

THE LETTER OF JUDE

¹Jude, slave of Jesus Christ and brother of James;

To the people of God, beloved in God the Father and kept safe in Jesus Christ;

²May mercy be yours in plenty and peace and love.

³I was anxious to write to you concerning our common salvation, but I am forced to write urging you to defend the faith that has been once for all delivered to God's people. ⁴For certain persons have secretly crept in, ungodly men, long ago marked down for this condemnation, who turn the grace of our God into shameless immorality, and disown our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

⁵I wish to remind you, though you have learnt it all once for all, that the Lord, who brought the people safely out of Egypt, afterwards destroyed those that did not believe; ⁶and the angels that did not remain in their own high office, but left their proper dwelling-place, are kept by him in the lower darkness in everlasting chains, until the judgement of the great day. ⁷In the same way Sodom and Gomorrah and the towns near them, which gave themselves up to fornication and unnatural vice, serve as an example, since they are being punished in everlasting fire.

⁸Yet these men in this same way in their dreaming pollute their flesh, revolt against authority and abuse the shining ones. ⁹Now even the archangel Michael, in his dispute with the devil concerning the body of Moses, did not dare to condemn him with abuse, but said, The Lord rebuke you. ¹⁰But these men speak abusively of everything they do not understand; and what they know by the light of nature, like beasts without reason—by these things they are destroyed. ¹¹Alas for them! They go the

way of Cain; they throw themselves for gain into Balaam's error; they are lost in Korah's rebellion. ¹²These are the spots in your love-feasts, eating and drinking together, feeding themselves without fear; clouds without rain, carried along by the wind, trees without fruit even in autumn, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; ¹³wild waves of the sea, throwing up to the surface their own shameful desires; wandering stars for whom the lower darkness has been kept for ever and ever.

¹⁴It was of these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, when he said,

See, the Lord comes with all the thousands of his holy ones,

¹⁵To do judgement upon all,

And to condemn the ungodly,

For all the ungodly deeds that they have done,

And all the hard words that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

¹⁶For these men are grumblers, discontented, following their own lusts; their mouth is full of swelling words; and they *flatter men for their own advantage.

¹⁷But you, beloved, must remember the words spoken by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; ¹⁸for they tell you,

In the last time there will be mockers

Who follow their own ungodly lusts.

¹⁹These are the men that set up divisions, living an animal life, not possessing the Spirit. ²⁰But you, beloved, must build yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹and keeping yourselves safe in the love of God, and waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, which will bring you to life everlasting.

²²* Have pity on some that doubt; ²³seize some and save them from the fire; on some have pity with fear, hating even the clothing which the flesh has stained.*

²⁴Now to him that is able to keep you from falling, and to set you faultless in the presence of his glory with rejoicing; ²⁵to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory and majesty, might and authority, before all time, and now, and for ever. Amen.