

One Chapter Books of the Bible (5)

JUDE

Introduction

- 1) Five books of the Bible have only one chapter – *Obadiah, Philemon, 2 & 3 John, Jude*
 - a) Due to their brevity, they get overlooked, but they contain a wealth of spiritual insight
- 2) **Jude** is one of four New Testament books with only one chapter (25 verses)
- 3) The epistle of Jude is the subject of our study – the need for contending for the faith

I) **Background**

A) Author is **Jude**

- 1) Identifies himself as a “servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James” (v. 1a)
 - a) This James is the “brother of the Lord” (Gal. 1:19), also making Jude the Lord’s brother
 - b) “Jude” is the English form of “Judas” (Matt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3)
 - c) Lord’s brothers did not believe in Jesus at first (Jn. 7:5), but did later (Acts 1:14)

B) *Date of writing:* AD 65-75

C) Addressed to those called, sanctified by the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ (v. 1b)

II) **Recognizing False Teachers and Teaching (vv. 3-19; cf. 2 Pet. 2)**

- A) Though ready to write about the common salvation, Jude found it necessary to exhort the saints to contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints
 - 1) “Contend earnestly” = strive, struggle; “the faith” = revealed truth of God (vv. 3, 17)
 - a) Necessary to face the ever-present danger of false teachers and doctrines (2 Pet. 2:1)
- B) Warn of “certain men” who crept in unnoticed (not watchful!) – false men, enemies of truth
 - 1) Turn grace of God into licentiousness – encourage sinfulness (Rom. 6:1; 2 Pet. 2:18-19)
 - 2) Deny the only Lord Jesus – false doctrines about Christ (2 Pet. 2:1; 2 Jn. 7)
 - 3) Mock and reject authority – rebellion against God and truth (2 Pet. 2:10; 1 Jn. 4:6; 3 Jn. 9)
 - 4) Disobedient/selfish (way of Cain), greedy (like Balaam), rebellious (like Korah)
 - 5) Divisive, complainers, flatterers – evil, false, empty, and deceptive teachers (Rom. 16:18)
 - 6) Worldly, not have the Spirit (not speak by the inspiration of God) (2 Pet. 2:12-17)
 - *False teachers and teaching must be recognized, opposed, and removed
 - a) Many today wrongly view this as unloving, narrow, negative, judgmental
 - i) Such are not watchful, vigilant, nor have a love for truth and abhorrence of evil
- C) God’s wrathful judgment upon unbelieving, rebellious, and immoral people (vv. 5-7, 14-15; 2 Pet. 2:4-9)

III) **Keeping Ourselves in the Love of God (vv. 20-21)**

- A) Jude exhorts his beloved brethren to “keep yourselves in the love of God”
 - 1) The “love of God” is fellowship, a relationship, partaking in the divine nature
- B) To make this possible we must be...
 - 1) Building ourselves up on our most holy faith (study and application of truth, Acts 20:32)
 - 2) Praying in the Holy Spirit (continual communication with God)
 - 3) Looking for [anticipation of] the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life (reward)

IV) **Reaching Out to the Lost (vv. 22-23)**

- A) Need to have compassion and mercy on those who need the saving gospel
- B) We must want to rescue the perishing with the gospel – pulling fallen Christians and alien sinners from the death of sin and the fire of the wrath of God’s judgment
- C) We are to help those in danger to find safety in God

Conclusion

God is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us faultless at the judgment (cf. 1 Thess. 3:12-13). Will you give glory to God, obeying His will, and contend earnestly for the faith?