

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A PILGRIM'S WALK THROUGH

THE NEW TESTAMENT

JUDE



Reading: Jude 1: 1-4

Introduction

- The last letter of the *'seven general epistles'*
- The book has a single chapter with 25 verses.

1 The Authorship Of Jude

- The names *'Jude'* or *'Judah'* or *'Judas'* are all forms of the same name.
- The name was made popular by Judas Maccabaeus in 167BC in his guerrilla war against king Antiochus Epiphanes.
- [1:1] brother of James who wrote the book of James.
- [Mark 6:3] a child of Mary and a half brother of Jesus.
- The word *'brother'* in [Mark 6:3] is *'adelphos'* meaning *'out of the same womb'*.

2 Why Did Jude Write This Little Book?

- [Vs 3] he initially began to write about *'our common salvation'*
- We are *'called'*; we are *'eternally loved'* and we are *'preserved'* to the end where we will be *'presented faultless'* to Christ's Father. [vs 24].

3 Contending Earnestly For The Faith

- He then is led to exhort us to '*contend for the faith*'. [Vs 3].
- '*The Faith*' is one of the church's greatest treasures.
- It is the whole body of revealed truth in the Bible.
- This treasure is to be carefully guarded.
- False teachers would put counterfeit ideas amongst it.
- The word '*contend*' (Gk '*epagonizmai*') means '*to fight*' for the truth.
- Every generation of Christian has to defend the truth.
- Satan tries to wipe out the church by persecution and if that fails he will attempt to corrupt its teachings.

4 How God Deals With False Teachers

- In the remainder of the chapter Jude warns false teachers of the certainty of God's judgement on them.
- He cites the example of how God treated:-
 - Fallen angels [vs 6]
 - the sinful cities of Sodom & Gomorrah in [vs 7]
 - the false prophet Balaam in [vs 11].

5 Shammah's Lentil Patch

- See [2 Samuel 23: 11-12]
- Just as Shammah stood in a lentil patch to defend it from marauding Philistines so we must stand in the lentil patch of God's truth and defend it against all who would seek to steal our heritage.

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