

The Mercy & Judgement of God

Introduction

- The writings of the NT bear the authority of God because they are inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit does not, however, remove the personality of the human authors and it is therefore important to consider their biography in order to better understand the points of emphasis within their writings.

Within his letter, Jude focuses on the lordship of Jesus Christ as he writes to warn the recipients of the letter of the dangers of false gospels and false teachers which have become a threat to their faith.

Jude's Life & Ministry

Although we do not know as much about the biography of Jude as we do with other NT authors such as Paul or Peter, we know enough to be able to appreciate the ways that Jude's own life experiences impacted what he wrote.

1. Jude was Jesus' _____

Mark 6:3—Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they took offense at him..

Matt. 13:55-56—⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?
⁵⁶And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

2. He did not _____ in Jesus during the time of His earthly ministry.

John 7:2-5—²Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. ³So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. ⁴For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵For not even his brothers believed in him.

Mark 3:20-21—²⁰Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

3. He seems to have come to faith following Jesus' _____.

Acts 2:14—All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

4. He seems to have had a position of prominent _____ in the early church, probably as a traveling missionary and evangelist.

"While James assumed pre-eminent leadership at the centre of the Christian movement, the other brothers of Jesus worked as travelling missionaries. We know this from an incidental, but revealing, reference to them by Paul. In 1 Corinthians 9 Paul maintains that, although he has waived his right as an apostle to be supported by his converts at Corinth, he has this right, just as much as the other apostles do...Such a reference [must be] to people Paul assumes to be very well known..."
—Richard Bauckham, Jude and the Relatives of Jesus in the Early Church

1 Cor. 9:5—Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

⇒ *Jude's letter was in all likelihood written to a collection of _____ which he had helped to plant through his evangelistic efforts over the course of his missionary travels.*

The Themes of Jude's Letter

1. The _____ of Jesus Christ

- The position of Jesus as Lord is referenced directly on four occasions within the letter (Jude 4, 17, 21, 25) and by way of implication two other times (Jude 1, 5).

⇒ *Because He is Lord, Jesus has the authority to _____ sin.*

Jude 5—Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

⇒ *Because He is Lord, He has made it possible for _____ to be extended to sinners.*

Jude 2—May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Jude 24b—...to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy...

⇒ *Because He is Lord, He has the power to _____ His people from all that threatens them.*

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

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

The relationship to Jude's testimony:

2. The importance of _____ for the faith.

- The majority of the letter is focused on warning the churches about false teaching and exhorting them to actively contend against it within their midst.

⇒ *Believers must know the _____ in order to identify false teaching and false teachers.*

The writings of the NT: Jude 17—But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The writings of the OT: Jude 11—Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.

⇒ *Believers must _____ together.*

Jude 20-21—²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

⇒ *Believers must _____ for one another.*

Jude 22-23—²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

The relationship to Jude's testimony:

Questions for Consideration

1. Who is Jesus to you?

⇒ *Do I know Him as _____?*

⇒ *To what degree do I recognize Him as _____?*

2. Are we contending for the faith?

⇒ *Am I gathering regularly with His _____?*

⇒ *Am I having my thinking transformed by His _____?*

⇒ *Who is the Lord calling me to _____?*