

Jude (*Introduction*)

Jude introduces himself as “the servant of Jesus Christ, and the brother of James” (Vs. 1). Since James was the half-brother of Jesus, Jude is also the half-brother of Jesus. Matthew 13:55 “Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?” Jude would be the “Judas” in this verse. If the siblings are listed in order of their birth, Jude would be Jesus’ youngest brother.

Jude wrote to “*to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:*” Therefore his readers were Christians. It may be intended to be circulated throughout the churches.

Well over half of Jude can be found in II Peter. Many of these parallels are almost word for word! This would imply a very close relationship between the two letters. Peter died in 64 AD. Jude probably wrote around this same time. Peter had written to encourage his Christian readers to endure persecution and warn them against false teachers.

Jude wanted to write about the “*common salvation*” but changed the subject of the letter. Instead he wrote to encourage them to “*earnestly contend for the faith*” which was more “*needful*” (verse 3). Like Peter, Jude is deeply concerned about false teachers and the false doctrine they are promoting.

Jude quotes from and/or alludes to some non-canonical literature.

1. The Assumption of Moses (vs. 9)
2. The Book of Enoch (verses. 6,13,14,15)
3. The Testament of Naphtali (vs. 6)
4. The Testament of Asher (vs. 8)

This does not mean that these works are inspired. However, we accept that the portions of these works that Jude quotes have been inspired and are true. “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*” **II Timothy 3:16.** These portions of Jude are no exception.