

# Jude 01: Called and Kept in Christ

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Jude 1

# Prologue:

## Who was Jude?

- ▶ Jude is not the actual name in the Greek; it is Ἰουδᾶς, loudas or Yoda
  - ▶ This Hebrew name means, “he {God} shall be praised” (Ph 2:9-10)
  - ▶ It appears to be a common name making specific identification nearly impossible
  - ▶ Judas, Ish {Man} of Kerioth {region} was the betrayer apostle who reveled Jesus to the Romans and via the stauros, Christ’s name was praised above all names
- ▶ It is impossible to specify which Judas is the writer
  - ▶ Christ had a half-brother named Judas and a brother James {Jacob} (Mk 6:3)
- ▶ Writer bases his authority not on any earthly relationship to Jesus but on his spiritual relationship
  - ▶ He is a slave to Christ the risen Savior as are all who are saved (Ro 6:17-18)
  - ▶ He is co-equal to every other believer who lived, lives and will lives

# Prologue:

## When did he write?

- ▶ Ancient writers were not detailed oriented as Western minds would have liked
  - ▶ There is nothing in the epistle detailing exactly when it was written
  - ▶ It is generally accepted to be written sometime during the latter half of the first century
  - ▶ Several of the early church writers agree with this and claim the writer is Jesus' half brother; however, appeal to authority is not proof of fact
- ▶ The time period is not an essential element validating its contents
  - ▶ Writer bases his text on God's calling based on the finished work of Christ (Ep 1:3-14)
  - ▶ It is not the work of people but the will of God that determines truth (Ro 9:10-16)
- ▶ Conflicting tension: Grace of God to those called cf. sinfulness of those who work to show themselves *approved*; i.e., Lost

# Addressed to ALL Christians

## Saved in Christ: Called then Kept

- ▶ The *called*, κλητός, klētos, have heard the voice of God calling them to be **saved** (Jn 3:16-21; 1Th 4:16-18; Re 4:1)
  - ▶ While election is the process, calling is the verb by which one is saved
  - ▶ Illustrated by Paul's *calling*, salvation experience, hyperbolized for emphasis (Ac 9:1-6)
  - ▶ No one comes to salvation unless the Father *calls* them to Christ (Jn 6:44)
  - ▶ Therefore, **every** believer is equal; slave or totally dependent on Christ (Ga 3:23-29)
- ▶ But it is not enough to be called, one's faith must also be guarded {kept}
  - ▶ Father guards those He saves, *keeping* them in the faith; i.e., preventing them from *falling away* (Is 53:6; Mk 6:34; Jn 10:25-30)
  - ▶ Even learning or maturing in the faith is apart from works; it is the Spirit teaching one through the Scriptures (Jn 14:15-24; 16:5-15; 1Co 2:14)

# Believers Can Resist Spiritual Growth

- ▶ God uses the Hagiazo Process to mature believers; without the Spirit we reveal our weakness {sinfulness} (Ro 5:3-5; Ja 1:2-8)
  - ▶ Believers who *take charge* in their own power, understanding, fail through the weakness {asthenia} of the flesh (Ro 7:11-14; 8:5-10; Ja 1:13-15)
  - ▶ They remain immature, not understanding spiritual; they need to learn the foundation to practice of discernment, knowing good from evil (Ge 3:5; He 5:11-14)
  - ▶ Immature quench or resist the Spirit leaving themselves defenseless (Ac 7:51; 1Th 5:19)
  - ▶ The mature rest in Christ understanding that in themselves no good thing dwells; flesh **never** changes (Ro 7:18; 2Co 12:7-10)
- ▶ Paul reminds us majority of Jews, though called of God outwardly in the flesh, sought to live by works {flesh}; failed to obtain salvation (Ro 9:25-33)
  - ▶ Christians warned to not commit the same error; a remnant to be saved: Unheeded (Ro 11:3-10, 17-24)

# Problem: Saved by Grace, Live, and Fall, by Works

- ▶ Christian history is replete with failing to remain in grace (Ga 3:1-9)
  - ▶ We, remaining in fleshly bodies, see God's truth as through an enigma (1Co 13:12)
  - ▶ It is through the pride of life that Satan introduces error into our belief system wooing us away from the narrow path onto the broad path (Ps 23; 1Jo 2:15-17)
- ▶ Jude urgently warns readers of Satan's scheme to pervert Gospel message: Lost are blinded seeking to lead immature astray (Ep 4:11-14)
  - ▶ Satan's methodology has not changed; only the labels (Ec 1:9-11)
  - ▶ Christians claim humility but oft walk in pride making them susceptible to Satan's methodologies (Ep 6:10-18)
    - ▶ Jude's revelation is as timely NOW as when first written as the various methodologies {schemes} of Satan come together: Christ *speaks* to us through His word empowered by the Spirit proving these are indeed the Last Days (He 1:2)