

“BUILD YOURSELVES UP IN YOUR MOST HOLY FAITH”

The Letter of Jude

Who wrote The Letter of Jude?

The Letter of Jude is attributed to Jude. However, some scholars believe that it could have been written by an anonymous writer.

How did The Letter of Jude get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The Letter is named after the disciple, Jude, who was the brother of James one of the twelve Apostles.

When did these events take place?

If Jude is the author, the letter was probably written around 80 A.D. If this letter was written by another writer, then it may have appeared as late as 100 A.D. or after.

For more about The Letter of Jude:

See page 1369 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

What do you feel when you see news reports about an abandoned baby? How do pictures of hunger and mass starvation affect you? What goes through your mind every time you drive by an abortion clinic when you know what is going on inside? How about when it is discovered that someone is especially cruel to animals? If you are like most people, these things make you more than just upset. It goes beyond just getting mad. These are the kinds of things that affect you so profoundly that you feel a need to do something about it. Your outrage prompts you to step out of your comfort zone to respond in some way.

That same feeling of outrage prompted the author of the Letter of Jude to write all Christians, or as he identifies them, “those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept safe for Jesus Christ.” In fact, the author begins his letter by telling the reader that although he was going to write for another reason, due to his outrage he now feels “a need to write to encourage them.” This brief letter is in response to the immoral behavior of many of the people who refuse to embrace the message of salvation in Christianity. He specifically rebukes those who have caused “blemishes on your love feasts,” (a reference to early Christian gatherings meant for prayer and praising). Of the 25 verses in this short letter, 14 of them speak of the “intruders” and “false teachers” that are in the midst of the Christian community. Jude reminds the reader that God has always dealt with such “dreamers” with harsh punishment for their sins. He even recalls the fate of Cain, and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah in making his point.

But the Letter of Jude closes with encouragement to the beloved to “build themselves up” in the secular world. Jude finishes his letter with a beautiful doxology reminding all of us that God is always there to “keep us from stumbling.” The Letter of Jude is outrage at it’s best – an outrage at sin. But it is also a message of praise and thanksgiving for the gift of the faith and the grace God will give us to defend ourselves from it.

Interesting Fact: The Letter of Jude is very similar to the Second Letter of Peter, which warned of the same false teachers. Both letters are proof that, just as it is today, Christianity was under attack and struggled to survive in a secular world.

Bonus Point: What does verse 13 refer to?