Peter 1:2

Jude

2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love,^{a-b} be multiplied.^{c-d}

2. Earnestly contend for the Faith 3

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence^a to write unto you of the common salvation,^b it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort^c you that ye should earnestly contend^d for the faith which was once delivered^e unto the saints.^f

2. **Preserved.** This speaks to the security of the truly born again believer. If you have been born again, you cannot lose your salvation, but you certainly can ruin it through apostasy and unfaithfulness. The perfect tense expresses the continued secure state of God's safekeeping of the believer. Eternal security is addressed here, as Jude does in verse 24. The basis for eternal security is that we are "preserved in Jesus Christ" and not in ourselves. This is the key Just as our salvation is not dependent upon our own power, neither is our safe-keeping. Both are dependent upon Christ and He is responsibility for both as well. The reason why we cannot fall from salvation is because it is God Who does the holding, not us. We do not hold or keep ourselves. What God starts in us in terms of salvation, He sees through to the end and completes.

3. **Called.** Called to salvation, then to service and sanctification.

1d We are "called" to salvation, then sanctification. Not the same as election, as that is a determination, not a calling It is to this calling we either respond or not, for salvation or condemnation.

2a The only place in the New Testament where mercy, peace and love appear so close together is here. "Grace, mercy and peace" appear in 1 Timothy 1.2; 2 Timothy 1:2 and 2 John 3.

2b "**Mercy and peace**" were elements of Jewish greetings "Love" was added to make it Christian.

2c "**multiplied**" Not just added to but multiplied.

2d The second of Jude's "trinities". Jude wishes his audience:

1. **Mercy.** We will need mercy at the judgment seat of Christ as we will be judged for our Christian lives and stewardship after the rapture (Revelation 4).

2. **Peace.** We get peace from the Father (Philippians 4:7).

3. **Love.** This is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

3a Jude felt an urgency and a need for haste in writing to exhort his hearers to earnestly content for the faith due to the seriousness of the situation with these false teachers, the damage they were doing and the threat they possessed. There is no "lost epistle" here as Jude was originally going to write concerning the common salvation we all share, but the "common distress" changed his mind to write of the apostasy instead.

3b "**common salvation**" is not as something despised or inferior, which is one definition of "common". "**Common**" is used here to describe the universality of this salvation among the saints, that which is common, or is shared, by all believers, its extent, not its quality. There is a common malady that affects all men (sin) so there must be a common remedy for that condition that also applies to all men without exception, the salvation that is in Christ Jesus.

3c The work of "exhorting" as in warning and urging a congregation to some form of action is of the duties of the preacher. See Hebrews 10:25.

3d Jude is being forced by circumstances to write on the need to defend and contend for the faith instead. There is an apostasy out there, it is growing worse and claiming victims and Jude must write concerning it so that Christians will know what is involved, will be able to both defend themselves against it and to launch offensives against it. Militancy against error and for the truth is commanded unto the church. It is

3. Creeps 4

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares^{a-b} who were before of old ordained to this condemnation,^c ungodly men,^{d-e} turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord^f Jesus Christ.

not an optional thing. If we are soldiers, that presupposes a warfare. Fight for truth and against all forces that would seek to overthrow that truth. This is to be done "**earnestly**", implying great effort and activity, as a boxer in a ring, a soldier on a battlefield or a runner in a race. One cannot contend in a lazy manner as the word implies vigorous activity.

Since Jude is also "earnestly contending" in this epistle, it can rightly be classified as polemic literature, since Jude is dealing with controversial doctrines and is attacking false doctrine and apostates.

Jude would have written about our "**common salvation**" but the "present distress" would not let him. Preachers would rather spend their ministry preaching on good things, on Jesus Christ, His person and His work. No one likes a fight and having to waste time preaching on apostasy and error. But it must be done if we are to remain faithful to the truth when it is under attack. We are compelled to respond in the same manner as Jude did.

3e "**once delivered**" No other faith, or body of spiritual truth, will be given to this generation and dispensation. God has said all that He is going to say to our dispensation in the Word of God. If you are an English speaker, then God has delivered you this "faith" finally, its contents preserved within a King James Bible.

This faith is delivered to the saints by God, from heaven, and is received by the saints on earth. It is delivered and received, not invented by the saints. We did not "dream" this up for man would never concoct the plan of salvation that God has given. Man would develop a works-based faith, dependent upon religious ritual, not one that is solely founded on the grace of God.

The faith and the truth there of have their origins with God and are given in stewardship in trust to the saints The Church does not create it but rather is in stewardship of it to promote it and to make it known This faith was once delivered to the saints in the giving of the Scriptures. This body of truth was given once, never to be given again. We have all the truth that God intended us to have. We need no new "truth" or "revelation" from Charismatics or cultists. Nor do we need any "updates" or "additions" to the Bible to add to this depositum of the faith, such as the Book of Mormon or *Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures* or any Roman Catholic traditions.

3f "**saints**" This is who receives the faith, not the institutional church or some theological system. Christians have it. God always works through individuals rather than groups. No group, church, fellowship or theological system may claim to have exclusive possession of the truth for all saints share in it. God desired the entire body of Christ to receive this faith, not just one group. Nor is it to be found within a certain theological system for the truth of God transcends all human theological systems. No theological system nor denominational system in and of itself is large enough to contain this body truth.

4a Even the apostles couldn't keep false teachers out of the church. How much harder do we have to work in our day, with the apostasy that much more advanced? These false teachers creep into the church in much the same way as a snake would slither into a building. They come in with stealth, and unawares and catch their prey by surprise. They are spiritual snakes! They came in under false pretence, flying false colors of a false profession of godliness and orthodoxy. False teachers do not operate openly as a true man of God would. We have nothing to hide but they hide everything. Think of Seventh Day Adventists. They never tell you who they are. They never identify themselves in their literature or on their radio and television broadcasts. They don't want you to know who they are until it is too late and you have been ensnared in their trap. False teachers hide their true intent and position and misrepresent themselves in order to gain the confidence of their victim. And they came in unawares. No one saw them come in, just as no one saw the snake slither under the door, until it was too late. The threat they pose calls for diligence and spiritual discernment to watch all of the openings, to make sure that the creep does not creep in. If he manages to get in, he must be expelled at once before he can work his mischief. Some

Jude

people may need to be thrown out of a local church if they qualify as a false teacher, operating as a creep.

Nor did they come in boldly, pounding their chests and declaring their error for all to hear. Apostates are seldom so bold since they know such an approach would give time for their intended victims to raise their defenses. No, they always work “undercover”, in secret, with ulterior motives. They are not the bravest souls around, at least not publicly.

4b The False Teachers:

Their entrance into the church- they crept in,
Their condemnation- written beforehand by God,
Their character- they are ungodly men
Their doctrine- they turn the grace of God into lasciviousness

4c Being ordained unto something is not the same as being elected unto something. The words are quite different. God simply wrote their condemnation beforetime. He did not ordain certain men to this apostasy, nor did He elect or reprobate them to it. He simply wrote out their condemnation ahead of time. He told these false prophets what the penalty would be for their apostasy before they ever committed it. In His foreknowledge, He saw their apostasy and already prophesied about it. We cannot read any Calvinistic idea of reprobation or unconditional election into this phrase because no one is being elected or reprobated to anything here. Only the penalty and punishment for these "creeps" is laid out ahead of time. Salvation is not the issue here, but rather the punishment for apostates and false teachers.

An example of this “fore-ordaining” of wicked men would be Judas Iscariot, whose treason against Christ was recorded in Psalm 41:9.

4d These ungodly men are guilty of two sins:

1. **They turn the grace of our God into lasciviousness.** They abuse grace by turning liberty into license, saying that now that you are saved by grace, it doesn't matter how you live because God has already forgiven you. They make grace a license to sin and an excuse to do away with the law of God, the commandments of God and Biblical principles and standards. They are antinomians, saying that grace gives them a license to sin. False prophets and apostates cannot stand rules or discipline. They rail against "legalism", "rules" and "standards" as though it was a sin to encourage people to live holy lives. “Holiness” is a word not found in their lexicons. The law of God and the commandments of Jesus Christ are highly offensive to them because they are rebels at heart and rebels hate law. Such rebels have no intention of obeying anyone's laws, even those of God's. They are their own god and their word is law. They believe themselves to be autonomous, answerable to no one's law but their own. Beware of any preacher who says that since you are saved by grace that you may now live in any manner you desire and God won't care. They ignore Romans 6:1, another verse they can't handle. They refuse to understand and recognize the discipline of grace, that the grace of God in reality constrains us to live a holy life and places us under a higher obligation of personal holiness.

Now why do they think they have the liberty to turn the grace of God into sin? Because they have a low view of God. If we had a high and holy view of God (the correct one) then our resulting conduct would reflect that view. But if our hearts are bad and our view of God is low then our life in reference to our God will also be low in response. We will not rise above our view and understanding of God in holiness. The Greeks and Romans were so immoral because their gods were immoral. Their gods were not holy but acted as bad as men did. Their gods were nothing but exalted humans, complete with an exalted fallen nature. Their gods were carnal, so their followers were too. If my god is immoral then why should I be holy? But if worship a thrice holy God of infinite holiness, then my life and conduct will demonstrate that. False prophets and apostates then have very low views of the holiness of God, which, in their mind, give them the justification to live low and loose.

2. **They deny the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.** This is done in any number of ways, either through doctrine or practice. Denying the Lord in doctrine would involve denying any tenet of orthodox Christology, such as His incarnation, eternal sonship, virgin birth, deity and fully unfallen humanity, hypostatic union, atoning death, resurrection, ascension, current priestly ministry and second coming. They deny that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, or God. They deny that the Messiah is Jesus, but is rather another man. To deny Him in practice is described above in their turning the grace of God into lasciviousness.

4. An Example of Apostate Israel 5

5 I will therefore put you in remembrance,^a though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed^b them that believed not.^{c-d}

5. An Example of Apostate Angels 6

6 And the angels which kept^a not their first estate,^b but left their own habitation,^c he hath reserved^a in everlasting chains under darkness^{d-e} unto the judgment of the great day.^{f-g-h}

4e So how are we to handle these "creeps"?

- 1 Mark them - Romans 16:17,18
- 2 Charge them - 1 Timothy 1:3
- 3 Try them - 1 John 4:1-3
- 4 Separate from them - 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; Ephesians 5:11

4f Here is another of Jude's "trinities" in describing the sins of these "creeps"

- 1. They are ungodly
- 2. They turn the grace of God into lasciviousness
- 3. They deny the Lord

5a Because we are so prone to forget, especially in spiritual matters

5b "**destroyed**" not annihilated, but rather, to render them unfit, or ruin them, for the use that God had intended for them. If God will judge His own people severely for apostasy, as He has on numerous occasions, then how can the unsaved and ungodly hope to escape judgment for similar sins? Despite their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, God still destroyed them for their idolatry. Past blessing are no defense against future judgments.

5c There is another "trinity" in verses 5-7, where Jude gives three Old Testament examples of divine judgments against false teachers and apostates:

- 1. The children of Israel, who left Egypt in the Exodus but then believed not at Kadesh Barnea- verse 5
- 2. The angels who kept not their first estate but fell with Lucifer- verse 6
- 3. The destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities of the plain- verse 7

5d This seems to be aimed straight at the Jew, for he would be very familiar with this account. Now why the warning here? We have another tribulation context. If God "destroyed" an unbelieving Jew in Exodus, the same fate awaits an unfaithful Jew in the tribulation. If they do not believe the preaching of the 144,000 or of the Two Witnesses, they will be destroyed, just as their fathers were in the wilderness for their unbelief.

6a "**kept**" and "**reserved**" in this verse are the same Greek word, which is Strong's #5083 τηρεω tēreō, to attend to carefully, to take care of, to guard or keep.

6b This reads in a similar way to 2 Peter 2:4. What is this "**estate**"? It is the place where God placed the angels, the sphere of their own existence and responsibility. God created the angels for a special purpose and gave them unique ministries and responsibilities. He also set boundaries around them, forbidding them certain acts. The class of angels who followed Lucifer in his rebellion transgressed those boundaries that God laid down and left the stations and positions that God had created them for. Some of these angels even went so far as to make the ultimate transgression of angelic being and cohabitated with human women (Genesis 6). They may have taken human form to commit this sin. It is interesting that Jesus also took on human form and a human nature but He did so to redeem mankind, not to corrupt

Jude

it. And He certainly did not cohabit with any women during His time on earth. The number and magnitude of these sins could not be tolerated by God so severe judgment resulted. This was how the account of the "sons of God" in Genesis 6:1-4 was universally understood (so far as our evidence goes) until the mid- second century A. D. 1 Enoch 6-19 also deals with this material.

6c This is when they rebelled with Satan and followed him. Angels were ultimately created to serve God. That was their initial "**habitation**". But when they rebelled and cast in their lot with Satan, they left that for which they were created. Satan is said not to have abode in the truth in John 8:44. The truth was the original and intended habitation for both Lucifer and the angels who followed (and will yet follow) him. To abandon that is to leave your habitation.

6d The **darkness** here is literal, as well as spiritual in the idea of separation from the presence God and His truth. But this physical darkness, that is worse and more intense than anything seen on earth, is a part of their punishment, to be eternally blinded as a part of their judgment, never to experience any light ever again. Those who once saw the light of heaven and of the glory of the Lamb are condemned never to see any light ever again for eternity. They are to exist for eternity as a type of mole, blindly groping in the pit. Since they followed the Prince of Darkness, their punishment will fit the crime. Since they seemed to enjoy darkness so much, God will give it to them for eternity.

6e There are 3 everlasting/eternal things mentioned in Jude:

1. Chains 6
2. Fire 7
3. Life 21

6f When did this happen? It can refer to two events:

1. The initial apostasy of the angels before the creation, who followed Lucifer in his apostasy and rebellion,
2. The events of Genesis 6, where angels cohabitated with women in an attempt to corrupt the human race and defeat the prophecy of a Redeemer in Genesis 3:15. This is the better interpretation of the two. Since angels are always presented in the masculine gender (never sexless), it is possible for angels to engage in sexual activities with human women. Everything this entails is not laid out in its entirety in Scripture, however. The fact that angels do not marry nor are given in marriage (Matthew 22:30) has no bearing to the discussion, because you do not need to be married to have sex or to produce children!

If the first interpretation was correct, then those angels who fell along with Lucifer would already be in the bottomless pit, based on the past tense of the judgment. Those angels would have already been judged. Yet it is obvious that many fallen angels are very active in the world even to this day. Since not all these angels have been judged, the first interpretation cannot be correct. But the angels who were responsible for the events of Genesis 6 were judged quickly at the time of the flood. These angels are now in the bottomless pit. Their sin was so severe that God punished it on the spot.

6g "**the great day**" since this is in judgment of the wicked, it would refer to the Great White Throne judgment of Revelation 20. We do not believe that all the fallen angels are currently in the bottomless pit awaiting the day of judgment, though some are. Many are on the loose today in the forms of devils. But there is a class of angels who are so imprisoned. Peter says that God "delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" in 2 Peter 2:4. This is the fate of these apostate angels who were cast down into the bottomless pit. They are chained with eternal chains, reserved for their final judgment, which may take place at the Great White Throne of Revelation 20. They are reserved so that they cannot escape their prison or judgment. They were judged in the past as they were chained and cast down into hell, but their final and "official" judgment is still future. And I do believe the chains spoken of here are literal and real, chains forged by God that endure for eternity and cannot be broken, designed to bind the worst of the fallen angels. These angels must be fearsome indeed for God to deal with them in such a manner.

6h God judged the apostate angels who kept not their first estate and will judge the rest of them in the future. Revelation 12:4 tells us of yet another defection among the angels that will take place in the

6. An Example of Sodom and Gomorrah 7

7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner,^{a-b} giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

7. Filthy Dreamers 8

8 Likewise also these *filthy*^a dreamers^{b-c} defile^d the flesh, despise^e dominion, and speak evil^f of dignities.^{g-h}

tribulation. If God will judge angels, then how do false teachers and apostates hope to escape their judgment?

7a The suburbs and neighboring areas surrounding these cities were also destroyed, not just the cities. The other cities are Adamah and Zeboim (Deuteronomy 29:23 and Hosea 11:8). Zoar was spared because that is where Lot fled to. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah had infected the countryside and their inhabitants. Archaeologists believe this area is today under the southern extension of the Dead Sea. Underwater archaeological exploration may reveal the remains of these once proud and great cities. This very desolate area is a vivid example of the total judgment of God and what awaits this world in the tribulation period.

We also see that Jude considered their overthrow a historical event and treats it as such. Jude does not doubt the historical account of the destruction of the cities of the plain in Genesis 19.

Jude points us to it as an example when men fall away and apostatize God judges angels who are guilty of this sin and men cannot escape a similar judgment for similar sins.

7b In like manner to the angels of verse 6. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was fornication and going after strange flesh. "In like manner" is a reference to the angels who sinned. This helps us to confirm that the angelic sin spoken of in Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4 is sexual, in attempting to invade the human race in an attempt to corrupt it through fornication with human women, so that the promised seed of Genesis 3:15 could not be born. The sin of Sodom and the fallen angels is one and the same. We do not accuse the angels of homosexuality, which was the sin of Sodom (Genesis 19:5) but both went after "strange flesh" or flesh that was not lawful for them to pursue- the Sodomites in homosexuality and the angels in human female flesh. Something very perverted was going on, both in the cities of the plains and among the fallen angels in the days before the Flood.

8a Missing in every version, except the Authorized Version. The Geneva Bible has "sleepers" where the Tyndale and Coverdale Bibles have "dreamers". The Bishop's Bible has them "deceived by dreams". All modern versions also do not have "filthy". "Filthy" is not in any Greek text, which is why the word is in italics in the King James text. The Authorized Version translators added "filthy" as a commentary regarding the moral character of these apostates, and the description fits. They are not simply dreamers but morally and spiritually filthy dreamers. The Greek word includes the idea "to be beguiled with sensual images and carried away to an impious course of conduct", or morally defiled. We may expect them to be guilty of some rather gross sexual sins to go along with their apostasy. This is also seen in their relation, by context, to the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah.

So why did the Authorized Version add "filthy" when no other version, not even the related versions of the Tyndale, Coverdale, Bishops and Geneva Bibles, did? We will never know for certain, as the translators did not leave us many of the translation notes. It may be that with the extra scholarship of the Authorized Version translators gave the Authorized Version translators extra insight into the fuller meaning of εὑπνίαζομενοι that the earlier translators did not have. It was their commentary on just what εὑπνίαζομενοι meant. We (unfortunately) do not have the translators notes as to why they inserted "filthy" into the text, but, as always, they were honest enough to let you know when they were adding words to the text by printing them in an italic font. They may have inserted "filthy" as a commentary on the moral quality of these "dreamers" since the context (from verse 7) were the filthy Sodomites! These

dreamers were as morally filthy as the residents of Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities of the plains. They may have even been the same group of people that Jude was talking about.

But before anyone complains about the Authorized Version translators adding words to the text, we would point out that it is almost a necessity to add words to the English text in order to smooth out the readings. Every English translation does it, including the modern versions, which are forever adding and removing words from the text. But when the Authorized Version translators did it, they were honest to tell you where they did it by putting the additional words into italic. You do not see that in the ESV, NIV, NASV or any modern version. That is because the translators of the Authorized Version were honest while the modern translators are not. Just look at what the ESV does in Jude 12 by adding "shepherds" to the text. It might be included in the Greek definition (just as "filthy" might fit into the Greek definition in Jude 8), but "shepherd" is not in the text. But the ESV made no notation that they added the word, like the Authorized Version translators did in verse 8.

8b **"filthy dreamers"** This is another title for apostates because their imaginations are filthy and defiled. Since they are fallen, their minds have not been renewed nor regenerated by the Holy Spirit through the new birth. Matters that are pure and holy are foreign to them. Their thoughts do not center about the truth or about pleasing and honoring God. Instead, their imaginations and thoughts are consumed with making a dollar, with feeding their own belly, with searing their conscience, with snaring more victims into their web of deceit. Such thoughts are indeed filthy because they are selfish, carnal and devilish instead of godly. Thoughts that are not godly must be classified as filthy because there is no neutrality anywhere in God's universe. Our thoughts are either for God or against Him, either godly or filthy. Their doctrines, motivations and practices are filthy because they are anti-God.

God does speak in dreams (Genesis 20:3,6; 31:10,11,24; Daniel 2,4; Matthew 1:20; 2:12, *et al*) so we would expect false prophets to claim this as a vehicle for their error.

False prophets and Charismatics are forever claiming to receive "dreams" and "visions" from God. and try to lure God's people away from the truth on the basis of these dreams, as in Numbers 12 and Deuteronomy 13. The penalty for such "filthy dreaming" was death (Deuteronomy 13:5).

8c These filthy dreamers sue guilty of three sins, as we have another of Jude's "trinitities":

1. **They defile the flesh.** They are very fleshly minded and carnal. They not only defile their spirits and souls but they go all the way and drag their flesh down as well.

2. **They despise dominion.** A false prophet respects and honors no one but himself. He wouldn't be caught dead citing other writers in his literature, believing that he is the fount of all Christian knowledge and that God speaks only through him. This lack of respect extends all the way to heaven, as he will not honor or glorify God.

3. **They speak evil of dignities.** This is related to the despising dominion. Their lack of respect for others and for God results in speaking against them as well.

8d Immorality is a part of their message. False prophets are seldom clean morally. They oftentimes will use their doctrines as an excuse for immorality. They live like the devil since they are not saved and do not have the Holy Spirit indwelling them, so they must find some scripture or some teaching that will justify their sin.

8e They have enthroned themselves as god, enshrined their own philosophy and doctrine above the truth of God, and hence they deeply resent any and all authority which would try to reign in their extremes of orthodoxy and orthopraxy. They will accept no authorities over them (not even God!), nor any restraints over their activities. These people usually can name no great theologian or divine from church history who is good enough to suit them as guide or a check on their beliefs and practices for they respect no one. Everyone is wrong and they alone are right. They recommend no one except themselves and no writings except their own. Beware of such men! They are not only rebels against the authority of man but also against God,

Their rebellion also affects society in general for they also despise political authority, which is ordained by God (Romans 13:1) and the magistrate, who is the minister of God (Romans 13:4). The Arians of the 4th century were great disrupters of society, even threatening civil war by their heresies. Their children, the Jehovah Witness cult, are similar trouble-makers today.

8. How to Handle the Devil 9

9 Yet Michael the archangel,^{a-b} when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses,^c durst^d not bring against him a railing^e accusation,^f but said, The Lord rebuke thee.^{g-h}

8f "speak evil" or blaspheme, which is the word here. Blasphemy is a specialty of theirs. If they are so bold as to rebel against God Himself in word in practice, then they would have absolutely no hesitancy to speak against the authority they are in rebellion against.

Strong's #987 βλασφημεω blasphemêô; to speak reproachfully, rail at, revile, blaspheme, to be evil spoken of, reviled, railed at

8g The Greek for "**dignities**" is the same word as for "glory", δόξα. The officers of the church are called δόξα, the "glory of Christ" in 2 Corinthians 8:23. It could also have a reference to angelic authorities. These spiritual leaders are the glory of Christ as displayed and manifested on earth in context of the local churches. False teachers will never hesitate to attack a pastor or elders in a church in order to damage their authority and ministry so that they may take advantage of it, and even "steal" that church away for their own use and benefit.

9a Michael is the chief angel, the highest ranking angel in the angelic hosts. The Book of Enoch lists seven archangels but the Bible only identifies one. We are not considering cherubim or seraphim here, as they are totally different types of heavenly beings. We have no reason to refer to cherubim and seraphim as angels. Nor is there any reason to try to identify Michael with Christ, as Jehovah Witnesses try to do. They are distinct and separate. If they were the same, then why is Michael telling Satan that the Lord will rebuke him is Michael is Christ? If Michael were Jesus and thus was God, then why couldn't Michael rebuke Satan, seeing that he was God? This is because Michael is not divine but angelic and thus will not rebuke Satan.

9b Biblical material on Michael the Archangel:

1. He is called one of the chief princes, suggesting there are other archangels- Daniel 10:13.
2. Michael is called the prince of Israel, probably the angel delegated a special responsibility regarding the wellbeing and protection of the nation of Israel. There would seem to be a fallen angel with similar, national responsibilities. This suggests that each nation may have a "guardian angel" assigned to it, as well as a fallen angel- Daniel 10:21.
3. He is called a great prince who stands for the people of Israel- Daniel 12:1.
4. He also appears in Revelation 12:7, fighting against Satan and his angels in heaven and winning.

9c Not the soul, but the body of Moses. Satan had no jurisdiction over the redeemed soul of Moses, for that was safe with God after his death. Satan did make a play for the body. Since Satan had the power of death before the death of Christ, Satan could have had a claim on the body of Moses. But God, who has more power and authority than Satan, overruled. We are not told when this took place but we suspect sometime not too long after Deuteronomy 34, when Moses died and God buried him in that secret place. There was no "assumption of Moses" for his body was buried God did it Himself. No man knows where Moses was buried (Deuteronomy 34:6) but Satan probably knew and he wanted the body We are not told why Satan wanted it (or contended over it) but we may speculate that Satan might have wanted to use the body to corrupt Israel. If Satan could produce the body of Moses, he could use it as an object of idolatry. The serpent on the pole was a perfect example of how something ordained by God and used by God could be twisted into a form of idolatry (2 Kings 18:4). If Satan could have brought out the body of the most loved figure in Jewish history (after Abraham), what a field day he would have had with it! The man who lashed out against idolatry to be tuned into an idol himself! Satan could have even claimed to have resurrected Moses, thus claiming to be more powerful than God. Who knows for certain? But God allowed none of it and sent Michael to guard the body from Satan, and to deny it to him. God desired an honorable burial for His servant and was not about to allow Satan to defile the event. And I take this to be a historical event, not to be interpreted symbolically,

9. A Description of Apostates 10-13,16

10 But these speak evil^a of those things which they know^b not:^c but what they know^b naturally, as brute beasts,^{d-e} in those things they corrupt^f themselves.

One possibility for this confrontation was that since Moses was going to return as one of the Two Witnesses in the tribulation, Satan may have tried his feeble best to stop that by stealing Moses' body. This would have involved a resurrection of Moses' body (Elijah's body was in heaven, so that was never an issue or a point of contention). If Satan could have prevented that, he may have thrown a monkey wrench into God's plans to have Moses return, bodily, in the tribulation.

9d Old English for "dare."

9e "**railing**" Strong's #988 βλασφημία blasphemía; slander, detraction, speech injurious, to another's good name, impious and reproachful speech injurious to divine majesty. It is blasphemy but with an irrational twist. Think of some rabid, irrational atheist screaming in your face that there is no God, or some tree-hugging, man-hating feminist doing the same thing and you'll see the mind-set of a "railer".

9f The Geneva Bible has this as "durst not blame him with cursed speaking". The Authorized Version reading is much better here. The ESV has "blasphemous judgment". What? Blaspheme the devil? What's wrong with that? It wasn't that Micheal was forbidden to "blaspheme" Satan, he would not "rebuke" him. But with that totally incorrect reading, is the ESV trying to generate a little "sympathy for the devil?"

9g Even Michael the Archangel would not rebuke the devil. Satan is more powerful than any angel, including Michael. Instead, Michael simply says "The Lord rebuke thee". If no angel, nor Michael, feels it within his authority to rebuke Satan, then what makes us think that we, fallen, puny man, may? Railing accusations do not belong in the mouths of Christians. Even Jesus, the Son of God, while on earth as the Son of Man, did not rebuke Satan during His three temptations, but He did as Michael did- they both turned Satan over to the Father for a good and proper "rebuking".

Is this not a frequent Charismatic practice, rebuking the devil? They do it frequently. On what authority do they imagine themselves to possess to rebuke Satan? We are told to resist the devil in James 4:7 but nowhere are we commanded to rebuke him. Instead, we simply turn Satan over to the Lord and say "The Lord rebuke thee, Satan". Charismatics are guilty of gross presumption when they claim to "rebuke the devil" for they can do no such thing. We need to respect the power of the devil but we must also rest assured in the fact that Christ is more powerful than Satan and that we can overcome Satan only by the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11), not by our puny "rebukes", which Satan probably just laughs at.

Also see Zechariah 3:2 where "the angel of Lord" would only rebuke Satan by the name of "the Lord" and not by His own name or any other name, only by the name of the Lord Himself.

9h We are not going to bother ourselves trying to figure out if Jude quoted from any hypothetical *Assumption of Moses* or not. Jude, writing under divine inspiration, could have very well have gotten the information regarding the confrontation over the body of Moses directly from the Holy Spirit. Or it may have been "common knowledge" in Jude's day. Or he may have gotten it from something styling itself as the *Assumption of Moses*. It makes no real difference as to the source of this account, as it is just as accurate, not matter where Jude got it.

10a "**speak evil**" Compare 2 Peter 2:10,11. They will blaspheme any and everyone, including God, since there is no fear of God in their eyes and because they are rebels against the word and law of God.

10b "**know**"..."**know**" Same English word in this verse but two different Greek words:

1 First "**know**"- Strong's #1492 εἶδω eídō; to see, to perceive with the eyes, notice, discern, discover, to pay attention, observe, to inspect, examine, to know, get knowledge of, understand, perceive, to know how, to be skilled in.

Jude

2 Second "**know**"- Strong's #1987 *επισταμαι* *epistamai*; to put one's attention on, fix one's thoughts on, to turn one's self or one's mind to, put one's thought upon a thing

10c Ignorance breeds a blasphemous and railing tongue in false teachers. They can't understand certain doctrines so they lash out at them. If they can't understand it, they assume it to be wrong. Many men, even of the more orthodox sort, react like this to truth. Take a "controversial" doctrine, like the "sons of God" in Genesis 6 or why the Authorized Version is the preserved Word of God in English. Many men cannot wrap their brains around the facts and arguments supporting these teachings, so they will generally attack both the doctrine and those who support them by calling them "cultists" or something similar.

They also have the idea that if they see something in the Scripture (in an Authorized Version) that they cannot understand, then it must automatically be a mistranslation. After all, they have a Th.D. or a Ph.D. in theology! They are smart, refined, cultured and educated! They must be able to understand everything they read! If they cannot, they will not confess or admit their own ignorance but rather blame the Authorized Version translators of "mistranslating" or making a poor word selection. It's their fault! They should have done a better job! But the issue is with them. Since they will not submit themselves to the absolute authority of the Scripture, God will give them no light beyond what their own intellect and human scholarship will allow them to figure out. The men who have had very unusual insights to Scriptures are the men who never relied upon their own education or understanding to interpret what God said, but they asked the Holy Spirit for illumination and relied totally upon Him. False teachers and apostates would never stoop so low.

Generally it is so that those who revile Scripture are usually persons who have not read the Bible; they "speak evil of those things, which they know not.

10d They are as stupid and as stubborn as a beast. You might as well try to argue with a brick wall than as to talk to them or to try to convince them of their errors. They are totally unreasonable and will not listen to any reason or argument designed to turn them from their error to the truth. They think they are right and every other Christian on earth is wrong. Proverbs 26:16 certainly applies to them as they imagine themselves wiser than seven men that can render a reason. And since they will not listen to man, they certainly will not listen to God as He pleads with them. This is the same condemnation Peter announces upon them in 2 Peter 2:12. Peter says that these false prophets are stupid, stubborn, and brutish in their conduct and reasoning, void of reason and understanding. They act little better than animals instead of redeemed men. Sin, rebellion and apostasy does this to the thinking process of a man. Reject the truth of God and God will mess up your mind so that you will not be able to think straight. In this condition, you will say and do the stupidest and most outlandish things that a man who is right with God would never allow himself to be guilty of. You will end up thinking and behaving like a stupid animal. Men are not to act as beasts but sinners do. They are a little lower than angels, created in the image and likeness of God. But apostates are beasts. See how sin degrades? Sin robs man of his glory and god-likeness and transforms him to the spiritual level of an animal. They act like animals, sin like animals and have about as much spiritual discernment as an animal. And since these false teachers are not saved, they cannot understand spiritual truth, no matter how high their IQ may be or how many degrees they may have.

10e The other translations all give the idea that they are "unreasoning" beasts, or stupid beasts.

10f Not only do they corrupt others with their errors but they corrupt themselves more. Peter says in 2 Peter 2:12 and 19 that they will perish in their own corruption, a judgment of their own making. A man cannot corrupt others unless he is first corrupt himself. A pure man could not corrupt others just as a corrupt man could not purify others. Every time they speak their errors they corrupt their hearers because error always corrupts. As pornography corrupts the mind through the eye gate and worldly music via the ear gate, false doctrine corrupts through the gate of reason and understanding. Not only the doctrine but also their false orthopraxy corrupts all those who witness it. If a false teacher is outwardly and unapologetically immoral, how will that affect his followers.

11 Woe unto them!^a for they have gone in the way of Cain,^{b-c} and ran greedily after^d the error of Balaam^e for reward, and perished in the gainsaying^f of Core.^g

11a A woe is pronounced unto them and for good reason! They are apostate, corrupted, corrupting, rebellious, proud, arrogant and under condemnation. Nothing good can be said concerning them. All that can be said on their behalf is "woe!"

11b Cain (the murderer and apostate), Balaam (the greedy man) and Korah (the rebel) quite a triple presentation of Old Testament evil. This is another one of Jude's "trinities" in three historical examples of sins that brought judgment:

1. The way of Cain
2. The error of Balaam
3. The gainsaying of Korah

11c "**way of Cain**" Cain was a murderer who was of that wicked one (1 John 3:12). Cain is the example of a wicked man, a child of Satan, who hated his brother and did not do righteousness. Cain was a follower of Satan who not only murdered his brother but probably was the human father of evil and apostasy. He was the arch-typical sinner and instructor in sin. His love toward God was weak and imperfect and it led him to fall away from the truth and commands of God and follow unrighteousness. He slew his brother over anger and jealousy because Abel's works were righteous and his own were wicked. He slew Abel and the word used in 1 John 3:12 signified a violent death, as in slitting the throat of an animal sacrifice. Cain killed Abel by slicing his throat. Was this in response to Abel's method of killing the lamb that he used in his sacrifice? Abel killed his sacrifice by cutting its throat so Cain did the same thing to Abel in his hatred and jealousy. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's were righteous. Jealousy is certainly a factor, since Abel was righteous and was accepted by God while Cain's offering was rejected. This rejection by God of Cain's offering was bad enough to hurt Cain's ego, but to see God accept his younger brother over him and instead of him was just too much for Cain to take, so he murdered his brother out of both jealousy and hatred. Cain had his ego hurt and an innocent man died as a result.

False teachers are no better for they are soul-murderers. They hate the righteous because they are a constant rebuke to them since they know that the works of the righteous are righteous and are accepted by God while their works are wicked and rejected of God. This anger and frustration are fueled by jealousy. They would kill the righteous if they could get away with it. Barring that, they are content simply to spiritually murder the unfortunate souls who choose to follow them and their teachings. Cain then is not only presented as the first murderer but is typical of all such sinners.

11d "**ran greedily after**" Compare 2 Peter 2:15. Imagine a herd of pigs making a mad dash toward the feeding trough and you will get an example of how these apostates run greedily toward any promise of financial reward they can make from their errors. Excess and throwing themselves upon their lusts were their watchwords. The eagerness with which they run for the reward of their errors is like pouring water down a steep hill.

11e What is the **error of Balaam**? Balaam was a prophet for hire, who would have cursed God's people if God had let him. Balaam rented himself out to the highest bidder as a prophet for hire. As he loved the wages of unrighteousness, so do they. Imagine, being willing to curse God's people for a dollar! But since he could not curse God's people, he did the next best thing, as he told Barak how to get them to curse themselves, by engaging in sexual practices with the women of Midian (Numbers 31:8. why was he among the Midianites? Was he a Midianite- Numbers 22:4,7?). It's the money that causes false prophets to go out of the way. If apostasy and teaching error wasn't so profitable, not as many people would be doing it. This is why fewer people teach truth- it simply doesn't pay as well. But God does pay wages of righteousness. Why not enter God's employ? God does not pay right away, in this life. You have to wait for full and final payment for God, which you will receive at the judgment seat. But Satan gives the good wine first, in this world. He will allow you to spend your wages now in fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. God has you wait until heaven for your payday. Many are simply too impatient to wait for God's payday. They want it now and want it all, like the Prodigal Son of Luke 15. So they sell out on the altar of the immediate.

12^a These are spots^b in your feasts of charity,^c when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear:^d clouds they are without water,^e carried about of winds;^f trees whose fruit withereth,^g without fruit, twice dead,^h plucked up by the roots;ⁱ

Peter uses the phrase “**way of Balaam**” in 2 Peter 2:15. The “way” and “error” lead to the same dead end- the love of money. The “way” of Balaam is a road that leads you to compromise and treachery, all for love of a dollar. This is the sin of the Charismatic television evangelists, like Benny Hinn, Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Copeland, Oral Roberts and the lot. I once heard O. Talmadge Spence, who knew Oral Roberts personally back in the 1940s and 1950s tell the story of the night when his father finally broke fellowship with Roberts. When Roberts began claiming to hear audible voices from God and blather on about healing, Spence’s father (H. T. Spence) threw Roberts out of his house. As Roberts left, he replied “Hubert, you are never going to be anything but a little preacher. And I’m not working for pennies anymore”. And Roberts didn’t. He built a great empire and a great “Christian University” because he followed the way of Balaam, which was “follow the money” by preaching error.

The differences between the **way** of Balaam and the **error** of Balaam are:

WAY- following after the money

ERROR- is where Balaam told Balak how to get the children of Israel to corrupt themselves in Numbers 25- mingle with the Midianites and turn the women loose on Israel!

11f "**Gainsaying**" is a literal translation, being compounded of the Anglo-Saxon ‘gegn’, which reappears in the German ‘gegen’, meaning against, and say. To “gainsay” is to speak against, contradict, oppose, hinder.

11g "**Core**" This is the Korah of Numbers 16. “Core” is the Greek version of his name. His sin was pride and rebellion, like Diotrephes of 3 John 9, who wanted the pre-eminence.. He invaded the office of the priesthood without a call or a warrant from God. Korah reasoned "Who did Moses think he was to take all the honor to himself' unless Moses wanted to make himself king (Numbers 16:13)?" Korah then anointed himself against the anointed of the Lord and volunteered to become a prince in Israel. But it was all pride and not concern for the welfare of Moses or the nation as a whole. It was rebellion against the ordained order of God (Romans 13:1,2). As Korah rebelled and perished in going down alive into the pit (Numbers 16:33) so shall these false prophets also perish in the pit. Korah's judgment shall be theirs and their names shall stink as does his.

12a More descriptions of false teachers in 12,13:

1. They are spots.
2. They are dry clouds
3. They are trees without fruit
4. They are raging waves of the sea
5. They are wandering stars

12b The "**spot**" here is a slightly different word than the "spot" in 2 Peter 2:13, which here is Strong's #4696 σπιλος spilos, a stain or blemish, defect, disgrace, spot (also used in Jude 23). Peter speaks of a passive spot while Jude looks at it in a more active sense.

The Bible has a lot to say about “spots”:

1. Leprosy is associated with spots, and leprosy is a type of sin- Leviticus 13. How interesting that the most comprehensive chapter dealing with leprosy is in Leviticus chapter 13. That is no accident!
2. Leprosy can appear as a “bright spot” or white. Sin can appear to be “bright”, desirable, fun, even profitable, but it is still a fatal disease. Leviticus 13:2,4,19,24
3. The spot of leprosy appears on the skin- Leviticus 13:2,4
4. The spot of leprosy can also appear reddish. This red color is more typical of sin, when one considers the old phrase about “scarlet sins”. In these cases, sin appears in its more natural state, sin appearing as sin. Leviticus 13:19,24
5. When the spots appeared, the infected person had to present himself to the priest for

examination. When we have the spots of sin appearing in us, we should also present ourselves to our Great High Priest for an examination! Leviticus 13.

6. A burning is associated with the spots of leprosy. This reminds us that sin will lead the sinner to the burnings of hell if left untreated. Leviticus 13:24.

7. Freckled spots are also mentioned in the examination of leprosy. Leviticus 13:39.

8. The animal used for the red heifer offering had to be without spot. Numbers 19:2

9. The animals used for the burnt offering had to be without spot. Numbers 28:3,9,11,17,26

10. Spots are associated with corruption, and a perverse and crooked generation. Deuteronomy 32:5.

11. Solomon said that the Shuamite had no spot in her. Song 4:7. This is how Christ sees the Christian, as spotless.

12. A leopard cannot change his spots, showing that a man cannot change his sinful nature himself. Jeremiah 12:23.

13. The Church will be presented to Christ, not having any spots. Ephesians 5:27.

14. We should keep the commandments without spot. Spots would be associated with disobedience and rebellion here. 1 Timothy 6:14.

15. Christ offered Himself to the Father without spot. Hebrews 9:14.

16. Christ was as a lamb, without spot. This speaks of His sinlessness. 1 Peter 1:19.

17. False teachers and apostates are spots. 2 Peter 2:13; Jude 12.

18. We should strive that we be found in Him without spot. 2 Peter 3:14.

19. Our garments can be spotted by the flesh (old nature) and we should hate this if it should happen- Jude 23.

12c These **feasts of charity** were early fellowship meals in local churches. The custom which prevailed in the early church was meetings at fixed times (probably the first day of the week) for a common meal, of which all partook. The bishop or an elder probably presided. Church members supplied the food (the "covered dish" meals in modern churches would be a good example). News concerning other churches would often be announced during these gatherings. It was a prominent feature in the fellowship and social life of the local church until about the 4th century, when church authorities prohibited them. The Lord's Supper may have been observed in conjunction or in addition to these times of feasting, as Paul alludes to in 1 Corinthians 11:20-22. It was during these feasts that rich and poor, master and slave, would eat together in brotherly Christian fellowship, which would have been a powerful witness to the unsaved around them. An offering for the poor would usually be taken up at the end of the feast. Abuses of the feasts of charity caused their prohibition by the end of the 4th century the Council of Nicea (391) and repeated by the Council of Trullo (692). These false teachers would corrupt even these feasts by their presence and activities while present. They just ruin everything they touch or attend. The feasts also probably were corrupted over the years into the Roman Catholic "mass".

12d "**feeding themselves without fear**" They are gluttons, who stuff their face at these feasts of charity without any fear. There was nothing wrong with the feasting in itself; but the sin was in their attitudes while feasting. See examples of this attitude in Numbers 11:33 and Psalm 78:31. They feed their own bellies and fill their own purses but they empty the purses of their hearers and do not feed them good spiritual food. These false teachers "pastor" themselves but no one else. Here is another way you can discern a true teacher from a false one is whether or not he can feed the sheep and fill their spiritual stomachs or if he rather excels in emptying their purses.

12e Compare 2 Peter 2:17. They are dry spiritually as well as disappointing When you are thirsty and go to a well, you expect the water to be there. But the dry well delivers only disappointment. To an area parched with drought, the clouds promise rain, but these clouds never deliver. They carry the same spiritual disappointment as does the empty well. False prophets also promise great things spiritually but are never able to deliver. This is because they have nothing to deliver in the first place. All their promises are empty. They promise exclusive spiritual knowledge if you follow them or a "sure ticket" to salvation but their followers end up in hell. False teachers promise spiritual riches and prosperity if you send in a generous "seed faith offering" to their "vital last days ministry" but the promised raise or promotion at work never comes and their credit cards never get miraculously paid off. False teachers and apostates will also disappoint their followers because they will never be able to follow through on their promises.

13 Raging waves of the sea,^a foaming out their own shame; wandering stars,^b to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.^c

12f They are clouds that are carried with winds. These clouds are the same as the dry well. There should be (spiritual) water here but all that was found was hot air and vanity. There was no substance to them, so they were easily blown about with every wind of doctrine.

Also compare this with 2 Peter 2:17 These clouds are carried about with winds because they have no grounding, either morally or theologically, When the storm of controversy or opposition arises, as it always will, the false prophets will be carried about and swept away with the storm, while the Christian, who is rooted and grounded in the truth, will stand and prevail.

12g They are dead trees that produce no fruit because they have nothing to produce. They are not saved, else they would produce some fruit (John 15). They are not in the vine, they are not among the engrafted branches (Romans 11). They look like trees in December- dead, dried with no fruit or leaves.

12h They are twice dead because they are dead externally and internally. There is no spiritual seed in them, nor can they produce any spiritual fruit. Their fruit and foliage are all gone, just like a tree in late November.

The "twice dead" also assumes two deaths- a physical death when the body dies and the second death, forever, in the lake of fire, which is where these apostates are doomed to. The apostate is also spiritually dead since he was born that way, in sin, and he will stay spiritually dead since he has absolutely no interest in ever getting saved. You could say then that he is really dealing with three deaths- spiritual, physical and eternal.

12i They are uprooted because they are cumbering the ground with their apostasy (Luke 13:7) and are worthless.

13a Not only are they as unstable as water but they are as turbulent as water and an easy to be disturbed. They are carried about with a tempest, or a storm. As the sea waves are agitated by the winds of the storm, so are the false teachers. This is because they have no grounding, either morally or theologically. Thus when the storm of controversy or opposition arises, as it always will, the false prophets will be carried about and swept away with the storm, while the Christian, who is rooted and grounded in the truth, will stand and prevail.

Jude may also be speaking of the tempest that is raging in their own hearts due to their conscience. They are wrong and they know it, deep down in their own conscience. Yet they continually fight the witness of their conscience against their sin. They have no inward peace because they are wicked (Isaiah 48:22; 57:20) and they cannot rest because the way of sin and rebellion they have chosen will not allow them rest. The way of the transgressor is hard. Satan continually whips and rides his slaves and never gives them a moment's rest.

13b "**wandering star**" We get our word "planet" from this, a wandering star that is useless for navigation. We navigate by Polaris, the North Star, because it does not change its position in the night sky. It is a constant fixed point of reference, always where it is supposed to be. But not so with false teachers, who change their position, doctrine and practice on a regular basis. These false teachers have forsaken the right way that God has appointed for them and have wandered off on their own, thus becoming useless and having absolutely no spiritual value for the Christian mariner seeking a trusty star by which to navigate by in his Christian life and ministry.

13c "blackness of darkness" Compare with 2 Peter 2:4. This is the fate of these apostate angels as well as false teachers. The fallen angels are chained with eternal chains, reserved for their final judgment, which will probably take place at the Great White Throne judgment of Revelation 20. They are reserved so that they cannot escape their prison or judgment, nor do any more damage to those on earth. They were judged in the past as they were chained and cast down into hell, but their final and "official" judgment is still future. While some of these fallen angels are chained now, their current fate will be the same one to be shared by the false prophets who served their common master, Satan. This darkness is one of the more terrifying aspects of hell, the inability to see anything for eternity, blind forever as one

10. The Prophecy of Enoch 14,15

14 And Enoch^a also, the seventh from Adam,^b prophesied^c of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,^{d-e}

suffers in the fires the damned. If you could see the terror, then you might be able to understand it better and prepare yourself for it. But when you are shrouded in eternal darkness, then you cannot see your situation and that fear only serves to add to the torment. This is why when you hear strange noises in your house at night, the first thing you do is turn on the lights so you can see the danger.

14a "**Enoch**" This is not the son of Cain but of Seth, the man who walked with God and was raptured before the flood in Genesis 5.

14b "**The seventh from Adam**" shows us several things about Enoch:

1. His prophecy was an ancient one. Whether The Book of Enoch that we have today (that is floating around the internet and that you can buy in some stores) accurately preserved his prophecies is open to debate, although that book is not accepted as inspired Scripture.
2. He was the seventh from Adam, in the seventh generation. Seven is that number of deity and perfection. The seventh generation would receive a special word from God.
3. This designation distinguishes this Enoch from the other Enoch, the son of Cain. (Genesis 4:17).
- 4 Enoch was a prophet, the first one the world knew. Enoch was the prophet, Noah the preacher of righteousness.

14c This prophesy is not recorded in the Bible, but it seems he prophesied of the Lord's coming about 5,000 years ago. Where did he get this prophecy? There is a book called the *1 Enoch* that is not a canonical book. If Jude quoted from it (and I am not certain he did) then at least the part of it that he quoted from is true and accurate and there must have been some useful in it that the Holy Spirit approved of, for Jude to use. We do not believe *1 Enoch* to be divinely inspired, but any truth contained in the book can be used by the Holy Spirit.

It is not unusual for inspired writers to cite non-inspired works. Paul does this in Acts 17:28 and Titus 1:12,13. He also cites an unrecorded saying by the Lord in Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive" Where did Paul get this quote? Whatever its source, it was accurate. This "prophecy of Enoch" may have been "common knowledge" in his day and Jude could have cited it without referring to any "Book of Enoch". After all, Jude makes no mention of him quoting any written prophecy of Enoch or any book. Jude simply said that Enoch prophesied, but Jude does not say that Enoch wrote this prophecy down for it to be inserted in any Book of Enoch.

The Book of Enoch It was widely known in the early church and some use was made of it. Tertullian went as far as to suggest canonicity for it. Origen and Augustine marked it as apocryphal. The Greek translation, which was known to the fathers, has been lost It was divided into 20 sections, which were further divided into 108 chapters. The book claims to record a series of revelations given to Enoch and Noah. Part 1 contains prophecies regarding the second coming and the judgments. Enoch also gets a tour of heaven as well as hell, much like Dante. Part 2 has three parables regarding the higher secrets of heaven. The third part deals with the motions of the moon and stars and of the seasons. Part 4 is of a dream of Enoch regarding the future history of the kingdoms of the world. The last section records Enoch's last addresses to his children. Jude's quote is from chapter 2, which matches up well with Jude 14,15.

14d Neither premillennialism nor postmillennialism is in view here, neither is the rapture. The simple fact of the second coming of the Lord is mentioned, which shall be fulfilled in Revelation 19. These saints are part of that army of heaven which ride on the white horses that accompany the Lord in Revelation 19:14. But only "ten thousands?" In Biblical days, they did not really have concepts of "millions" and "billions" and "trillions" as we do today, To express huge numbers, they would express it in multiples of thousands. We do not have simply a few ten thousand saints, nor do we have a mere 144,000 Jehovah Witnesses

15 To execute judgment upon all,^a and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

9. A Description of Apostates 10-13,16, Part 2

16^a These are murmurers,^b complainers,^c walking after their own lusts;^d and their mouth speaketh great swelling words,^e having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.^f

returning with the Lord (as that cult mistakenly insists on), but an uncountable myriad of saints from all ages returning with the Lord at Armageddon.

14e Referring to saints who went up to heaven seven years earlier in the rapture returning with the Lord and the Second Advent.

15a This shows the purpose of the second coming, what the Lord will accomplish at His advent:

1. To execute judgment upon all of these ungodly men.
2. To convince them of their ungodly deeds and speeches. There are lots of "ungodly's" in this verse! No doubt they will try to justify themselves right up to the very end, but the second coming and the glory of the Lord will be more than enough to convince them of their great errors and sins. Only the Lord can do that, as the arguments of their fellow men usually have no impact upon them. Have you ever tried to convince a Jehovah Witness to leave his Kingdom Hall? But once they see the Lord coming in power and great glory, with the armies of heaven behind Him (Revelation 19), all doubts and debates will cease!

16a Verse 16 resumes the analysis and condemnation of apostates, from verse 13.

16b "**murmurers**" What whiners and complainers they are, never thankful for the good things that God has done for them! They always accuse God, must as their father, the devil does (John 8:44). They accuse God of unrighteousness and folly, just as their father, the devil, does. They are ignorant of the gracious hand of God on them and refuse to acknowledge or even realize His blessings upon them which they do not deserve. Murmurers refers to their complaints against God while complainers deals with their own lot and situation in life. This reminds us of the constant murmuring of the Jews during their wilderness wanderings, and we see how tired God got with that attitude! The ESV uses "grumblers".

Thomas Manton (pages 302-303 in his commentary on Jude) lists the causes of murmuring:

1. **Pride and self-love.** When men are conceited of themselves, they storm that others are preferred before them. A proud man must needs be discontented, because he sets a high price upon himself.
2. **Impatience.** We cannot endure the least inconvenience. An unsubjected will to God will inevitably put us upon repining.
3. **Presumption of merit.** Men ascribe to themselves when they prescribe to God what he shall do for them, or how bless them.
4. **Carnal affection.** We are too ravenous and greedy upon outward things, and therefore the disappointment breedeth the more vexation. God giveth sufficiently to satisfy our necessities, and we seek to supply our lusts. Lust is more given to murmuring than necessity.
5. **Unbelief and distrust** (Psalm 106:24,25). Men quarrel with God's providence because they do not believe his promises.

Yet there are some things worth murmuring about that do not lead to sin. We can murmur about the increasing sin of our day, the strength of this world system, the coldness and carnality in our churches, apostates and their hellish ministries and the great damage they do in the churches, slob culture, lack of true Biblical scholarship, unbiblical hyper-evangelism, the Charismatic clowns of our day, and so on. All these diseases are with us today and we may indeed murmur about them to the Lord as long as we do not charge God foolishly regarding them. We do well to be angry at the world, the flesh and the devil, but without sin.

16c "**complainers**" This is the same basic idea as above but only stronger. The murmurer usually complains privately, under his breath. The complainer is much more vocal.

They will complain about everything, including God, claiming that He is not fair or that He has not given you what you deserve in life. They will complain about the "hand you were dealt" or anything else, except bless God and submit to His will. This attitude will foster resentment toward God and orthodox Christianity, thus making it easier for false prophets to exploit that discontent and win new converts. It goes something like "Why are you poor and sick all the time?" "Why would a God of love allow that into your life?" "Why isn't God answering your prayers?" Why indeed? The seed of doubt is implanted into the soul, stoking discontent and making one easier pray for an apostate theological system, fed by a discontented attitude. You know the sort of people alluded to here, nothing ever satisfies them. They are discontented even with the gospel. The bread of heaven must be cut into three pieces, and served on dainty dishes, or else they cannot eat it; and very soon their soul loatheth even this light bread. There is no way by which a Christian man can serve God so as to please them. They will pick holes in every preacher's coat; and if the great High Priest himself were here, they would find fault with the color of the stones of his breastplate.

16d "**lusts**" Compare with 2 Peter 2:10. They suffer from terminal selfishness. What they want is what is important and their desires is what counts. If they have to kill you to get what they want or cast your soul into hell to fulfill their lusts, then so be it. They are even willing to sacrifice their own souls to the pit to fulfill their lusts. Do not sodomites and the immoral do this? The drunkard, the drug addict, the thief? Instant gratification now while sacrificing their soul for eternity. They sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the immediate. They seek to preserve and maintain that in their hearts that Jesus came to destroy on the cross, thus frustrating His redemptive and sanctifying work on their behalf. They walk in the way of Old Adam instead of being filled with the Spirit, as they are commanded. This is because they are carnal and their thinking is fleshly.

16e "**great swelling words**" Compare this with 2 Peter 2:18. They are big talkers! They excel in "fifty cent words" and "tradesman terminology" to impress you and to make you think they are intelligent, or at least that they know what they are talking about. It dresses up their apostasy in nicer clothing. It is also very intimidating, especially with young converts and Christians who may not have much education. The apostate will try to "buffalo" them with a lot of verbiage, and brow-beat them into accepting their errors. But big swelling words are usually nothing more than cover for tiny, little ideas, or, in this case, apostasy. If a man has to dress his ideas into this kind of verbiage, it only shows that his ideas are too weak to stand on their own. Use plain speech and direct talk when preaching the truth. Don't try to impress us or to intimidate us with words that even you don't know what they mean. "Simplicity is truth's most becoming garb." The true teacher is plain spoken, easy to understand, is not forever quoting Greek, Hebrew and Latin to an English-speaking congregation. He speaks to be easily understood, no matter how deep he is preaching. Here is how you discern the false teacher from the true teacher- which one can you understand?

The same is true with regards to Bible versions. The simpler and easier to read is usually the better one. This is why the Authorized Version has the lowest grade-level index of any version out there. D. A. Waite Jr. did an exhaustive study of the readability of the various English versions in *The Comparative Readability of the Authorized Version* in 1996. His exhaustive research found that the King James was the easiest to read. The average word in the King James was 1.31 syllables and had 3.968 letters per word. The New American Standard Version was generally the worst in readability. Of course, the ESV came out after Waite's study but its own advertising claims that it reads at an 8th grade level.

16g They do not love people, they use them and milk as much out of them before they cast them away like an old shoe. People are things to be used in their selfishness and as a tool to fulfill their lusts. They flatter not because they mean it but because they sense something you have that they want, something you own that they can use to heap upon their selfishness and lust. These men are like a Billy Graham, who loves to smooze with presidents, yet will never rebuke them for their sin, lest he lose his White House pass. He will skinny dip with Lyndon Johnson and "forgive" the adulteries of Bill Clinton and compromise with the compromiser Jimmy Carter. He, and others like him, will do it because they love the admiration of the world. How many Christians are also like this, who will flatter the world as long as the

Jude

11. Remember the Warning 17-19

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;^{a-b}

18 How that they told^a you there should be mockers^b in the last time,^c who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves,^{a-b} sensual,^c having not the Spirit.^{d-e}

world flatters them? This prevents the preacher from fulfilling his commission to rebuke sin wherever he sees it. Can you imagine Elijah playing it up with Ahab and Jezebel, or John going fishing with Herod? How about John Knox "hitting it off" with Queen Mary? Yet false prophets will, since they rebuke none but the righteous and the faithful anyway.

17a Compare this with 2 Peter 3:1-4. Remember the words of the apostles and their doctrines! It is the job of the preacher and teacher to continually bring to remembrance to their congregations the words recorded beforehand by the Lord and His prophets. If we forget them, we lose the divine and infallible revelations that alone can safely guide us through the dangers of life and steer us toward eternity. To lose the words of God is a spiritual tragedy beyond compare.

17b Some might see Jude's exhortation to remember the words of the apostles as an indication that it was not the Apostle Jude who wrote this letter. If he did, why isn't Jude including himself in this exhortation? It seems like he does not consider himself to be an apostle. Again, we cannot be absolutely dogmatic about the authorship of this letter, but this verse does not disqualify the Apostle Jude from authorship. Jude could just be giving this as an exhortation to remember the apostolic instructions in a general sense, since he does not mention the names of any of the apostles. He could have very well have included himself among "the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ" without magnifying himself among the "greater lights" like Peter or Paul. Humility may have not allowed himself to promote himself, as he may have thought of himself as the "least of all the apostles" like Paul did.

18a "**Told**" and continued to tell, as seen by the imperfect tense. This was not a one-time or an isolated telling or warning. The apostles told us this over and over again and still do by their writings, preserved in Scripture.

18b "**mockers**" This Greek word is also used in 2 Peter 3:3. Mockers and scoffers are often the worst class of sinners, compare Psalm 1:1. In our day we have many who scoff and mock at the doctrine of the Second Coming and premillennialism, as well as at other doctrines, such as the superiority of the Authorized Version. As we progress further into the age, they will increase in number and magnitude, as well as in boldness.

18c This places this verse into a context of the last days of the Church Age and the tribulation period. Things are bad now, with the ever-increasing number of mockers and scoffers. But after the Church has been removed in the rapture, along with the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit, how much worse will their activities be? This is something the 144,000, their converts, the tribulation saints and believing Jews in the tribulation will have to deal with, just as Christians have had to deal with for over 1900 years.

19a These apostates separate themselves from the truth, the things of God and all things that are good and holy. This is a voluntary separation from the good unto the profane, the opposite of Biblical separation. This also involves the divisions they create in the church and among brethren due to their practices and false doctrines.

19b "'These be they who separate themselves'- that is from the Church of Christ; from the great universal body of the elect. We did not separate ourselves- we were turned out. Dissenters did not separate themselves from the Church of England, from the Episcopal Church; but when the Act of Uniformity was

Jude

passed, they were turned out of their pulpits. Our forefathers were as sound Churchmen as any in the world, but they could not take in all the errors of the Prayer Book, and they were therefore hounded to their graves by the intolerance of the conforming professors. So they did not separate themselves. Moreover, we do not separate ourselves. There is not a Christian beneath the scope of God's heaven from whom I am separated. At the Lord's Table I always invite all Churches to come and sit down and commune with us. If any man were to tell me that I am separate from the Episcopalian, the Presbyterian or the Methodist, I would tell him he did not know me, for I love them with a pure heart fervently, and I am not separate from them. I may hold different views from them, and in that point truly I may be said to be separate; but I am not separate in heart. I will work with them. I will work with them heartily; nay, though my Church of England brother sends me in, as he has gone, a summons to pay a church-rate that I cannot in conscience pay. I will love him still; and if he takes chairs and tables it matters not- I will love him for all that; and if there be a ragged-school or anything else for which I can work with him to promote the glory of God, therein will I unite with him with all my heart. I think this bears rather hard on our friends the Strict Communion Baptists. I should not like to say anything hard against them, for they are about the best people in the world, but they really do separate themselves from the great body of Christ's people. They separate themselves from the great Universal Church. They say they will not communion with it; and if any one comes to their table who has not been baptized, they turn him away. Oh! I should think myself grossly in fault if at the foot of these stairs I should meet a truly converted child of God, who called himself a Primitive Methodist, or a Wesleyan, or a Churchman, or an Independent, and I should say 'No, sir, you do not agree with me on certain points; I believe you are a child of God, but I will have nothing to do with you'. I should then think that this text would be very hard on me. But would we do so, beloved? No, we would give them both our hands and say, God speed to you in your journey to heaven; so long as you have got the Spirit we are one family, and we will not be separate from one another. God grant the day may come when every wall of separation shall be beaten down! See how to this day we are separate. There! you will find a Baptist who could not say a good word to a Paedobaptist if you were to give him a world. You find to this day Episcopalians who hate that ugly word, 'Dissent'; and it is enough for them that a Dissenter has done a thing; they will not do it then, be it never so good. (Charles Spurgeon, "The Holy Spirit and the One Church" in *New Park Street Pulpit*, 4:23,24, sermon 167)".

Now we will separate from apostasy and compromise and from those with bad hearts but we will willingly fellowship with anyone of a genuine Christian heart, a heart that beats for purity, love of God and genuine Biblical evangelism. We may disagree over Calvinism or baptism, but we judge by the heart and not necessarily by the doctrinal system of our brother. A man may be wrong doctrinally yet still be a man of God and have the right kind of heart. We seek an honorable irenic, to bring the quarreling factions of Christians together so that we may fight our common enemies with a united front instead of fighting the brethren. This is a lesson that fundamental Baptists desperately need to learn, for they will seldom cooperate with anyone who is not a similar kind of fundamental Baptist. What narrowness and short-sightedness (not to mention arrogance), to think that only fundamental Baptists were in the right! We wonder if they have the Spirit.

19c "**sensual**" They do not respond to the spiritual because they are natural brute beasts (verse 10, 2 Peter 2:12). They think only in carnal terms and the things of the spirit and God have no appeal to them, because their god is their belly and that they must serve (Philippians 3:19). They are "soulish" rather than "spiritual".

19d "**having not the Spirit**" They have not the Holy Spirit for the simple reason that they are not saved. If they were, they would have the Spirit (Romans 8:9). The sensual ones do not enjoy the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God.

19e They have "a" spirit, but not the Holy Spirit. They have the spirit of Antichrist.

12. Closing Admonitions 20-23

20^{a-b} But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith,^c praying in the Holy Ghost,^d

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God,^a looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ^b unto eternal life.

20a After some very rough material, Jude ends his epistle on a much more positive tone!

20b We have a 4 commands in verses 20 and 21:

1. Build yourself up on you most holy faith
2. Pray in the Holy Ghost
3. Keep yourself in the love of God
4. Look for the mercy of the Lord

These 4 commands can be viewed as deterrents to sliding into the apostasy that Jude has been exposing and condemning.

20c Our continual work as Christians is to work on ourselves and to improve ourselves, to develop our own personal Biblical culture and to build ourselves up in the most holy faith as we seek to become more and more Christ-like (Romans 8:29,30). This is how we defend ourselves and build up our armor in the face of the enemy, by building up our faith through prayer, Bible reading, meditation and developing our Christian walk and relation with God.

20d Is there any other way to truly pray than in the help and power of the Holy Spirit? He teaches us to pray and assists us in our prayer life, aiding us in our helplessness in prayer (Romans 8:26,27). "When a believer prays, he is not alone- there are three with him: the Father seeing in secret, His ear open; the Son blotting out sin, and offering up the prayer; the Holy Ghost quickening and giving desires. There can be no true prayer without these three (Robert Murray McCheyne, *Memoirs and Remains*, page 509)."

21a We must keep ourselves in the love of God. To a degree, we are responsible for our own spiritual well-being and relationship to God. We then are to make all diligence to make sure our love and relationship to God is in a strong and acceptable state. There are some things we are responsible for in our salvation, and there are other things which only the Lord can do for us, such as keep us from falling (Jude 24).

There is also a tribulation application to this, since Jude has made reference to the "last time" and the time around the tribulation already. As we have already noted, the tribulation saint must keep himself in the love of God through that seven-year dispensation. There is no eternal security in the tribulation period, as the conditions of salvation are different. This is no longer the church age, so church age requirements of salvation no longer apply. We are in an Old Testament/Acts 2-7 time period now. The tribulation saint must accept all the divine revelation given to him and refuse to follow the Antichrist or to take his mark. The only way he will do this is to keep himself in the love of God, which means obeying Him by keeping His commandments. If he fails to "endure to the end" (Matthew 24:13), he will fall out to the Antichrist and lose his salvation. Thus anyone today who teaches that salvation can be lost or that you have to keep the commandments to be saved are right but are applying this truth to the wrong dispensation. They are teaching tribulation salvation truth in the church age. Today it is false doctrine. Soon, it will be truth.

We make the tribulation application of keeping ourselves in the love of God because this doesn't match up with what Paul said in Romans 8:37-39. Paul said nothing could separate us from the love of God. But Jude says we need to keep ourselves in the love of God. If nothing (not even ourselves) can separate us from His love in this age, what is the danger? In the tribulation, one can separate himself from the love of God by apostasy. In that case, he loses his salvation because he did not keep himself in the love of God since he fell away from God and is no longer keeping the commandments as an evidence and demonstration of his love. That is not church age doctrine but it is tribulation doctrine. Rightly dividing the Word of God helps keeps these things straight and in the proper compartments.

Jude

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference;^a

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire;^{a-b} hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.^c

13. Our Assurance of Security 24

24^a Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling,^b and to present you faultless^c before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,^d

21b "**looking for the mercy**" This would be associated with the second coming. We look for and anticipate both the mercy of our Lord toward us as well as the promise of eternal life in Christ for those who have put their belief into Him.

22a This deals with the saints because verse 23 clearly is an evangelistic text. We are to have compassion, active mercy, on any and all we can, especially to those who are within the household of faith. We take an interest in others, do what we can to help those who need our help. We weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. In this way, we can make a real difference in the lives of people but putting a personal investment into them. Compassion, the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of God are the only things that can make a real difference in the lives of men. Religion, philosophy or science (the "Three Stooges" of human intellect) are all impotent to do so.

23a "**pulling them out of the fire**" Compare this with Zechariah 3:2 about a "brand plucked from the burning". This is evangelism, pulling sinners out of the fires of hell. Of course, only the Holy Spirit can save the soul, but we can have compassion on the sinner and make a difference by witnessing to him, praying for him, and setting forth the proper example of the Christian life in front of him so that he may see it and consider. The Holy Spirit will take these witnesses and apply them to the heart of the sinner as only He can. It is the Holy Spirit Who uses us to pull these sinners out of the fire.

We see also that hell is literal fire, not just a mere "separation from God". Jude plainly says someone is heading for literal fire, not just to "separation" like Billy Graham teaches and many apostates also insist upon.

23b This is not a "proverbial saying" but an urgent command in witnessing. Of course, you can't pull anyone out of any fire if you don't believe there is any fire to pull anyone out of in the first place. All Christians should be spiritual firemen.

23c We hate any and all things that the flesh, our old, fallen sin nature, spots and defiles. Sin is a spot and defilement and we detest the corruptions that it brings to our lives, the lives of others and the creation of God. We are to hate it, fight against it and separate ourselves from it so that it will not contaminate us. Also see Leviticus 15:4,17 where he that touched a defiled garment was himself defiled.

Also see a fuller treatment of the "spots" in our notes under verse 12.

24a Just as Paul was very fond of closing his letters with a doxology, so is Jude.

24b This is a good verse for the security of the believer. Only Christ, who saved us, is able to keep us from falling and losing our salvation. We cannot save ourselves and we certainly cannot keep ourselves from falling, as we simply are not strong enough and because the world, the flesh and the devil are all stronger than we are. Our safety, safekeeping and security in salvation are not dependent upon us (thankfully!), just as the power to save us from sin was not dependent upon us. If it was up to us to keep ourselves saved then none of us would make it to heaven because none of us have it within ourselves to keep ourselves in salvation, since we still possess the fallen, Adamic sin nature, even after salvation. If we are to be kept from losing our salvation, then it must be God who does the safekeeping.

But we can look at falling as being more than loss of salvation. It can be a fall from grace (Galatians 5:4), severe, prolonged backsliding, apostasy or compromise. These are falls too, although not loss of salvation in this dispensation. There is a difference between falling out of an airplane at 35,000

14. Closing Admonition 25

25 To the only wise^b God our Saviour,^a be glory and majesty,^b dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

feet and falling down within an airplane, from your seat to the floor. You are in Christ but you still fell. But that second fall will not kill you as the first one will. God can also prevent us from making shipwreck of our salvation by keeping us from falling into sin, error, immorality and apostasy. Again, we cannot keep ourselves from such a fall but God can and does keep us.

Since Jude is a General Epistle with tribulational overtones, we must also make the tribulation application. Just as God is able to keep the Christian from fallen through the keeping power of Christ, He can keep the tribulation saint from falling away from his salvation. This is done through apostasy and not "enduring to the end" (Matthew 24:13). The tribulation saint will have an extremely difficult time maintaining his faith and profession, and thus, maintaining his salvation. He will have to endure the 21 tribulation judgments, the full brunt of the Antichrist and his spirit, the lack of any New Testament-type church on earth, no indwelling of the Holy Spirit (that is a Church Age doctrine), and few, if any, faithful preachers he can look to for encouragement. The whole world will be in the power of the Antichrist and the Man of Sin. He will face martyrdom on a continual basis if he refuses to take the mark of the beast. His "lot" is quite different, and a whole lot more difficult than the "lot" of a Christian, even during the worst of times. But even in this most challenging of environments, God is able and sufficient to preserve that saint in the tribulation period, and He will, if the saint rests fully upon His strength and grace to get him through without falling.

Jude says God is "able" to keep the tribulation saint from falling but Jude does not say God *will* keep him from falling. God can and is certainly able, but the choice is that of the tribulation believer. It depends more on his desires, his heart and his faithful in this dispensational context than it does the Lord, which is different than it is in the church age. Compare this with 1 Thessalonians 5:23,24, where Paul presents the safekeeping of the Christian by the Lord as an absolute certainty, something Jude is not as dogmatic about. God WILL keep the church age saint and He is ABLE to keep the tribulation saint. For all saints, He is certainly ready, willing and able to keep us from falling.

24c "**present you faultless**" This is the goal, the aim of the work of the Holy Spirit, to make us presentable before the throne of God, not with shame or embarrassment but with exceeding joy. Compare this with Romans 8:29. The saint after he is saved has a long way to go before he is presentable before the throne. In Genesis 41:14, Joseph, before he was to stand before Pharaoh, had to be shaved and changed out of his prison garb. He was not fit to stand before the throne of the king of Egypt dirty and disheveled as he was, nor dressed in his prison garb. Neither are we fit to stand before the holiest throne of all until the Holy Spirit has done His renewing work in our hearts and conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is doing this good work in our lives even right now. Everything the Lord allows in our lives is so designed to hasten that conforming process and to make us fit to stand before the throne of God with exceeding joy.

24d There is certainly "**joy**" in being kept from falling! The benefits and rewards of being kept unto salvation and being kept from falling are so great that the joy that results is indeed "**exceeding**", since the end result of that preservation is heaven and eternal life.

25a God is our Savior Jesus is our Savior. Therefore, Jesus is God our Savior, showing the deity of Jesus.

25b "**majesty**" This speaks to us of the kingship of God as well as of Jesus, who is King of Kings. We should be doing everything that is within our power to be promoting that kingship through the world today. We should also be doing everything that we can do to submit ourselves to the kingship of King Jesus in our own personal lives and ministries.