

The Charges of Jude

Jude is one of the smallest books in the New Testament. It is a dark, grim, and challenging book. It is a book that raises many unanswered questions (Jude 6, 9,12). And yet, the main point of the book is clear. This book urges the disciples to stand for the truth at all times! To drive the importance of this issue home in a powerful way, Jude makes two specific charges to the people of God.

I. Charge #1: Beware of False Teachers ! (Jude 1-4)

- A. Some important things to point out about Jude.
 - 1. Jude is the brother of James and half-brother of Jesus (Mark 6:3).
 - 2. He considered himself to be a “bond-servant” of Jesus.
 - 3. He initially wanted to write about the common salvation Christians share, but due to the threat of false teachers, he felt the necessity to write urging the people of God to contend earnestly for the faith.
 - 4. Jude wanted disciples to understand that false teachers are a real danger (Jude 4).
- B. Jude describes these false teachers.
 - 1. They are like Cain (Jude 11; Genesis 4:1-8).
 - 2. They are like rebellious angels (Jude 11; Numbers 22).
 - 3. They are like those of Sodom and Gomorrah (Jude 11; Numbers 16).
 - 4. They are like clouds without water (Jude 12). They too have nothing good to offer!
- C. Jude also describes what will happen to them. They will face destruction like...
 - 1. Those who rebelled after coming out of Egypt (Jude 5).
 - 2. Rebellious angels (Jude 6).
 - 3. Those of Sodom and Gomorrah (Jude 7).
- D. Like the Christians in the first century, we too are facing the threat of false teachers.
 - 1. They are on T.V. They have all kinds of books published. They can even be in your own family.
 - 2. You can recognize false teachers by their fruits (1 John 4:1; Matthew 7:15-20).

II. Charge #2: Contend for the faith ! (Jude 3)

- A. What does the Bible say about the faith?
 - 1. There is only one (Ephesians 4:4).
 - 2. It can be obeyed (Romans 1:5; Acts 6:7).
 - 3. It can be preached (Galatians 1:23).
 - 4. It can be kept (2 Timothy 4:7).
 - 5. It has been once and for all revealed (Jude 3).
 - 6. It must be contend for (Jude 3). Also see Matthew 10:32-33.
- B. How do we do this?
 - 1. We must know the faith (Romans 10:17).
 - 2. We must have the courage to open our mouth and defend the faith (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 1:7).
 - 3. We must constantly pray (Jude 20).
 - 4. We must keep ourselves in the love of God (Jude 21).
 - 5. We must help one another (Jude 22-23).

Conclusion: Jude is a book urging Christians to stand with the truth .