



The Epistle of JUDE – in Modern English

- 1) Jude, that slave of Jesus the Anointed One, and brother of James, to all those whom the Father continues to make holy, set apart from the world for the sake of Jesus and called to be like him:
- 2) May all God's mercy and peace and love be poured out on you in ever increasing measure.
- 3) I love you so much. I've sat down so many times to write to you and remind you of these very things. About how amazing it is that God has saved us all so thoroughly. Before I go any further, this: Never give up the Good Fight! Keep at it. All that God has given to us is worth the struggle. That's what faith requires; that's what faith *is*.
- 4) And it's not always easy. Someone is always trying to sneak in a falsehood here, a poor substitute for truth there. It's an old story: Some just can't put up with Truth and don't want you to, either. Showing God no real respect they bring condemnation down on their own heads. They dump the pure Gospel and fill their cups with lies. Then they want you to drink with them. They live wretched lives. They scorn God's grace, disowning the Master and Savior to their own demise.
- 5) So, before the flood of falsehood drowns you, I'll remind you again of this: The Master they despise is a God Who **Saves**. He proved it by literally saving His Chosen People out of Egypt. Though He chose *them*, some abandoned *Him* in the desert, so He left them to die there.
- 6) Like some of the angels long ago, these modern-day scoffers have abandoned their honored position and the very best things of God. Now they've sentenced themselves to inhabit a wasteland. A prison of their own making. And on that Great Day of Judgment, the whole sordid story will be told.
- 7) As in Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, these evil souls in your midst think themselves so wise, like the pagan temple consorts you are all familiar with. Self-righteous; Self-absorbed; Self-indulgent. A bonfire of vanities now, they'll be forever consumed by those flames.
- 8) The dreams these false prophets have is really a nightmare: they can't even humble themselves to acknowledge any other moral authority than themselves. So, they look for disgusting things to do to prove how free they are, call what is good, evil, and slander Heaven in their mockery.
- 9) Even the most powerful and pure angel would never dare to claim moral authority to condemn anyone, yet these imposters do. Michael the Archangel himself didn't even shame the Devil as they argued over the body of Moses. He simply said, "May the Master Himself rebuke you!"

- 10) What arrogance and audacity these fakers have! They speak curses over things they are clueless about. Brutish beasts are more sensible than them!
- 11) Woe to the wicked like them! Murderous as Cain; Corruptible as Balaam; As hypocritical and defiant as Korah's rebellion! Remember what came of all that!
- 12) They're like mold growing on your love feasts even as they gorge themselves at your table. They are heavy clouds without rain; howling sandstorms, stripping fruit from the trees, and withering what is left. They leave nothing in their wake worth salvaging.
- 13) Raging seas they are, frothing in their own shame; stars abandoning their own constellations, wandering the sky aimlessly; squandering their light they're headed for utter darkness. They're black holes, never to escape the inky void they've created.
- 14) You've been warned about this type since the Beginning. All the way back to Enoch, the seventh from Adam, we heard his voice crying out: "Can you see it?? The Master is coming with myriads of His holy ones
- 15) "to finally bring justice and out the transgressors - all the irreverent mockers of God. Their pride and arrogant words now mock **them** before the Great Judge."
- 16) Even in their quiet moments they murmur false accusations; they complain constantly. Soon the pompous boasts boot right back up, drowning out civilized discussion. They really can't talk well about anyone but themselves.
- 17) But **YOU**, my friends - I have high hopes that **YOU** will be able to hang on to the Apostles' teaching about our Lord and Savior.
- 18) How they told you all along that the scoffers were coming. And lately there's no denying that they're out there working hard to satisfy their own selfish, ungodly desires. Worse, they're **inside** the camp...
- 19) Even when they're with you they can't see how dead their souls are, how separate from the Living Spirit.
- 20) But **YOU!** I'm so glad to know there's room for the Spirit at the center of your lives. You're building each other up in faith, praying real prayers the way God has been stirring in your hearts.
- 21) Family: For the Love of God keep eagerly anticipating His mercy. Look for the ways He's pouring it out on you, because you need it, and He knows that you do. It's a taste of Heaven, so savor it.
- 22) And there are those who are going to need **your** mercy too, so get ready to offer it. I'm talking about those who come to the realization that they've been sorely misled and are second-guessing everything.
- 23) There are those who fear they can't ever be saved, so go save them from that lie. Those who fear they'll never be able to escape the flames of their own sinful passions, be brave and go in after them. Drag them to safety. And guard your hearts. There's plenty in those flames that want to scorch you, too. Let God cleanse your hearts as you go dangerous places. There's no shame in that.
- 24) Now to the One who is more than able to guard you from all the dangers of sin and wickedness, may He stand you up, dust you off, keep you from stumbling (or falling flat on your face), and present you as well-suited to the task at hand, perfect in likeness to Him, the apple of His eye, and the joy of His life.
- 25) To the Father, (the only Wise God) and to His Son the Savior of us all, be the highest of esteem and awe, amazement at the Great Unity of the Holy One, holding us together the way **He** holds together, and to truly hold us **all** together that way right now, and forevermore. So be it!!