

Jude

Q— “What is the chief end of man?”
A— “The chief end of man is to glorify
God and to enjoy Him forever.”

- The Westminster Shorter Catechism

The Mercy & Judgement of God

“The Power & Glory of God”

Introduction

- While many letters of the NT conclude with benedictions, Jude decides to conclude with a doxology. These final words serve to focus the attention of the churches on the power and glory of God.

Given the serious tone of the letter, Jude’s conclusion is intended to _____ and _____ the churches.

Jude’s Doxology—Jude 24-25

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

The Acknowledgment of God’s Power (v. 24)

- Jude’s doxology begins with a recognition of the power of God to both ‘keep’ and to ‘present’ believers. These two terms are used by Jude in light of the overall tone of warning in the letter. Believers must not become fearful and overwhelmed by the threat of false teaching but must be reminded of the power and glory of God.

“to keep”—**φυλάσσω (phylassō)**—To keep watch or guard so that one will remain safe.

The imagery is of God’s active _____ of the believer.

- * Jude’s use of this term serves to form an inclusio with v. 1 to emphasize the watchful care of God over His people.

Jude 1—...To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ

Jude 24—Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling...

What are they kept from?

“stumbling”—**ἄπταιστος (aptaistos)**—Not stumbling; standing firm. Used metaphorically here by Jude.

- * This term is used in the NT only by Jude. In light of the warnings within the letter it is in all likelihood used figuratively to refer to falling away into immorality and apostasy.

“to present”—**ἵστημι (histēmi)**—Literally, ‘to cause you to stand.’ To cause to be in a place or position, set, place, bring, allow to come.

Where are they presented?

“before the presence of his glory”—**κατενώπιον (katenōpion)**— A marker of a position relative to someone who is viewed as having jurisdiction, whether visibly present or not, before,

- * This is a reference to the presence of believers at The Judgment seat of Christ.

The imagery is of the believer being presented as a completed _____ that is worthy of admiration.

In what condition are they presented?

“blameless” →

“with great joy” →

Observations: 1. Believers are ‘kept’ by God during this life from...

2. Believers will be ‘presented’ before God in the next life as...

The Ascribing of Glory to God (v. 25)

- Having spoken of the power of God, he now responds with a worshipful recognition of His glory.

“to the only God, our Savior”

- * In terms of the structure of the passage, this title refers back to the ‘him’ of v. 25. This is interesting title given that it is Christ who is usually referred to throughout the NT as ‘Savior’. However, the title of ‘Savior’ is ascribed to THE LORD in numerous places throughout the OT:

Isa. 43:3a—For I am THE LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Isa. 45:21b—And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

Isa. 60:16b—...and you shall know that I, THE LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

Jude’s goal is probably to emphasize that the works of God are not _____.

“through Jesus Christ our Lord”

This phrase emphasizes the position of Jesus as the _____ between God and mankind.

- (1) It is *through* Christ that God makes Himself most clearly _____ to mankind.

Heb. 3:1a— He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Heb. 1:15— He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

- (2) It is *through* Christ that mankind is reconciled to God and enabled to _____ Him.

Eph. 2:18— For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

What things are ascribed to God?

Glory →

Majesty →

Dominion →

Authority →

- * God has always possessed these attributes, but He most clearly demonstrates them to mankind through Christ.

Collectively, these attributes recognize the _____ of God over all of His creation.

“before all time and now and forever”

- * This phrase emphasizes that the Kingdom of God (the sphere of His sovereign rule) will have no end.

“Amen”—ἀμήν (*amēn*)—A strong affirmation of what has been stated. “Verily.” “Let it be so.” “Truly.”

This signifies Jude’s own _____ in the things which he has proclaimed to the churches.

The Nature & Purpose of Worship

1. **Worship is the proper _____ of the one who has truly encountered God through Christ.**

Phil. 2:10—so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth...

2. **Worship dramatically alters the _____ of the worshiper.**

Rom. 12:1-2—I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3. **All worship in this life is an act of _____.**

Rev. 22:4-5—⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.