

JUDE NLET

THE WRITER OF THIS LETTER

1 From:

Jude,

- a slave of Jesus *the* Anointed, and
- a brother of Jacob.

THE ADDRESSEES

To:

- the ones who have been lastingly set apart for God and His purposes¹ in connection with God – *that is*, Father, and
- ones of Jesus,
- ones who have been lastingly kept by an anointed One,
- called ones.

GREETING

- 2 Mercy to you, and
 - peace, and
 - love
- be multiplied!

JUDE URGES THE CALLED ONES

TO CONTEND FOR THE FAITH AGAINST UNGODLY PEOPLE

3 Beloved ones, being one who is making every effort to write to you concerning the shared salvation², I felt constraint to write to you, being one who keeps on encouraging *you* to contend for the Faith – *that is*, the *Faith* which had been handed over to the Holy Ones.

4 For, certain people have slipped in –

- the ones about whom long ago it had been lastingly written in regard to this – *that is*, the Judgment,
- ungodly ones,
- the ones who keep on exchanging the Grace of

the God *Who* is ours for licentiousness and keep on being ones who are denying the only Absolute Ruler – *that is*, God and YaHWeH³ *Who* is ours – namely, Jesus *the* Anointed.

JUDE COMPARES THE UNGODLY

TO THE REBELLIOUS, ANCIENT JEWS,

THE REBELLIOUS ANGELS, AND SODOM AND GOMORRAH

5 Now, I keep on wishing to put in your minds, you having lastingly at one time known this: that the Lord⁴, having saved people from *the* land of Egypt, subsequently utterly destroyed the ones who did not believe.

6 And, angels – *that is*, the ones who did not keep the office *that was* their own but rather, having abandoned the dwelling place *that was* their own, they were lastingly kept with everlasting bands under nether darkness for judgment on a great day.

7 As Sodom and Gomorra and the cities surrounding them, having indulged in fornication and having gone away after flesh – *that is*, other than should be, they lie exposed as an example of fire – *that is*, eternal fire, a judgment.

JUDE FURTHER DESCRIBES THE UNGODLY

8 Yet, similarly, also these – ones who are dreaming – are, on the one hand, defiling flesh. On the other hand, they are a dominion. On yet another hand, they are blaspheming a glorious thing.

JUDE INTIMATES HOW TO DEAL WITH SUCH PEOPLE

9 Now, the Michael – the Archangel, when being one who was bringing an issue concerning the body of Moses to a decision, did not dare to charge *him* with blasphemy. Rather, he said, “May YaHWeH⁵ lay a penalty upon *you*.”

JUDE FURTHER DESCRIBES THE UNGODLY

10 Now, these, on the one hand, blaspheme such things as they do not know. On the other hand, as the

¹ 90.8% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘the ones who have been lastingly set apart for God and His purposes’ (i.e. ‘the Saints’) here instead ‘the ones who have been lastingly loved’.

² 85.2% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the possessive pronoun which would be translated ‘that is ours’ here. On the basis of 10.6% the NU includes it.

³ ‘YaHWeH’ – The Greek has the word ‘Lord’ (Κύριον) without a definite article here. Jude and other New Testament writers often use this unarticulated word to indicate a reference to YaHWeH, the eternally existing God of the Old Testament. This is especially clear in New Testament quotations from the Old Testament where

the name YaHWeH appears.

⁴ 79.4% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘at one time ... this: that the Lord’ here. On the basis of 3% the NU has ‘that the Lord at one time’.

⁵ ‘YaHWeH’ – The Greek has the word ‘Lord’ (Κύριον) without a definite article here. Jude and other New Testament writers often use this unarticulated word to indicate a reference to YaHWeH, the eternally existing God of the Old Testament. This is especially clear in New Testament quotations from the Old Testament where the name YaHWeH appears.

unreasoning animals, by instinct they are able to know such things. In connection with these *things* they keep on being destroyed.

JUDE PRONOUNCES WOE ON SUCH PEOPLE

11 Woe to these! Because, they have traveled the Road of the *famous* Cain⁶!

And, by the Going Astray for the Wage⁷ of the *famous* Balaam they have been poured out⁸!

And, by the Quarrel of the *famous* Korah they have perished utterly!⁹

JUDE FURTHER DESCRIBES THE UNGODLY

12 These – *that is*,¹⁰ ones who are feasting together with *you* – are rocks over which the sea dashes in the love *feasts*. *They are* –

- without fear;
- ones who are shepherding themselves;
- clouds without water, *that is*, clouds being carried along by winds;
- autumnal trees
 - without fruit,
 - having died twice,
 - having been uprooted;
- 13 wild waves of a sea, casting up the shame that is their own as foam;
- wandering stars,
- *ones* for whom the nether darkness into eternity has been lastingly kept!

JUDE CITES

WHAT ENOCH PROPHESED ABOUT THE UNGODLY

14 Now, the seventh generation from Adam, Enoch prophesied also to these, saying, “Behold, YaHWeH¹¹ came amongst a holy myriad *that was* His

- 15 to execute judgment concerning all, and
- to put all the ungodly to shame on account of all the deeds of ungodliness *that were* theirs, of whom they acted in an ungodly way even in reference to all *things* – *namely*, the harsh *things* – which morally failing ones *and* ungodly ones spoke against Him.”

⁶ Cf. Genesis 4:14

⁷ Cf. Numbers 22:16-17, 40

⁸ Cf. Numbers 31:8b

⁹ Cf. Numbers 16:1-33

¹⁰ 85.4% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article ‘the’ here *it*.

¹¹ ‘YaHWeH’ – The Greek has the word ‘Lord’ (Κύριον) without a definite article here. Jude and other New Testament writers often

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JUDE FURTHER DESCRIBES THE UNGODLY

16 These are:

- grumblers,
- fault-finding *ones*
- ones who are going about in accord with the lusts *that are* their own¹².

And, the mouth *that is* theirs keeps on speaking exceedingly great *things*, marveling at faces, for the sake of profit.

JUDE REMINDS THE BELOVED ONES

WHAT THE APOSTLES SAID ABOUT THE UNGODLY

17 Now, you, *for your parts*, beloved *ones*, be reminded of the Utterances of the things which had been lastingly foretold by the Apostles of the Lord *Who is* ours – *namely*, Jesus *the* Anointed, 18 that they were saying, “In *the* course of a last time *period*¹³ deceivers shall be in accord with the lusts *that are* their own, *being* ones who are moving toward ungodly *practices*.

JUDE FURTHER DESCRIBES THE UNGODLY

19 These are –

- ones who keep ones on marking *people* off by dividing *them*,
- psychic *ones only*,
- ones who do not have a spirit.

JUDE EXHORTS THE BELOVED ONES

HOW TO LIVE AMONG THE UNGODLY

20 Now, you, *for your parts*, beloved *ones*,

- being ones who keep on building yourselves up by the holy *thing that is* yours – *that is*, by faith,
- being ones who keep on praying in connection with a spirit – *that is*, with a holy *one*,

21 keep yourselves in connection with a love of God, being ones who keep on receiving the Mercy of the Lord *who is* ours – *namely*, Jesus *the* Anointed to end in life – *that is*, eternal *life*.

22 And, on the one hand, keep on being merciful to some, being ones who are making a distinction.

23 On the other hand, keep on saving some, being

use this unarticulated word to indicate a reference to YaHWeH, the eternally existing God of the Old Testament. This is especially clear in New Testament quotations from the Old Testament where the name YaHWeH appears.

¹² 49.4% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘their own’ here instead ‘theirs’.

¹³ 80.1% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘In the course of a last time *period*’ here. On the basis of 1.4% the NU has ‘In the last time’.

ones who are snatching *them* from fire,¹⁴ being ones who keep on hating even the inner garment having been lastingly soiled from the flesh.

JUDE PRAISES GOD

24 Now,

- to the One who is able to guard them¹⁵ from stumbling and to make *them* to stand blameless right opposite the Glory *that is* His with great joy
- to the only, wise¹⁶ God,
- to a savior¹⁷ Who is ours

be

- glory, and¹⁸
- majesty,
- sovereignty¹⁹, and
- authority

both now and into all the ages!

JUDE CONCLUDES WITH AN AFFIRMATION OF VERITY

FOR ALL THAT HE HAS WRITTEN IN THIS LETTER

Amen!

CONCERNING THE CITATION OF f35 IN THE FOOTNOTES

¹⁴ Verses 22 and 23 have given all sorts of exercise to commentators (and to copyists who produced Greek manuscripts, before them). Considering the violent description that Jude gives to the godless who have sneaked into the church, he presumably intends that such be identified and excluded without ceremony. So I take it that verses 22 and 23 refer to people in the church who have been influenced by those godless ones, in varying degrees. Some who are still wavering need to be treated with mercy, not harshly (vs. 22). Others have pretty well sold out to the values of the godless and are almost to the point of no return—it will take energetic, if not desperate, action to snatch them from the jaws of hell (vs. 23).

¹⁵ 67.6% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'them' here instead 'you' (plural).

The citation of f35 (that is, Family 35 – a set of manuscripts which clearly and thoroughly have unified characteristics) in the footnotes of Jude's letter is based on forty-six manuscripts.

These manuscripts are identified by the following numbers: 18, 35, 141, 149, 201, 204, 328, 386, 394, 432, 444, 604, 664, 757, 824, 928, 986, 1072, 1075, 1100, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1503, 1548, 1628, 1637, 1725, 1732, 1754, 1761, 1768, 1855, 1864, 1865, 1876, 1892, 1897, 2221, 2352, 2431, 2466, 2554, 2587, 2626, and 2723.

Dr. Wilbur Pickering collated all of these manuscripts himself.

There are many more manuscripts which ought to be collated. Nonetheless, these forty-six manuscripts represent a significant sample of the existing manuscripts.

141, 204, 386, 824, 928, 1072, 1075, 1100, 1637, 1855, 1864, 2221, 2554, and 2723 are PERFECT representatives of f35 in Jude's letter just as they are! The exemplars (that is, the manuscript from which another manuscript was copied) of another fourteen manuscripts were also perfect.

For all of these manuscripts to have no variants after so many centuries of transmission is surely an eloquent demonstration of the faithfulness and accuracy of the transmission,

These manuscripts come from all over the Mediterranean world – Sinai, Jerusalem, Patmos, Constantinople, Bucharest, Aegean, Trikala, Athens, Mt. Athos (nine different monasteries!), Meteora, Sparta, Ochrida, etc.

They are certainly representative of the family, giving us the precise family profile for this letter. The family profile of f35 is reflected in the text of Jude's letter in these manuscripts without exception!

¹⁶ 92% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the adjective 'wise' here.

¹⁷ 78.4% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the words 'through Jesus the Anointed, the Lord who is ours' here it.

¹⁸ 88% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the conjunction 'and' here.

¹⁹ 78.4% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the words 'before all the Age' here it.