



World Christian Fellowship

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Enemy in the Church!

Jude 11:1, *Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:*

God has exalted His truth as high as His name.

God is the God of truth.

That is how He identifies Himself.

Jesus Christ, the glory of God in human flesh, according to John, is full of truth. He is the way, the truth, and the life.

The truth would set the sinner free from sin and death.

The Bible is called the Word of Truth.

Jesus said to His Father, "Your word is truth."

John 17:17, *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

In the Scriptures, we are commanded to

- ✓ worship God in truth.
- ✓ obey the truth,

- ✓ love the truth,
- ✓ judge by the truth,
- ✓ speak the truth in love,
- ✓ walk in the truth.

Literally, we are engulfed in the truth. That is the reason the Church is called by the apostle Paul the pillar and support of the truth. We are responsible to hold up the truth, to wield the truth against all the speculations raised up against the knowledge of God.

The Church is to proclaim the truth, to bring deceived souls to the knowledge of the truth that saves and frees.

In our recent studies of the epistles of John, we saw in each of these three epistles the centrality of the truth.

1 John 5:20, *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

This is the true God and eternal life. And he mentions what is truth three times in one verse.

John, in his first letter, was concerned with the truth, the true gospel, the true believer.

Again, in the second letter.

2 John 1:1-2, *The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth, ²because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:*

2 John 1:4, *I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.*

When we come to the third of the letters, it's the same emphasis.

3 John1:1-3, *The Elder, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth: ²Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. ³For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.*

All three of those marvellous letters cantered on the truth!
The truth that it's essential to justification and sanctification and the hope of glorification.

The whole relationship that we have to God, in all its fullness, is based on truth.

- ✓ We hear the truth,
- ✓ We understand the truth,
- ✓ We believe the truth,
- ✓ We ascent to the truth,
- ✓ We live the truth,
- ✓ We learn the truth, and
- ✓ We proclaim the truth.

The Word of God, that saves and sanctifies and gives the hope of glory. Truth, then, is more precious to us than anything, than everything.

As a result of the importance of the truth, the truth is always under attack.

All through the millennia, since the fall of Adam and Eve, God has been revealing His truth – His saving truth – starting with the revelation that a true one would come and crush the serpent's head and provide true salvation from sin, death, and hell and the unfolding of the message of the truth is the real story of Scripture.

Of course, all the way along, Satan has done everything he could to obliterate the truth, to cover the truth, to hide the truth, to twist the truth, to bring about lies and deceptions.

One way or another, the truth has always been under attack. There are sad, sad realities throughout the history of God's redeemed people, both Israel and the Church.

Great sweeping eras of time when the so-called people of God abandoned the truth, lost heart for the truth, lost interest in the truth, and failed to contend or fight for the truth.

It has been a long war against God and against His truth in which the Devil has engaged. He has employed demons, and he has employed men and women. Most effectively he has employed those people who are associated with the truth in some way. The deadliest assaults against the truth come from the inside.

This is what we call apostasy!
It is a defection.

The most effective attacks against the truth come from those people who purport to know the truth, and even to believe the truth.

The greatest assaults against the truth don't come from the outside but from the inside. From apostates, defectors who name the name of Christ or once named the name of Christ and now are the enemies of Christ.

Who once affirmed their trust in God, belief in God, and affirmed the Scripture and have become the enemies of the Scripture? They are on the inside.

Jude 1:4, *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Jude 1:12, *These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;*

They are inside, and they are deadly dangerous because they bring such devastating corruption from their position and their posture inside the Church.

Jude is concerned about this issue. He is concerned about the most dangerous corruption that can occur against the truth, and that is on the inside.

The long war against God certainly comes from the outside. It comes from every false religious system on the planet.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.⁴For the weapons of our*

warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

The spiritual war certainly has to be fought against those who attack from the outside. The long war against God has not just been from the inside.

But the most formidable blows against the truth come from the inside. Anybody will tell you that. The greatest danger to an arm is from the inside. Traitors, defectors, spies really working for the enemy who are trusted.

Jude is concerned about this, and he wants us to be concerned as well. He wants to engage us all in the battle for the truth, the long war for the truth. He wants us to be the defenders against the defectors.

So, the call comes to us.

Jude 1:3, *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

This apparently indicates that he started to write a letter in which he wanted to talk about salvation.

A positive letter, an upbeat letter, a celebratory letter in the sense that he was going to celebrate with them the wonders of their common salvation.

However, while he was trying to do that, it was interrupted.

I had some other things I wanted to talk about.

I wanted to write you a positive letter.

But I felt the necessity to write a letter under the compulsion of the Holy Spirit to engage you in the battle, in the fight, in the struggle, in the war against the faith, against the body of truth we know is the Christian faith.

This one little book tucked right in between John's three letters and the Revelation.

Why did God drop Jude in here?

By the providence of God, who oversaw the organization of the books of the Bible, as well as the inspiration of them, it is dropped in the perfect place. It is the final of the eight general epistles written by Peter, John, and James as well.

It is critically placed in the New Testament.

Revelation is the end. Everything wraps up in Revelation. The main feature of Revelation is the *apokalupsis*, the appearing of Jesus Christ, the second coming.

The book of Revelation is called the revelation to John here, but underneath that it says it's the revelation of Jesus Christ.

We know that there is nothing more to add to Revelation. When Revelation is done, all that God wanted to say has been said because that takes you write out into eternity.

Revelation ends with the return of Jesus Christ, His millennial kingdom, at the end of which He defeats the final rebellion – Satan and the sinners on the earth goes out of existence. The new heaven and the new earth, which is the eternal stage, are created. We go on to eternal heaven. The ungodly, along with Satan go into the lake of fire forever, and that's the end.

Why is Jude placed here?

As we get to the end of the New Testament,

- Jesus taught the truth,
- John tells us that we have got to understand how important the truth is.
- Paul taught the truth,
- James taught the truth,
- Peter taught the truth.

The truth goes through the New Testament.

John told the believers to be aware of what this truth is. They got a hold of the true doctrine about Jesus Christ. They got to live the truth, love the truth, walk in the truth.

Every believer got to do that faithfully until Jesus comes.

Then comes the Jude.

Don't expect it to be easy. Before Jesus comes, the truth will suffer immense and escalating assaults.

Big picture:

The church age begins in the Acts of the Apostles.

The end of the Church age is dealt with in Jude, which might be called the acts of the apostates.

Acts describes the deeds and teaching of men of God, through whom Christ began to build His Church.

Jude, the last epistle, relates the deeds and teachings of apostates who will do everything they can to destroy the truth until the end of the Church.

Jude is the only book in the Bible entirely devoted to discussing apostasy all the way out to the end of the Church age.

Jude's 25 verses are the vestibule to Revelation.

Revelation tells us how Christ comes to bring it all to an end.

Jude describes for us the battle for the truth that's going to go on till the very end.

Apostle Paul in **2 Thessalonians 2**, indicates to us that this apostasy, as it gets closer to the coming of Christ is going to escalate into a great apostasy.

The first book of the New Testament in the Bible, Gospel of Matthew Jesus warned about false prophets in the sermon on the mount.

Matthew 7:15-16, *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?”*

Beware of the false prophets. Jesus knew they were already around. They would come against the truth of the gospel.

Matthew 16:11, *How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”*

They appear to represent God.

They appear to be a part of the kingdom of God.

They appear to be the very spokesman and teachers of divine truth.

Beware! Their influence corrupts.

Matthew 24:11, *Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.*

So, Jesus warned again and again.

Matthew 24:23-25, *“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. ²⁴For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵See, I have told you beforehand.*

Jesus was saying that they are around now. Beware of them. They are Pharisees and Sadducees, and they are very dangerous because they say they represent me, and the truth and they believe my Word.

They are going to get worse, and they are going to get more effective.

He warned in the other parallel passages in the gospels of the same things.

When we come into the book of Acts there are tremendous warnings about this same thing.

Acts 20:29-30, *For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*

If the enemy can get inside the camp, his devastation is greatest.

Acts 20:28, *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

When we come into the epistles, it's the same.

1 Timothy 4:1-2, *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,*

- They come into the church.
- They are demonic in their doctrine.
- They are devilish in their intentions.
- They have departed from the faith.
- They espouse or they purport to believe.
- They are hypocrites.
- They have no conscience.

- They will use you and abuse you.

How are you going to counter this?

1 Timothy 4:13, *Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

Pay attention to yourself and to your teaching. Persevere in these things. He engages Timothy in the spiritual battle for the truth.

2 Timothy 3:1-5, *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

They have all kinds of degrees.

They purport to be theologians and teachers.

They purport to have the secret true knowledge of God, but these men oppose the truth.

They have depraved minds, and they reject the faith.

Not only does Paul warn about these things, but Peter warns about them.

2 Peter the whole chapter 2 and 3.

John warns about them.

1 John 4:1, *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

2 John 1:7, *For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

Watch yourselves.

James even talks about false teachers.

The book of Revelation, chapter 2 and 3, talks about false teachers that infiltrate the Church. They literally get into the Church and corrupted it.

- They corrupted the church of Pergamos.
- They corrupted the church of Thyatira.
- They corrupted the church of Sardis.
- They corrupted the church of Laodicea.

All the way to the end of the Church age, churches are going to have to battle for the truth.

The most formidable war against that truth is going to come from the inside. All of this is prophesied!

Again, and again.

Summary:

Luke 18:8, *I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

The world has been waiting for millennia for the incarnate truth to arrive.

The world has been waiting since the fall for God to send the True One.

The world has been waiting for the truth.

Finally, the truth comes, and the living truth, the Lord Jesus Christ comes, and He opens His mouth, and out of His mouth comes gospel truth, saving truth, the long-awaited, freeing truth. Immediate reaction? Rejection.

All those centuries of waiting, all those millennia of waiting, and when the truth comes, it's rejected. The truth comes in first in the synagogue at Nazareth, when their initial reaction was, "Wow, we have never heard anybody like this say anything like this."

But before the day was over, they tried to kill Him.

At first, they were wowed by what He said. They were drawn to His teaching. But before it was all over, they screamed for His blood.

Jesus Himself, before His life ends, can see the direction this is going and says, *“Will I find any faith on the earth when I come back?”*

John 1:11, *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.*

They rejected the truth as soon as they heard it.

After Jesus earthly ministry and His resurrection, the believers were gathered in Galilee. He had spent over a year in Galilee with incredible miracles and teaching and there were 500 who believed. At least there were 500 who gathered.

After all the ministry in Judea, and His resurrection, there were 120 in the upper room. As the churches were founded and planted, the churches begin to defect.

By the time John writes the book of Revelation, we are at the end of that first century. John is writing around 96, and already five out of the seven churches in Asia Minor, which had been the hotbed of apostolic ministry through Paul, where those churches were planted, those churches are beginning to

defect, and there is only two of them left. The church at **Smyrna and Philadelphia** they were still faithful.

The battle for the truth has been a very difficult battle. Paul looks ahead and wrote to Church in Thessalonica.

2 Thessalonians 2:3, *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*

2 Timothy 4:3-4, *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

2 Peter 2:1, *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.*

Peter said, "False teachers are going to come, and they're going to bring in damnable heresies, denying the Lord that bought them."

They are going to identify with Christ.

They are going to identify outwardly with the gospel and with Christianity, but inwardly they will teach damning heresies.

Jesus said, "It's coming."

Paul said, "It's coming."

Peter said, "It's coming."

They all saw it coming.

Where does Jude fit in?

Jude says, "It's here."

Jude describes it and defines it and calls us to the battle that has to stretch all the way to the end of the Church age. The Church can never stop fighting this battle.

Jude brings the biblical panorama to its necessary climax.

Jude 1:4, *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Jesus says, "False prophets will come."

Paul says, "False prophets will come."

Peter says, "False prophets will come."

Jude says, "They are here."

1 John 4:1, *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

John says that you are going to have to love the truth.

You are going to have to battle for the truth.

You are going to have to test the spirits, because spirits are going to come that are deceiving spirits.

They are going to lie.

Jude says,

- They are here.
- They have arrived.
- They are going to stretch all the way till the events of the book of Revelation.

That provokes the question on the mouth of the Lord.

Will He find faith when He comes?

Will there be any true believers left?

When we say, “Christianity,” what do you see in the big-name Christianity?

The dominant individuals, or the individuals that dominate Christianity.

You take Christianity as a term defining a religion, and most Christians are not Christians.

There is this small group of people willing to contend for the faith. We have been used to the fact that other evangelicals would join us in the battle. Now they're abandoning the battle and embracing the non-Christians and calling them Christians.

Jude is saying, they are here already.

They were here when he wrote, and they are here now.

Now they are worse than ever because evil men grow worse and worse.

The apostasy escalates!

The longer Christianity exists in the world, the more corrupt it gets on the inside. It's not the true Christianity, but it's the people who say they're a part of it.

Whether you are talking about the sacramental kind of religions of works that call themselves Christians.

Whether you are talking about the ugly, corrupting, damning influence of liberal theology.

Jude 1:3, *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

This is a book about apostasy.

Do you know that Jude mentions the fall of Satan?

Where the apostasy has its birth.

- Jude mentions Adam.
- Jude mentions Cain,
- Jude mentions Enoch,
- Jude mentions Sodom and Gomorrah,
- Jude mentions Balaam,
- Jude mentions Korah,
- Jude mentions Moses.

Jude is sweeping across the history of this spiritual war.

Christianity in our time is literally crammed full of pretenders who assault the truth. The waves of apostasy roll higher as you get closer to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Obviously, we are closer now than we have ever been.

2 Thessalonians 2:10, *and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

- An inadequate gospel doesn't save.
- Believing the wrong thing doesn't save.
- Believing the wrong thing about Jesus or the wrong thing about the means of salvation will not save.

- These people not only did not believe the truth, but they did also not receive the love of the truth.

They are haters of the truth who creep in unawares, who are like reefs hidden below the surface that create shipwreck in the Christian environment. They say they believe but they don't.

Jude was written probably a few years after 2 Peter. If you look at 2 Peter, you will see that most of 2 Peter is devoted to apostasy not all of it and to false teaching.

Some scholars feel that 2 Peter was written to a group of Christians. Jude was sort of the sequel written to the same group. The two books are very closely related.

Peter says, get ready, it's coming.

2 Peter 3:3, *knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,*

2 Peter 2:1, *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.*

Peter was writing probably 68 A.D., before the destruction of Jerusalem, most scholars feel, or he would have mentioned it. The Lord has been gone about 30 years. The churches have been planted.

Peter is saying, “The false teachers are going to come.

- They came in the past and they are going to come.
- They are going to secretly introduce destructive heresies. That’s what they always do.
- They infiltrate.
- They come in.
- They corrupt the seminaries.
- They corrupt the Christian institutions.
- They corrupt the literature.
- They get into the Church.
- They get into the media of the Church.
- They do whatever they can inside the Church to destroy the truth.

Many will follow their sensuality.

2 Peter 2:2-3, *And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.*

Truth is the issue.

They do it for greed.

Peter writing in about 68 or 69, says that they are going to come.

Jude, very close to that same period, after 2 Peter, perhaps just before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., writes to say, "They are here and they have arrived."

The Church needs to know that. We need to be aware of that. You cannot just accept everybody who says they are a Christian, or a Christian teacher, or a Christian theologian. Jude is not redundant.

It is not just a repetition of 2 Peter.

it is a fulfilment of 2 Peter.

The apostasy has begun, and it's going to go and grow until the Lord returns.

Jude 1:3, *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

When I contend for the truth, when I battle for the truth, when I fight for the truth, when I give my life for the sake of

the truth, and you do the same, we are doing what we have been commanded to do!

To earnestly contend for the truth. It's hard to find contenders. It really is today. Very hard.

Peter speaks of this in future tenses.

Jude speaks of it in present tenses.

But we are going to see parallels between Peter's prophetic words and Jude's words of fulfilment.

The best insight would tell us that Jude was written right after 2 Peter and right before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Now, this book has high value to us today.

Because the apostasy was so serious in Jude's day that he called for this kind of contending for the faith.

It is certainly more serious in our day because it's accumulated through all the centuries since that time. It has grown to massive proportions.

Jude would never even have conceived that you would have an apostate Christianity sweeping the world.

Jude 1:4, *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

They live lavish, sinful, lives and say it's under grace.

They deny our only master and Lord Jesus Christ.

They will not live under the dominating lordship of Christ.

2 Peter 2:10, *and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,*

2 Peter 2:12, *But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,*

2 Peter 2:18-19, *For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.¹⁹ While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.*

The first word of this epistle. "Jude."

In Hebrew that's Judah.

In Greek it's Judas.

Isn't it interesting that a book written on apostasy bears the same name as the all-time apostate?

The writer's name is Judas.

Do you know anybody named Judas?

God, in His wonderful grace, of course, has chosen a man that has the same name to write the epistle on apostasy, illustrated by the greatest apostate of all time – Judas.

This is a very different man. He is a bondservant of Jesus Christ. He is a slave to the Lord. He is also a brother of James. A brother of James.

There are several men named Jude or Judas or Judah in the New Testament.

Two of them are apostles.

There is Judas Iscariot and Judas not Iscariot.

There are others.

Acts 9:11, there was a Judas of Damascus.

There is Judas Barsabbas, **Acts 15**.

Judas Barsabbas was a leading man in the early church who, with Silas, carried the decision of the Jerusalem Council to Antioch.

So, there is Judas of Damascus, who helped Ananias find Saul after his conversion.

This Judas is the brother of James.

Who is James?

James is the brother of our Lord.

James is the Lord's half-brother.

That is to say Joseph and Mary were mother and father of the half-brothers – we call them that – of Jesus, because Joseph was not the father of Jesus. So, he was only a half-brother, being virgin born.

Matthew 13:55, *Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?*

So, we know this Judas who's the brother of James must then be the brother of the James who is the half-brother of our Lord.

Galatians 1:19, *But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.*

He is the head of the Jerusalem church.

What is so wonderful about this, is the fact that these brothers of Jesus didn't believe in Him.

In John chapter 7, it says they didn't believe in Him.

of course, we know later they believed in Him, after His resurrection.

Two of them, then, were used by the Spirit of God to write New Testament books.

- ✓ James writing the book of James,
- ✓ Jude writing the book of Jude.

Both of them critical to the revelation of God. James also became the head of the Jerusalem Council, as we well know.

How do you know this isn't Judas Iscariot, but maybe Judas not Iscariot?

Jude 1:17, *But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

He distinguishes himself from the apostles.

So, he's not an apostle, so he wouldn't be the Jude who is one of the apostles.

He is rather not an apostle, and the brother of James, who is not designated as an apostle either. Therefore, we conclude he is the brother of the James who is the half-brother of the Lord Himself.

Somebody might say, "why doesn't he say, 'Jude, a brother of Jesus Christ.' Why does he say a bondservant?"

Because Jesus Christ went from being whatever he was on a human level to being what he was on a divine level, and that is the Lord and Master of these men.

Jude views Jesus Christ not in some familial way, but as His Lord and Master.

From a human standpoint, he is the brother of James, but from a divine standpoint, he doesn't say he is the brother or half-brother of Jesus Christ. Rather he's the bond slave of Christ.

He who did not believe came to believe by the overwhelming testimony of the resurrection.

The Lord chooses this remarkable man to write this account of apostasy.

Any time anybody goes to war, there is always the fear that you might die.

So, Jude begins and ends with the fact that you cannot be a casualty in this war.

Jude 1:2, *Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.*

How does Jude end it?

Jude 1:24-25, *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵To God our Saviour, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.*

You are the called, you are the kept, and you are the beloved. The Lord has committed Himself to keep you from stumbling and make sure when the battle is over. You will be standing in the presence of His glory, blameless, with great joy.