

Contend Earnestly for the Faith

The Acts of the Apostates

Introduction to Jude *

The beginning of the Age of the Church is described in the *Acts of the Apostles*. The end of the Church Age is set forth in the epistle of Jude, which might well be called the Acts of the Apostates. The first book which can properly be said to contain Church history describes the deeds and teachings of men of God through whom Christ began to build His Church. The last epistle of the New Testament relates the deeds and teaching of evil men who will be living upon the earth as the history of the professing Church comes to an end. Jude would have preferred to write about the common Christian Faith shared with his readers, but false teachings were becoming so prevalent that he was constrained to pen a plea to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” Jude does not mince words! He pulls out all the stops, as it were, to unmask these notorious apostates, drawing illustrations from nature, the Old Testament, and Jewish tradition (Enoch) to stir up the faithful.

In spite of its harsh language, the Epistle is a masterpiece of construction, studded with triads (e.g., the three evils in v. 11). The descriptions of the apostates are vivid and unforgettable.

The church is forever in debt to Jude for the beautiful benediction with which he ends his Letter. His Epistle may be short, but it is greatly needed in these days of ever-increasing apostasy.¹

- *Who wrote this letter, and to whom?*

- *Where and when was the letter written?*

- *What is the purpose of this letter?*

- *What is Jude's message to us today? . . . Or, so what!?*

Next Time: "Greetings" ~ Jude 1-2

* These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

¹ MacDonald, W., & Farstad, A. (1997). *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.