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Jude 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Jude 1 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jude wrote this letter to warn believers about corrupt teachers who had quietly entered the church. Instead of protecting the truth, these men twisted the message of grace and led people into immoral living (Jude 1).

† Jude originally planned to write about the salvation believers share, but the danger of deception forced him to address a more urgent issue. The faith delivered through Christ and the apostles had to be defended from corruption.

† Clement of Alexandria explained that Jude exposed those who used Christian language while rejecting the authority of Christ, showing that deception inside the church was already a serious concern in the first century.

Jude 1:1

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, writing to those who are called by God the Father, loved by Him and kept safe for Jesus Christ.

† Jude identifies himself as the brother of James but calls himself a servant of Jesus Christ. This shows humility and submission to Christ rather than appealing to family connection (Matthew 23:8-11).

† The believers are described as called, loved, and kept. Their security rests on God's faithfulness, not their own strength (John 10:27-29).

† Irenaeus referenced this idea when explaining that the church is preserved by God's power rather than human authority.

Jude 1:2

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

† Mercy addresses forgiveness, peace describes reconciliation with God, and love reflects the character believers are called to live out (Romans 5:1).

† The word multiplied shows that these blessings grow as believers remain in truth and obedience (2 Peter 1:2).

† Clement of Alexandria noted that apostolic greetings often summarized the results of Christ's work, forgiveness, peace, and restored relationship.

Jude 1:3

Beloved, although I was eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write urging you to stand firm and defend the faith that was once delivered to God's people.

† Jude's message shifted because false teaching was spreading. The church must protect the truth that was already

delivered through Christ and the apostles (Acts 20:29-31).

† The phrase once delivered shows that the faith was fully given. It wasn't meant to be reinvented or reshaped later (Hebrews 2:3-4).

† Eusebius cited this passage when discussing the responsibility of believers to guard the apostolic teaching.

Jude 1:4

For certain people have secretly slipped in among you, those who were marked long ago for judgment. They are ungodly, turning the grace of God into an excuse for immoral living and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

† False teachers rarely appear openly. They enter quietly and slowly influence others (Matthew 7:15).

† Their main corruption was twisting grace into permission for sin, which directly contradicts the gospel (Romans 6:1-2).

† Irenaeus warned that heretics often used Christian language while denying the authority of Christ.

Jude 1:5

I want to remind you, though you already know this, that the Lord saved a people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who refused to believe.

† Israel's deliverance from Egypt didn't guarantee safety if they later rejected God. Faithfulness had to follow salvation (Numbers 14:29-30).

† This example warns that knowledge and privilege alone don't protect someone from judgment if they abandon faith (1 Corinthians 10:1-5).

† Early Christian teachers often used the wilderness generation as a warning against spiritual complacency.

Jude 1:6

And the angels who did not stay within the position God gave them but abandoned their proper place are kept in eternal chains under darkness until the judgment of the great day.

† Jude points to angels who rebelled against God's authority,

showing that even heavenly beings are accountable to Him (2 Peter 2:4).

† The image of chains under darkness emphasizes the certainty of judgment awaiting rebellion (Revelation 20:10).

† Clement of Alexandria referenced this passage when discussing the seriousness of rebellion against God's order.

Jude 1:7

In the same way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them gave themselves over to immoral behavior and unnatural desires. They serve as an example of the punishment of eternal fire.

† Jude points to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as a historical example of God's judgment against extreme corruption (Genesis 19:24-25).

† Their destruction stands as a warning about the consequences of rebellion against God's design (2 Peter 2:6).

† Early Christian teachers frequently referred to Sodom as a reminder that God's justice eventually confronts sin.

Jude 1:8

Yet these people also rely on their dreams, defile their bodies, reject authority, and insult heavenly beings.

† False teachers often claim spiritual experiences while rejecting God's authority (Colossians 2:18).

† Their behavior shows how false teaching leads to moral corruption and disrespect for God's order (2 Peter 2:10).

† Irenaeus warned that false teachers often relied on visions or secret knowledge to gain followers.

Jude 1:9

But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil about the body of Moses, didn't dare bring a slanderous accusation but said, The Lord rebuke you.

† Jude contrasts the humility of Michael with the arrogance of false teachers (Zechariah 3:2).

† Even a powerful archangel respected God's authority rather

than judging on his own power (James 4:6).

† Early church writers pointed to this example as a lesson in humility.

Jude 1:10

But these people speak evil about things they don't understand, and like animals they follow instinct, and by doing so they destroy themselves.

† False teachers often attack what they don't understand because they reject truth (2 Peter 2:12).

† Living by instinct rather than truth leads to destruction because it replaces wisdom with uncontrolled desire (Proverbs 14:12).

† Clement of Alexandria warned that ignorance combined with arrogance is extremely dangerous.

Jude 1:11

Woe to them, for they have followed the way of Cain, rushed for profit into Balaam's error, and perished in Korah's rebellion.

† Cain represents hatred and rejection of righteousness (Genesis 4:8).

† Balaam represents greed and manipulating spiritual things for money (Numbers 22:7).

† Korah represents rebellion against God's authority (Numbers 16:1-3).

Jude 1:12

These people are hidden dangers at your gatherings, feasting with you without fear while feeding only themselves. They are clouds without rain carried by winds, autumn trees without fruit, twice dead and uprooted.

† Jude describes false teachers as people who appear among believers but produce no spiritual fruit (John 15:6).

† Clouds without rain symbolize promises without results, appearing spiritual but empty (Proverbs 25:14).

† Eusebius later wrote about similar corrupt influences that

entered early Christian gatherings.

Jude 1:13

They are wild waves of the sea, throwing up the foam of their own shame, wandering stars for whom the darkness has been reserved forever.

† The image of wild waves shows instability and destruction left behind by false teachers (Isaiah 57:20).

† Wandering stars represent guides who lead others off the correct path (Daniel 12:3).

† Early Christian commentators recognized this as prophetic language describing judgment.

Jude 1:14

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also spoke about these people saying, The Lord came with thousands of His holy ones.

† Jude shows that warnings about judgment go back to the earliest generations (Genesis 5:18-24).

† The coming of the Lord with His holy ones reflects the prophetic imagery of divine judgment (Daniel 7:10).

† Early Christian writers saw this as confirmation that God's justice has always been part of His plan.

Jude 1:15

He came to execute judgment on everyone and to convict all the ungodly of their actions and the harsh things they have spoken against Him.

† Jude emphasizes accountability for both actions and words (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

† Nothing escapes God's awareness, every act of rebellion will be exposed (Hebrews 4:13).

† Early Christian teachers used this verse to emphasize the certainty of judgment.

Jude 1:16

These people are complainers and faultfinders who follow their own desires. They boast loudly and flatter others to gain

advantage.

† False teachers often manipulate others through flattery and complaints (Proverbs 26:28).

† Their behavior reveals selfish motives rather than genuine service (Philippians 2:3).

† Clement of Alexandria warned that pride and flattery frequently expose corrupt leaders.

Jude 1:17

But you, beloved, remember the words spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

† The apostles had already warned about false teachers appearing among believers (Acts 20:29-30).

† Remembering apostolic teaching protects believers from deception (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

† Eusebius highlighted the authority of the apostles as the foundation of early Christian teaching.

Jude 1:18

They said to you, In the last time there will be mockers who follow their own ungodly desires.

† The apostles warned that mockers would appear, rejecting truth and living for themselves (2 Peter 3:3).

† Their behavior shows a rejection of accountability and spiritual discipline (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

† Early Christians recognized these warnings as already unfolding during their time.

Jude 1:19

These are the ones who create divisions, people driven by natural desires who don't have the Spirit.

† Division often reveals the presence of false teaching (Romans 16:17).

† Jude explains that these people are controlled by natural desires instead of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-21).

† Early church leaders repeatedly warned that deception leads

to fractured communities.

Jude 1:20

But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

† Jude encourages believers to grow in faith through prayer and devotion (Ephesians 6:18).

† Building up faith means continuing in the truth delivered through Christ (Colossians 2:6-7).

† Clement of Alexandria emphasized that prayer strengthens believers against deception.

Jude 1:21

Keep yourselves in the love of God while waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

† Remaining in God's love means continuing in obedience and trust (John 15:9-10).

† Jude reminds believers to look forward with hope and confidence in Christ's mercy (Titus 3:5-7).

† Early Christian writers encouraged believers to remain steady in faith while awaiting fulfillment.

Jude 1:22

Show mercy to those who are doubting.

† Believers are called to respond with compassion toward those who struggle with faith (Galatians 6:1).

† Doubt sometimes reflects confusion rather than rebellion and should be met with patience (James 5:19-20).

† Early Christian teachers emphasized restoring those who waver.

Jude 1:23

Rescue others by pulling them out of the fire, and show mercy with fear, hating even the clothing stained by sin.

† The imagery of fire represents the danger of spiritual destruction (Zechariah 3:2).

† Believers must help rescue others while remaining cautious

not to be influenced by the same corruption (1 Corinthians 15:33).

† Early Christian leaders taught that correction must be done carefully and humbly.

Jude 1:24

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before His glory without fault and with great joy.

† Jude reminds believers that God is able to preserve them and keep them faithful (Philippians 1:6).

† Being presented without fault reflects the cleansing work of Christ (Colossians 1:22).

† Early Christians frequently quoted this passage when speaking about God's sustaining power.

Jude 1:25

To the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen.

† Jude closes with praise to God, emphasizing His eternal authority (Revelation 1:6).

† This final statement reminds believers that history and salvation are fully under God's control (Psalm 145:13).

† Early Christian writers frequently quoted this blessing in their teaching.

Historical References

† Irenaeus explained that Jude exposed teachers who corrupted Christian doctrine while claiming to follow Christ.

† Clement of Alexandria described Jude's letter as a defense of apostolic teaching against deception.

† Eusebius recorded that Jude's warning was recognized by the early church as an important defense of truth.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Jude reminds believers that truth must be protected. The gospel delivered through Christ doesn't change and shouldn't

be reshaped to fit cultural desires.

† The examples of rebellion throughout history show that God takes truth seriously and judges corruption.

† At the same time, believers are called to show mercy and help restore those who struggle or doubt.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why did Jude write this letter?

A: Jude wrote to warn believers about false teachers who had secretly entered the church and were corrupting the message of grace (Jude 1:3-4).

Q: What examples does Jude use to show God's judgment on rebellion?

A: Jude refers to the unbelieving Israelites in the wilderness, rebellious angels, and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Jude 1:5-7).

Q: What characterizes the false teachers described in Jude?

A: They twist grace into permission for sin, reject authority, and manipulate others for personal advantage (Jude 1:4, 16).

Q: How are believers told to respond to deception?

A: They are instructed to defend the faith, remain grounded in truth, and grow through prayer and devotion (Jude 1:3, 20).

Q: What encouragement does Jude give believers at the end of the letter?

A: Jude reminds believers that God is able to keep them from falling and present them before His glory with joy (Jude 1:24).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Jude 1

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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