

From Skeptic to Bondservant

Series: Hey Jude!

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The little book of Jude has often been the step-child to other more studied and taught books like Romans and Ephesians. We simply do not spend much time in Jude. The study of the little books of the Bible can introduce us to some pretty exciting truths. Before we identify Jude and explore his past I want to make some general observations about this one chapter book.

- It is similar to 2 Peter (From Exegetical Tools, May 15, 2020, Jared Garcia) Gromacki's final analysis is noteworthy:

“Since all biblical truth is divinely revealed truth, it is the Spirit’s prerogative to direct two authors to write on the same subject for emphasis and/or to cause one to utilize another. In the final analysis, it is not one man copying another man’s work; rather, it is God copying God or God copying twice” (Gromacki, 386).

The repetition of identical material is not wasted ink. Whether Jude used 2 Peter or Peter used Jude, the crucial thing for believers is to take heed to the words that God has repeated twice for one’s own admonition.

2 Peter	Jude
But false prophets also arose among the people... <i>denying the Master</i> who bought them... (2:1)	For certain persons have crept in unnoticed... who... <i>deny our only Master</i> and Lord, Jesus Christ. (v. 4)
For if <i>God did not spare angels</i> when they sinned, but cast them into hell and <i>committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment</i> (2:4)	And <i>angels who did not keep their own domain</i> , but abandoned their proper abode, He has <i>kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day</i> (v. 6)
and if He condemned the <i>cities of Sodom and Gomorrah</i> to destruction by reducing <i>them to ashes</i> , having made them an <i>example</i> to those who would live ungodly <i>lives</i> thereafter (2:6)	just as <i>Sodom and Gomorrah</i> and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are <i>exhibited as an example</i> in undergoing the punishment of <i>eternal fire</i> . (v. 7)
and especially those who <i>indulge the flesh</i> in its corrupt desires and <i>despise authority</i> . Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they <i>revile angelic majesties</i> (2:10)	Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, <i>defile the flesh</i> , and <i>reject authority</i> , and <i>revile angelic majesties</i> . (v. 8)
But these, <i>like unreasoning animals</i> , born as <i>creatures of instinct</i> to be captured and killed, <i>reviling where they have no knowledge</i> , will in the destruction of those creatures also <i>be destroyed</i> (2:12)	But these men <i>revile the things which they do not understand</i> ; and the things which <i>they know by instinct</i> , like <i>unreasoning animals</i> , by these things <i>they are destroyed</i> . (v. 10)
having <i>followed the way of Balaam</i> (2:15)	they have rushed headlong <i>into the error of Balaam</i> (v. 11)
These are <i>springs without water</i> and mists driven by a storm, for whom the <i>black darkness has been reserved</i> . (2:17)	wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame <i>like foam</i> ; wandering stars, for whom the <i>black darkness has been reserved forever</i> . (1:13)
that you should <i>remember the words spoken beforehand</i> by the holy prophets and the commandment of the <i>Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles</i> . (3:2)	But you, beloved, ought to <i>remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ</i> (v. 17)
<i>...in the last days mockers will come</i> with <i>their</i> mocking, <i>following after their own lusts</i> (3:3)	¹⁸ that they were saying to you, " <i>In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.</i> " (v. 18)

* For comprehensive list see Frederic Gardiner, "The Similarity between the Epistle of Jude and the Second Epistle of Peter," *Bibliotheca Sacra* BSAC 011:41 (Jan. 1854): 115-139.

- Jude switched from what he wanted to write to what he needed to write. (3) He wanted to write about "positive" things but the "negative" was too important to ignore.
- Jude made use of Old Testament history as a valid way of understanding divine precedent showing that God has not changed.
- Jude was very descriptive of those of whom he wrote. (Ex: 12-13)
- Jude was the younger half-brother of Jesus, son of Joseph and Mary. Matt.13:55, "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother Mary, and His brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?" Mark 6:3 also mentions that Jesus had half-sisters, though they are not named. Jude 1 mentions that Jude is a brother to James as well.

What Do We See Happening In Jesus' Earthly Family?

- Mary and Joseph had many convincing proofs of Jesus' identity as the Messiah including the prophecies, the dreams, the appearance of angels, the experience with Elizabeth and Zacharias, John's parents, the visits by the shepherds and wise men, the killing of the babies in Bethlehem, protection in Egypt, and simply living with Jesus.
- His family were exposed to Jesus' first miracle. John 2 after the turning of the water into wine: "After this he went down to Capernaum with His mother and

brothers and His disciples. There they stayed a few days.” (John 2:12) They had ample time to discuss what they witnessed in Cana.

- “His Own People” Mark 3:20-21, “Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that He and His disciples were not even able to eat. When His family (Literally “the ones with him/his relations) heard about this, they went to take charge of Him, for they said, ‘He is out of His mind.’” In spite of the proof they had at least some of His family were questioning Him.
- Recorded in Matthew (12:46-5), Mark (3:31-35), and Luke (8:19-21) his mother and brothers came to speak with Jesus but couldn’t get into the room, sent a message and Jesus explained who His spiritual family was.
- Then there is John 7:1-10, 1 After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. 2 But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, 3 Jesus’ brothers said to him, “Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” 5 **For even his own brothers did not believe in him.** 6 Therefore Jesus told them, “My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. 8 You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.” 9 After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee. 10 However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret.”
- But after the resurrection it all changed
 - Acts 1:14, “They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”
 - Acts 15, the James mentioned here is the brother of Jesus, and elder in the church of Jerusalem.
 - Jude 1, “Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James...”
- Jude is now described as a “servant” (Doulos) of Jesus Christ. A Bond-servant. The lowest form of servant, a literal slave of Jesus. From Skeptic to Bond-servant.

Jude serves as an example of one who could grow up with God as a brother, take Him for granted, even think He was crazy, ridicule Him as a show off and attention getter, and then have a complete about face when Jesus died and was raised again. In that upper room Jude was praying and when he wrote his book he was preaching.

Many are on the journey from skepticism to faith to being a bondservant of Jesus. You may know someone on that path. Be patient with them. Keep presenting the evidence to them. Make sure they consider the resurrected Jesus in deciding whether or not to believe.