

Regent University

Passage Exegesis Assignment
Jude 17-23

PMIN 524
PREPARATION OF BIBLICAL MESSAGES
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Robert Hill

Submitted by: Brett Owen

About Jude: According to the Quest Study Bible, “Few enjoy the sound of alarms. Some people disable buzzers intended to remind them to buckle their seatbelts – just to avoid irritation. Others unhook smoke detectors that seem to go off too easily. Ignoring such reminders and warnings can be perilous to health. But ignoring spiritual warnings can be worse. That’s why we should pay attention to this book. In a few short words, Jude sounds an alarm we dare not disconnect.”¹

The half-brother of Jesus and the full brother of James wrote the book of Jude. It was written around 65 A.D. just before Peter wrote his second letter. Jude was concerned about strange and false teachings traveling throughout some of the churches. He wrote this book in order to urge believers *to contend for the faith* (v. 3). The short book is filled with colorful imagery. It has direct warnings and God’s tremendous promises that accompany them.²

Text:

¹⁷But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁸that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” ¹⁹These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

²⁰But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. ²²And have mercy on some, who are doubting; ²³save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

Jude 17-23 NASB

Title of Sermon: Stand Firm Soldier

Big Idea: Jude provides six exhortations designed to make sure Christians stand firm in their faith.

¹ Quest Study Bible, *Jude* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003), 1770.

² Ibid., 1770.

Expository Message Outline

I. Introduction

- A. Illustration: Imagine 2 soldiers
 1. Imagine a soldier who stands strong at attention, obeys his commander and fears nothing.
 2. Now imagine a soldier who is fearful. Who does not obey their commander. Now imagine this soldier has no legs.
- B. Jude understood the importance of standing for Christ.
 1. V. 3 - Contend earnestly for the faith
 - a. Fight the good fight of faith
 2. Contains one of the most graphic and colorful descriptions of evil men and their practices.
 - a. He sounds the alarm
 - b. He warns us to be ready and to fight against it.
 3. He concludes his book by providing principles designed to make sure that readers stand strong in the faith and become the soldiers of the cross that God has called them to be.

II. Remember the Words That Were Spoken (17-18)

- A. Remember who spoke them
 1. They were the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - a. Word Study – Apostles
 - Thayer’s Lexicon - a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with order³
 - Webster’s – a. one of an authoritative New Testament group sent out to preach the gospel and

³ J.H. Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977), 90.

made up especially of Christ's 12 original disciples and Paul

b. a person who initiates a great moral reform or who first advocates an important belief or system⁴

b. Appointed and sent out by Jesus Himself

2. Receiving them is receiving Christ – “*he who receives whomever I send receives Me . . .*” *Jn 13:20*⁵

B. Remember what they said

1. That there would be mockers in the last time

2. That they would walk according to their own ungodly lusts

a. *But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. 2 Ti 3:1-5*

3. The word of God is always the answer to dangers in or out of the church.⁶

a. *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but {wanting} to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth*

⁴ Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. Available from <http://www.Merriam-Webster.com>.

⁵ Scriptures quoted from the NASB version.

⁶ David Guzik, *Study Guide for Jude 1*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2006) Available from http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david_guzik/sg/Jud_1.html.

and will turn aside to myths. 2 Ti 4:3-4

III. Build Yourselves Up in the Most Holy Faith (20)

A. To “Build Up” suggests growth

1. According to Jamieson, Fausset & Brown, “Building on THE FAITH is equivalent to building on Christ, the object of faith.”⁷
2. It is not enough to just lay down one level of knowledge and understanding
3. We must continue to build upon it,
 - a. “*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*” 2 Pe 3:18

B. To Build Up “Yourselves” suggests personal responsibility

1. You must accept personal responsibility and make the effort
 - a. According to David Guzik: “Jude has shown us the frailty of men and how deceivers even infiltrated the church. If you entrust your spiritual growth to someone else, it will not only hurt your spiritual growth, but it may also lead you astray. Others can help provide an environment conducive for spiritual growth. But no one can *make* another person grow in their relationship with the Lord.”⁸
2. Illustration: Babies, God is tired of spiritual babies. Those whose come to church each week and expect the Pastor to feed them and they do not know how to feed themselves.

IV. Pray in the Holy Spirit (20)

⁷ Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset and David Brown, *The General Epistle of Jude. Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2000) Available from <http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/jfb/Jud/Jud001.html>.

⁸ David Guzik, *Study Guide for Jude 1*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2006) Available from http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david_guzik/sg/Jud_1.html.

A. Prayer is the complement to the Word of God

1. By the Word of God, God speaks to us; by prayer, we speak to God
2. The Word of God is a source of strength and comfort to us; but then, so also is prayer.
 - a. *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7*
3. Illustration: The Word of God and prayer are the two legs upon which our spiritual well-being stands upon. Both are needed and they must be well-balanced in our spiritual growth.
4. Illustration: The enemy loves to knock over unbalanced Christians.

B. What is meant by praying “in the Spirit”?

1. Paul tells us in Galatians 5:25, “*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*”
 - a. We are to walk and live according to the spirit's direction as found in the Word of God.
 - b. We are guided and controlled by the One who dwells within us and the spirit leads us to seek His will and not our own.
2. According to the Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible, “The Holy Spirit teaches *what we* are to pray for, and *how*. None can pray aright save by being *in the Spirit*, that is, in the element of His influence.”⁹
3. *In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not*

⁹ Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset and David Brown, *The General Epistle of Jude. Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2000) Available from <http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/jfb/Jud/Jud001.html>.

know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for {us} with groanings too deep for words; Rom 8:26

4. *“Such is our sloth, and that such is the coldness of our flesh, that no one can pray aright except he be roused by the Spirit of God . . . no one can pray as he ought without having the Spirit as his guide.”¹⁰ (Calvin)*

¹⁰ *Calvin's Commentaries, Vol. 45. Available from <http://sacred-texts.com/chr/calvin/cc45/cc45031.htm>*

V. Keep yourselves in the love of God (21)

A. Again, the need for personal responsibility

1. “keep yourselves”

a. Word Study – Keep

- Thayer’s Lexicon – cause one to persevere or stand firm in a thing¹¹
- Strong’s - to attend to carefully, take care of
 - i. to guard
 - ii. metaph. to keep, one in the state in which he is
 - iii. to observe
 - iv. to reserve: to undergo something¹²

2. Peter wrote, we are “*kept by the power of God through faith*” 1 Pe 1:5

- a. The power of God is the divine contribution to keep us safe
- b. Remaining faithful is the human contribution to being kept safe

B. Keeping ourselves in the love of God

1. “In Jud 1:20, 21 , Jude combines the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost: and *faith, hope, and love.*”¹³
2. According to Ray Stedman, “Now some have misunderstood that to mean that it depends on us to stay in the family of God---as if your salvation depended wholly on us. But what he is saying is,

¹¹ J.H. Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977), 120.

¹² Blue Letter Bible, *Dictionary and Word Search for tēreō (Strong's 5083)* (Blue Letter Bible Online, 1997) Available from <http://cf.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?□Strongs=G5083&Version=kjv>

¹³ Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset and David Brown, *The General Epistle of Jude. Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible.* (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2000) Available from <http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/jfb/Jud/Jud001.html>.

"Look, God's love is just like the sunshine, constantly shining on us. But we can put up parasols and various barriers that shut it off." Jude says we must learn how to keep walking in the experience of the love of God."¹⁴

3. Being faithful to God, and being kept in his love is only done by obeying his Word
 - a. Jesus said in John 14:21, "He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me."
4. It is the ultimate proof that we love God and His Children.
 - a. This is not legalism
5. Illustration: The Prodigal Son
 - a. Was he keeping himself in the love of his father or in a place where his father could actively demonstrate his love?
No.
 - b. When he returned home and his father forgave him and threw a party for him, was he then in a place where the father could actively show his love toward him? Yes.

VI. Waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord (21)

- A. We must always be looking forward
 1. Word Study – *prosdechomai*
 - a. Thayer's Lexicon - to expect: the fulfillment of promises¹⁵
 - b. NKJ – looking for
 - c. NIV - wait for
 2. Wait anxiously for the mercy that will be poured on all believers in the age to come as we dwell with Jesus face to face

¹⁴ Ray Stedman, *Jude: Contending for the Faith*. (Discovery Publishing, 1996) Available from http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/ray_stedman/adv/adv_jud.html.

¹⁵ J.H. Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977), 134.

- a. The psalmist called it the mercy that “endureth forever” Ps. 138:8
- 3. Even though there will be judgment and the world is going to end in flaming fire, I’m looking for Jesus, not judgment.
 - a. If my eyes are on Jesus then I have nothing to fear.
 - *Financial struggles*
 - *Sickness*
 - *Terrorism*

VII. Be compassionate, with fear (22-23)

A. The need for compassion

- 1. Mercy will be shown only to the merciful.
 - a. *For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. Jam 2:13*
- 2. Compassion moves us to action
 - a. According to David Guzik, “By being sensitive to the Holy Spirit, we can know when we should comfort, and when we should rebuke. Christians should not abandon a friend flirting with false teaching. They should help him through it in love.”¹⁶
 - b. Illustration: Personal Story
- 3. Compassion helps us properly handle those in danger

B. The need for fear

- 1. So we don’t get caught in the same sin
 - a. *Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be*

¹⁶ David Guzik, *Study Guide for Jude 1*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2006) Available from http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david_guzik/sg/Jud_1.html.

tempted. Gal 6:1

- b. According to Ray Stedman, “That is a wise word. Be careful. There are some you cannot help yet; you are not experienced enough, or old enough yet. You are not wise enough to help these others. Even the wisest have to handle them with great fear, being very careful not to contract the disease they are trying to cure.”¹⁷

VIII. Conclusion

- A. Recap
- B. Soldier Illustration
- C. Apply

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¹⁷ Ray Stedman, *Jude: Contending for the Faith*. (Discovery Publishing, 1996) Available from http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/ray_stedman/adv/adv_jud.html.

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