

## *Contend Earnestly for the Faith* Jude

**Intro:** Jude, the brother of James, and half-brother of Jesus Christ, writes a scathing rebuke against false teachers, “*those long beforehand marked out for destruction*” (v. 4), and **lovingly appeals to believers to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”** (v. 3). **Jude exhorts his readers to “fight for the faith!”**

### I. Salutation and Purpose (vv. 1-4)

- A. Author:
- B. Recipients:
- C. Greeting:
- D. Occasion and Theme:
  1. *Jude’s appeal* to believers (v. 3)
  2. *Jude’s alarm* over false teachers (v. 4)

### II. Destruction of Ungodly False Teachers vv. 5-16

- A. Destruction of apostates in the past (vv. 5-7)
  1. Exodus generation (v. 5)
  2. Fallen angels (v. 6)
  3. Sodom and Gomorrah (v. 7)
- B. Description of apostates in the present (vv. 8-16)
  1. Reputed to be prophets, “filthy dreamers” (v. 8)
  2. Revile angelic majesties (vv. 9-10)
  3. Reject authority (vv. 11-16) Three OT examples: Cain, Balaam and Korah
    - a. Cain: *refused God’s way of approach* (Gen 4:1-8)
    - b. Balaam: *rushed after payment for his evil services* (Num 22–24, **31:8, 16**)
    - c. Korah: *rejected Moses and Aaron’s God given authority* (Num 16)
  4. Revel in the flesh (vv. 12-13) **5 illustrations of apostates from nature**
    - a. Hidden reefs in your love feasts, *destructive selfish shepherds* (v. 12a)
    - b. Clouds without water, *no water of life for thirsty souls* (v. 12b)
    - c. Autumn trees without fruit, *doubly dead, uprooted* (v. 12c)
    - d. Wild waves of the sea, *casting up their own shame like foam* (v. 13a)
    - e. Wandering stars, *appear momentarily and vanish into darkness* (v. 13b)
- C. Destruction of the apostates in the future (vv. 14-15) *Prophecy of Enoch*



***Korah, Dathan, and Abiram***

### III. Exhortations for Believers to Avoid Apostates vv. 17-23

- A. Admonition to remember the apostle's teaching (vv. 17-19; **2 Peter 2 and 3**)
  - 1. Remember the apostles' warnings (vv. 17-18)
  - 2. Recognize the false teachers (v. 19)
    - a. They **cause divisions**
    - b. They are **worldly-minded**
    - c. They are **devoid of the Spirit**
- B. Appeal to press on in Christian maturity (vv. 20-23)
  - 1. Believers are commanded to press on in Christian maturity (vv. 20-21)
    - a. Build yourselves up in the most holy faith—**read the Word** (v. 20a)
    - b. Pray in the power of the Holy Spirit—**pray, pray, pray** (v. 20b)
    - c. Keep yourselves in the love of God (v. 21a; 1 Cor 13)
    - d. Keep watching anxiously for the coming of Jesus Christ (v. 21b)
  - 2. Believers are commanded to reach out to others (v. 22)
    - a. Convince some, **weaker Christians** who are doubting
    - b. Save others, *snatching unbelievers out of the fire*
    - c. Have mercy on corrupt, *with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh*

### IV. Closing Benediction vv. 24-25