

The Church in Christ
understanding
The Letter of
JUDE



An introduction of the Apostle JUDE

Jude was a senior Pastor in the Jerusalem Church, he served in this position with his brother James. Both he and James were half brothers of The Lord Jesus Christ. There were five brothers (including the Lord) Jesus, James, Joseph, Simon, and Jude, they also had sisters but the Bible does not allude to how many in total. Jude is spoken of in [Math 13:55](#) and [Mark 6:3](#) plus we have this Epistle written by him, all in all Scripture is silent regarding him but this silence does tell us something. [John 7:5](#) for neither did his brethren believe in Him. This is speaking of Jesus' half brothers and sisters! So what was it they did not believe? That their half brother was indeed the Messiah, Jesus was and is perfect, He did not have the nature of sinfulness in Him as His family on earth did, Jude was raised with Jesus and as the rest of his family was blinded from the Truth. One thing we do know is the sin nature will always fight against Righteousness, this tells us that The Lord's siblings would oppose Him throughout His life on earth. This Scripture does tell us Jude does not call himself an Apostle but a servant, a slave of The Lord Jesus Christ, the word 'servant' in the Greek is 'doulos' and means a bond slave. As Jude and James did not believe their Brother was The Christ one may not be amiss thinking this is the reason the brothers did not call themselves Apostles? Many commentaries imply this! James was better known it seems in the surrounding regions so Jude introduces himself as the brother of James...and Paul called James in [Gal 1:19...the brother of The Lord!](#) Plus we see such ear marking in [Acts 1:14](#) and [1 Cor 9:5](#), hence Jude did not state from a place of pride he was Jesus' brother due to his past unbelief but the fact that he was the brother of James placed him into the physical family of The Lord which I would think demanded a hearing from Christ' followers regardless of his past failure. It is quite possible this Epistle was written just after the death of James which shows great courage and the true character of Jude. James, it is believed was put to death on the Passover and this letter is thought to have been written some short time after his death. According to Ecclesiastical History, the scribes and pharisees threw James off from the pinnacle of the temple from which he survived and was able to miraculously raise to his knees and ask The Lord to forgive them. The book of Jude is very similar in it's wordings and warnings as [2nd Peter Ch 2](#), due to this I believe the Church should take a very close look at these writings. Jude did not copy Peter or the other way around as some commentaries claim, and God does not repeat Himself unless it is very important! In both [2nd Peter Ch 2](#) and [Jude](#) we are directed towards false prophets and doctrines, both of which are being felt in the Church today. The Holy Spirit through Jude has repeated these warnings which is not an uncommon act of The Lord, so the question should not be as to why He has done so ('for this is obvious 'liars are in the Church') but rather the question should be, how do we more perfectly heed His warnings. Most commentaries spend verse after verse writing on the "why" due to the similarities of these two writings and thus miss the real purpose for the Holy Spirit's repeated warning, others place greater interest on the "was 2 Peter written before or after Jude"? Who cares I say, the point is the whole Bible is given by The Holy Spirit, not by man, so we need to take heed! Paul, Peter, John, James, and Jude along with others have spoken without self-concern regarding false doctrine. They warned others in their day and through the Scriptures warn us today as to the dangerous deceptions of false doctrines. If we are to be preachers we must therefore be watchmen and stand proper in The Lord [Ezek 3:18](#) When I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. Very serious warning!!!

The Epistle of Jude

1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called

First up we are servants of Christ, family members in His Kingdom, sanctified by The Father, and preserved In Christ..this is our position...called...called of God our Faithful Saviour. He is not calling us rather we have been called, which means we have heard the shout to come in from the darkness...we have acted on His Spirits calling, we are a separated people as long as we remain in the position He has placed us in! Jude points out the Saints are preserved In Christ! The idea there is it is The Grace of God which keeps us, and if it were not for The Grace of God, we simply could not be kept i.e. 'pre-served'. The dictionary definition of preserved is "to keep alive or in existence; make lasting: to preserve our liberties as free citizens". So our position is In Christ and In Him we must remain...This is where He has placed us, buried In Him and raised up by Him. God has one prescribed order of victory and only one, if the believer does not attend to that order then he/she **Gal 2:21 frustrates the Grace of God** which will end in disaster. God's prescribed order is "Jesus Christ 'AND' Him Crucified" And to this end obedience is demanded by The Lord.

1:2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Mercy... is a product of Grace, God before the world was formed Chose Grace as the way to deal with man through the Work of The Cross. Mercy always follows Grace except for in this one case: God so Loved the world that He sent His Son, this speaks of the Fathers Mercy and the Son going to the Cross speaks of the Grace offered by the Son, therefore Grace presented before Mercy. **1:2...Peace** in the Greek is "**Eirene**" and means 'to join' Therefore this means to make peace there must be a joining of that which was separated. We cannot have peace until we come together understanding what brokenness and failure is without offering our self righteous destructive judgment. Every Saint has Justifying Peace which comes with the 'born again experience' but that is where it stops. What Jude is writing about is "Sanctifying Peace" and this is an on going development within a believer that produces higher levels of understanding the truth whilst delivering Christ's Power and tranquillity continually **1 Cor 2:4-5 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of The Spirit and of Power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.** Meaning these people were being changed inwardly by This Power, and they could not deny it. However it must be said this Sanctifying Peace does not reflect an absence of problems, but it does produce peace despite the problems. It offers one a sense of well-being, of total security, that which is impossible to receive under normal human driven conditions. Once again one can not understand the Power of what Jesus did at the Cross whilst living in religious judgment and such a person will not be walking in this Sanctifying Peace. **1:2...Love** This is the God kind of Love, this is a steadfast undying unending Love, **Song of Sol 8:6-7** states **Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one's house for love, it would be utterly scorned.** Love is powerful and it did not start with man but with God and in fact is God. **1:2...be multiplied** Jude wrote unto you! All this will be multiplied as you remain In His Truth. We need to hold firm to this Truth, Mercy, Peace, and Love can and will be added unto us...multiplied...greater than we have ever experienced...think of that!

1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common Salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for The Faith which was once delivered unto the Saints.

Jude was given by God the desire to write and within this desire considered writing about the Salvation process, however it was The Holy Spirit who led Jude to the place of desire to write a letter and it was the same Spirit that latter gave Jude the correct direction for the letter...it was no longer the thought to write a letter about the common Salvation but a clear directive on what to write. The Holy Spirit leads and in His leading gives direction, this is a lesson I for sure needed to learn and in fact will continue to learn through out my earthly life. One will receive the desire then the way in which to fulfil it. The Holy Spirit moved Jude from his original thought replacing it with a stronger desire...He used the word 'needful' a necessity was laid upon him by The Spirit. If we do not oppose error then we cannot stand strong in the defence of The Truth. There are doctrines of devils that we must contend with, seducing spirits that work through the flesh of man, these demons are tricky, they hide the deceit masterfully and the only way to recognize them is by the Power of The Holy Spirit, which means keeping your Faith in Jesus and what He has done at The Cross. Many Christians receive gladly the words spoken but yet fail to hear what was being said, spiritual laziness. Jude went on to write and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for The Faith which was once delivered unto the Saints. This faith Jude speaks of here is that of Christianity itself which means the historic Doctrines which all point directly towards the life giving Work of Jesus Christ, which offers Salvation...in short Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. All Doctrines come from the Work of Jesus on the Cross! We have 'The Faith' and 'a faith' that is exercised by individuals. I can have faith all day long in my so-called good confession, my understanding of the Scriptures, but God will not recognize such 'faith' as it is in fact a 'faith' designed around self works...Rom 8:8 So then those that are in the flesh cannot please God. Many Christians are fooled by thinking the quotation of Scripture and living a so called sinless life equals God's great pleasure, this is majorly wrong, doing such does not constitute faith. While living a holy life and quoting Scripture is certainly and clearly right such should never be the object of our faith...what I mean is sitting at home and deciding to remember such and such a Scripture as God will move by His Spirit due to 'my command of the Scriptures' is wrong. Every promise in the Bible is made possible **only by what Jesus did at The Cross** God cannot even look on man but through the Work of The Cross...Billions of Catholics quote accurate KJ Scripture every day but not one will be heard by God unless they are 'In Christ Jesus'. Phil. 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to His Riches in Glory In Christ Jesus. We receive everything in and through Jesus Christ... everything! Mt 6:33 But seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Once again...Jesus is The Righteousness spoken of here, it is through Him we receive everything, everything. Jude used the word 'earnestly' ...earnestly contend for The Faith...The Greek work used here for earnestly is used only once in the NT. The word speaks of a vigorous, Intense, determined struggle to defeat the opposition. In fact the English word 'agony' is the spelling of the noun from this word. These people who have creep into the Church are going to fight for their rule, driven by their religious spirit or the demons that fill them and we must wage the war of Righteousness against them so the Church will not falter and they may "if it be possible enter into His Holiness". By Jude stating which was once delivered unto the Saints simple means 'It is finished' there is nothing to add or to take away...Jesus has done it all...we have received the Gift for The Spirit has delivered It...so remain In Him! Jesus said in layman terms "If you believe Me, I can do it"!!! How do you believe...'by faith'...how do you activate faith in what He has promised?...by keeping your eyes on Him and not the promise, problem, desire, or what

ever it may be... Believe on Him, what He has done and He shall add all things unto you...remain in "The Faith" as It brings rejoicing when you think about Who Jesus is and what He has done...and why He did it! He Loves us with the greatest Love...Hallelujah.

The Epistle of Jude

1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning The Grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The words 'crept in' in the Greek means "to enter alongside, to come in by a side door, to slip in" and the term 'unawares' indicates these particular people profess to know the truth and to teach it under our watch! In fact they speak damnable heresies (see 2 Peter 2:1). 2 Cor 11:13-15 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve. These people will receive their just reward. These people have been transformed from the outside only by their father the devil, just as he took on an outward light of an angel but in truth he as they have nothing but darkness and deadness within. These people use Evangelical terms such as salvation, atonement, resurrection, they speak of the cross, His sacrifice, they bless the lords table, offer peace, grace...and so on, they cry out "praise Jesus" and shed tears for all to see...but this is all done from a false and religious stance so others will behold them as 'strong believers'. Jude wrote **who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men**, This tells us that any effort to counteract "The Faith" will ultimately be met with sever condemnation, these people try with cunning deceitfulness to move the Work of Jesus on The Cross to the side and replace it with counterfeits to gain 'another salvation', what I mean by that is misuse the written word to weaken and steal believers Faith i.e. the lord's table, prayer, bible readings, baptisms and so on used incorrectly! **turning The Grace of our God into lasciviousness** These people have turned that which is Holy, Perfect and Just into an evil by their own desires. They use God's Grace without care or belief, meaning they portray outwardly all the aptitudes that Christianity holds and reveals but like a cancer determines to inflict all about them with deep hidden deceptive lies. **And denying the Only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ**. This is how they are within their own hearts although they themselves may very well not think so as they are themselves completely deceived. The word deny in the Greek means to disown to refuse or acknowledge as one's own, to cast off. This they do by turning away from The Faith and replacing it with works which leads to death, in short eventually they will or have already rejected God's Son...how horrid. Through pride and a lack of understanding they misread and incorrectly present with deceitful cunning God's word! What does denying God's Son look like? Doing all the things that Jesus said are finished. The world, satan, sin, law of Moses and the list goes on have all been dealt with by the Lord, however this does not mean they have been removed but rather a believer must view them from being In Christ.

1:5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having Saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

We are being reminded! Of that which we 'ONCE' knew! Why are we being reminded? It fits Revelations warning does it not?...return to your first love..do not forget from where and how you were Saved! Continue in that which you know is right! I therefore remind you Jude states! Is it he fears...we may have somehow forgotten? Continue to believe in The Faith, in what Jesus has done at The Cross. Jude by The Holy Spirit is giving three warnings here the first is 'unbelief' The Holy Spirit places unbelief as number No:1. Even those that have walked with the Lord can fall to this horrid sin. Israel was saved yet they fell in the desert, only two Joshua and Caleb entered into the promised land from that

generation after walking in the wilderness for 40 years. What did Israel fail to believe? God's Plan, Israel was raised to bring God's Word into the world, they were to usher in The Christ but their unbelief caused them to say "no" in the desert which parted them from the plan which brought eventually after 40 years death. Jude speaks firstly about man in the form of Israel, why? Israel believed but fell to unbelief... we also believe and must be mindful to this warning, as it is for us!

1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the Judgment of The Great Day.

The word 'apostasy' comes from the Greek word apostasia meaning "A defection, departure, revolt or rebellion". With this in mind the Adamic fall keeps the unsaved/lost in a perpetual state of apostasy. As for those who have known the Love of the Lord and turned towards another Jesus, another gospel, their apostasy is in my opinion is the same as the angels who walked away from the Presence of The Lord **Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once Enlightened, and have tasted of the Heavenly Gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.**

Unlike man angels do not reproduce or die, we have the same number of angels today as from when God spoke them into being. These angels had their own habitation, their own dwelling place...It was in Heaven with The Lord God Almighty! They looked upon 'The Magnificent Glory of God' and chose by self-will to leave The Glorious One'...to leave Heaven...to make a stand with Satan whose glory was already gone! This alongside other unholy actions has placed them in everlasting chains under darkness doomed to the Judgment of a Righteous God. The message from Jude is a warning for us who are born into The Faith from falling into the same apostasy. Believers who reject God's method of living in Christ bring about eventually as Israel their destruction, while angels who rebelled with Satan are given no offer of salvation as they had looked upon the Face of God and rejected Him. Jude is showing the serious destruction that is appointed for all apostates. This also demonstrates the deadly power that can fall upon anyone that turns away from the message of The Cross.

1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

The surrounding cities were Admah, Zeboim, and Zoar they are mentioned in **Deut 29:23** (Zoar was spared due to Lot's request! Think about that, one man sought God and many are saved!) Sodom and Gomorrah along with Admah and Zeboim stand as examples of God's Judgment. Their sin though greatly driven by homosexual cravings included other hideous behaviours also which brought about God's Judgment. Sodom and Gomorrah were blessed as they were situated in a blessed area of growth and beauty. **Gen 13:10 "And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar."** and we see in **Eze 16:49** Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Sexual depravity was not their only sin, but it was certainly a major contributor towards the imminent Judgment, of this Jude is clear. Jude went on to write **Suffering the Vengeance of Eternal Fire** Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed with fire from heaven. But that was not the end of the Judgment. Far worse than that happened they suffered the vengeance of eternal fire.

Being set ablaze is frighteningly horrendous but within this blaze is the continued Vengeance of God's Wrath...words cannot express such a horror, never ending! Two lessons arrived at here **1/** It assures us that the certain people causing trouble will be judged, regardless as to how much they had been blessed in the past. **2/** It warns us that we also must continue walking In the Faith with Jesus as the blessings of the past does not guarantee our future spiritual state. It is taught by many commentaries that the sin of the angels mentioned above in verse 6 was sexual, **Gen 6:1-4** is used for that teaching as also is **Jude 7** as Jude wrote **in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh**. The words '*in like manner*' make it sound that the sin of Sodom & Gomorrah is very similar to that of the angels! And with that I have no argument nor comment as the nature of the sin is not the reason for my study. Be warned sin is sin and outside of Christ's Mercy only death awaits. Sodom & Gomorrah in this study serve as a lesson of **1/** the consequences of sin being unbelief and **2/** the Judgment of God which brought in this case wrath. This is very serious...If Israel being eye-witnesses to some of the greatest miracles ever seen, plus looked upon the Cloud by day and Fire by night, and the angels that stood before the Glory of God in Heavenly places could be deceived into leaving their place of faith. We must take this as a serious warning from God Himself lest we allow ourselves to fall to the same deceit. Jude is showing the apostasy of **1/** believers (Israel)refusing to continue to follow, obey, **2/** unbelievers (Sodom) Failure to obey or recognize Lot's example of faith, just as these men (Today) who have sneaked into the Church are doing. **3/** and (angels) they were once 'light'...Enlightenment is the "full comprehension of God" their abandonment and defecation of their previous loyalty sealed their eternal doom. Jude is demonstrating the seriousness of this matter which comes through the evil intent of the strongest alluring deceitfulness ever known, and in fact I believe we are yet to experience.

1:8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

The word 'filthy' is **Not** in the original Scripture. The sins produced by these people starts within their minds, they dream dreams about doctrines as only a fool would, and then give birth to such nonsense which brings death. These doctrines are the fruits of the carnal mind allowing the imagination to produce deadly fantasies. The True Testimony of God is the message of **1Cor 2:1 Jesus Christ and Him Crucified**. The incorrect thoughts of wicked men are but as a dream. All sin is called uncleanness which is the defiling of the flesh, and fornication in particular is branded with that name. The Word of God stands in opposition between fornication and Sanctification **1Thess 4:3 For this is the Will of God, your Sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;** and **Eph 5:3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among Saints;** Defiling the flesh can also be seen as abusing Grace! Shall we sin that Grace may abound? God forbid! Jude then writes they **despise dominion** which refers to rejecting and therefore despising the Word of The Lord. Within the three examples given already we have seen Israel showing contempt towards the Commandments of The Lord, the angels deserting and showing total disregard for The Divine Ruler, and sodom & districts rejecting the hand offered to them by God through Lot. Jude then writes **and speak evil of dignities** The most important mark of these false men is that they despise and speak evil against Heavenly Authority. They despise the Apostles, Ministers...all workers of our Lord Jesus Christ (**I speak only of those that Preach and work to show The Work of The Cross**)and this includes the blessed Heavenly Angels who have brought Visions and Dreams and Revelation from The Lord God Almighty. It is impossible to despise the above named of The Lord without speaking wickedly about Him! It is true we are not to worship man or Angels or in that matter any-

thing else but The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But we must always honour that which God has put into place!

The Epistle of Jude

1:9 Yet Michael the Archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke thee".

There is a lot of differing opinions about the origin of this account, but no proof. Jude's account is found nowhere else in Scripture, but the Holy Spirit has kept it in The written Word, so it is therefore Truth. The Bible teaches that Michael the Archangel has fought against satan as seen in [Dan 10:13](#) and [Rev 12:7-9](#) from this latter account many claim it was Michael who cast satan and his fallen angels out of heaven, I see no reason to doubt this but am always reminded 'to God be the glory'...Jesus is the devil beater! satan is beaten and has no place left in Heaven. Michael the Archangel has the greatest power alive on his side "God" and he has stood against satan before...but even with all this knowledge and power he does not enter into a dispute with the devil but rather says "The Lord rebuke you satan" He does not enter into a debate or fight over any issue but removes satan in the [Lords Name](#). He gives no grounds for satan to have a legal right to stand against him! He pays the Living God the greatest honour in trusting in the Power of His Holy Name, He pays the Living God the greatest honour by not moving out from His Holy Peace...He pays the Living God the greatest honour by remaining in the place of planned Victory without fear of the enemy. What the Holy Spirit is saying to me from Jude is **1/** this is a warning as to how we speak 'to or of' powers we do not understand **2/** Anyone that knows their ground doesn't have to bring a railing accusation, a simple rebuke in The Name of The Lord is all that is required, then continue to praise our Mighty Saviour Jesus Christ! **3/** The manner in which Michael answered satan teaches that this is where the place of victory, power and safety is, staying in the obedience of the Faith 'In Christ Jesus'! If Michael had made a railing accusation against the devil it would have placed him on the same level as him! The word 'rebuke' used by Jude is "[epitimēsai](#)" which is "[a warning to prevent something from going wrong](#)" this is important...again "[to prevent something from going wrong](#)" This type of rebuke has no effect on the person being rebuked meaning the person is not charged with any wrong doing...the person is not convicted of a wrong act so is not brought to a place of conviction or confession of sin and there are two reasons for this **1/** the person is innocent so the rebuke is to keep them innocent **2/** The person or thing is of an unregenerate unreformable state with a heart so hard no sin will ever be convicted and that person or thing is hell bound. We as Christians need to have a good look at how we speak 'of or to' powers we most certainly do not understand! I believe many Christians suffer greatly as their families do also due to their silly and weak command of the Scriptures... hence taking on the enemy in battle without any knowledge of The Truth, meaning what Christ has accomplished.

1:10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

These people work outside of what Jesus did at The Cross! They do the opposite of what we are told by the Spirit through Jude in regards to the '[mindfully cautious stand shown by the Archangel Michael towards satan](#)', they speak foolishly about the spiritual

world, entering into battles they have no business in, accusing the powers of darkness for everything that goes wrong and not addressing their own sinful, fallen state! "Fools rush in where Angels 'fear and must certainly refuse' to tread" but these fearless people speak evil of those things that they know not....It is thought Jude is speaking of those that teach, lead, or hold possibly a higher place of regard in the Church by members of the congregation than most others...They have by cunning words and deceitful actions managed to wriggle themselves into a place of respect, their aim is to slowly remove all that oppose their self driven desires. Jude states **but what they know naturally**, This is speaking of their natural instincts, their impulses of appetite, and passion, and sensual pleasure. It seems that Jude is saying that their knowledge was and is confined to these things. Such people will struggle to rise above their religious convictions which they have welded to their spirit refusing any type of thoughtful reflection of those higher things, rather they will defend their beliefs and in doing so reject the Truth. Jude says they are **as brute beasts**, These people have absolutely no heart knowledge of the things of God, they proclaim with cunning craftiness words that are sweet to ones soul but holds a bitter ending. They are as animals without intelligence, and due to their hard hearted stance and religious bias they corrupt even more so their own souls... **in those things they corrupt themselves**. So by the above mentioned things such as religious bias, hard heartiness etc. they are being brought to a place of ruin! The Gospel of Christ has been so compromised over the last 100 years or so that instead of error standing out in it's abnormality, the opposite is happening. The Truth of what our Lord completed at The Cross is being washed over with man's religious views of self importance. **1 Tim 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from The Faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;** These people are in the Church and I do not doubt they did know the truth at one point as if that was not the case their conscience could not be seared, they have chosen the path of death, and speak with great cunning due to seducing spirits.

1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of cain and ran greedily after the error of balaam for reward and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

In this verse Jude brings three indictments against the false teachers: (1) They were following cain's example (2) like balaam, they had chosen profit above honesty and (3) like korah, they had rebelled against God. **Cain** offered up the wrong type of sacrifice! he worked the land so he gave from that which he grew **Gen 4:3**, did he know better? Absolutely, his younger brother Abel had observed that which his parents had done (**Adam & Eve**) and offered a Blood Sacrifice. Within **Gen 4:3-9** we see a list of some of cain's sins **1/** wrong sacrifice offered **vs 3** **2/** Unrighteous anger **vs 5** **3/** refusal to hear God **vs 6&7** **4/** plotting to kill his brother **vs 8** **5/** following through with his sinful murderous intent **vs 8** **6/** lying directly to God **vs 9** **7/** refusal to except God's judgment as Righteous **vs 13**. The second man named was indeed a Prophet of the Lord **balaam** (**at least I believe so**) he heard clearly from God! In **Num 22:12** The Lord telling him not to go...then we see in **Num 22:20** The Lord saying go! Did God change His Mind? The answer is 'no' as seen in verse **19**: we see balaam seeking '**once again**' The Lord for an answer which he had '**already received**'! The Lord said "go" as balaam's heart had already turned towards doing this evil for financial gain. Also the fact he asked these men to remain over night is proof that balaam continued to entertain this sin, he should have sent them on there way. There was no need to seek God again, when the will of God was so clear both from his moral conscience (**which troubled him from the beginning**) and from the clear revelation of God spoken to in **Num 22:12**. "Let me seek the LORD about this one" sounds really spiritual but it was completely carnal as he tried to force God into changing. balaam became a hiring along with leading Israel into idolatry and sexual immorality (**Nu**

25:1-3; 31:16). balaam wandered off the purpose of his Gift and Ministry. Instead of proclaiming Truth, he injected his own plan into God's program. balaam, because of financial greed, deceived others into getting what he wanted. This is the sin of using religion for personal gain. [Rev 2:14](#) But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of balaam, who taught balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. A warning here of using ministry incorrectly, anything outside of the Ministry of the Work of Jesus at the Cross is an incorrect use and abuse of the power given by God!!! The third man Jude wrote about is [korah](#). He deceived many to become his followers and they rebelled against Moses' authority which in truth was God's Authority since God had appointed Him [Num 16](#). korah also presumed to take upon himself a priestly role, but God had appointed only Aaron to the position of Israel's High Priest. This was a full-scale mutiny. He presumed an authority that was not his. With dathan and abiram, korah revolted against Moses and Aaron by attempting to take over The Priestly Office [Nu 16](#). korah was a Levite, and along with his colleagues sought religious power by attempting to usurp The Godly Priesthood. The bible teaches he was a Levite, he understood his role but desired more...Religious people coming together to form an alliance in a lustful rebellion which in this case ended in death. There was an open challenge made by them against God's Anointed from which 15,000 people died because of the lust for power. Apostasy destroys authority by undermining it. Christians must be careful not to undermine the authority of a God given Ministry. We live in a day when people take potshots at God's servants. There are always those who seek the Ministry of others. They will undermine God's established authority to meet their selfish ends. If unchecked it can ruin the church. This is an unadulterated rebellion not so much against the person in the Ministry but rather against God. [Tim 1:10-11](#) For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision (religious folk), whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. Jude states "Woe to them!"

The Epistle of Jude

[1:12](#) These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots.

I believe it is impossible to find a perfect Christian, we all fall short of God's Truth and at times live in secret contradiction to the principles of His Way, but the Truth always demands that the true follower will repent, will discard the sin desire, will eventually despise it. But these men boast within their self righteous actions. **These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you without fear**, Feasts of charity just means 'love meals' where everyone was feed, no one was to miss out on having their stomachs filled. The word spots could have been translated 'rocks' as all the commentaries I have read support this correction. These apostates are described as "spots" shoals, rocks covered by water. The waters may look safe to the ship captain ([Church Elder](#)), but he may be in danger of treacherous theological reefs that can tear the base off from the ship ([Church](#)). All within the Church ([especially the leaders](#)) need to be aware of such activity for such people are without fear, being both loud and bold as they hold no fear of opposition believing within themselves that Christians will remain silent not wanting to hurt them or cause a spiritual ruckus. They participate in evangelical circles without fear

of being called on their false doctrine. No one dares to expose them as they are scared they may push them away from God! Jude then writes **They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds** The devil does his best work from inside the Church he slowly pulls the foundation of The Cross down and replaces it with sickly religion, it can only be stopped by standing up for the Truth. Clouds without water reveals a parched land, these clouds promise the freshness of rain and look very promising indeed but are empty and do just as they were made to do “deceive”. False teachers speak much from the Bible, but they are void of content. They promise much but do not deliver. The wind blows such evil but we can see it! **Math 14:30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”** The wind is the lack of Faith to do what we need to. Jude calls them **trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots**. Like barren trees, the barrenness of promises from false teachers is nothing but deadly words empty of true life giving hope. All doctrines come from the Work of Jesus on the Cross but unless the value of His Mighty Sacrificial Work is kept as the base and covering then it becomes an offering of religious mumbo jumbo. The fact that Jude says they are “**twice dead**” proclaims they had once known the Lord! They have turned their backs on the great Truth. They were once dead and then saved by Christ’s sacrifice but have by the hard heartedness of religion returned to the dead. Being plucked up by the roots refers that they are no longer in the service of Truth.

1:13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

All false doctrine if not corrected brings about death, we so often allow people to say or do things that are contrary to their Salvation claiming faith in God as an excuse...“God will correct them in His time”! The bible tells us indeed this is true but we are a major part of the correcting action, being used of God in His Love. They are as **raging waves of the sea** which brings destruction, one will not find the peace of God there nor will one advance The Kingdom. **Foaming out their own shame** They produce only polluted foam which litters the seashore with the debris of their victims scattered upon the sand. Many of these victims claim to be trusting Jesus but their lifestyles tell another story, their attitudes and behaviour reveals the lack of the Victory brought about by true submission unto the Living God. They always have something to worry about, always blaming and fighting unseen demons, which always seem to be attacking them or their families, unless truth is given unto such a person they will follow these false teachers. Jude calls them **wandering stars** One receives no guidance from a wandering star or as we call them a shooting or falling star. They burn bright for a short period of time but hold no predictable course then they just either burn out or crash into the earth (**meteors**). A good example of a falling star is the laughing phenomenon that took place in the 80s thousands of church pastors believed (**as I did**) that it was a move of God but this has since been proved as false. Again, sadly I write today many Christians (**many that I know**) have walked away from their Faith due to those false phenomenons. **To whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever** This is a strong warning for all persons and especially leadership...eternal doom awaits those that continue to follow false doctrines! It is given to the teacher to teach The Truth, to correct erroneous dribble, to stand on The Truth of Jesus Christ, and to never stagger at the ill approach of others.

1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, The Lord cometh with ten thousands of His Saints,

The word ‘seventh’ speaks of the ‘coming perfection’ as that is what that number represents! This is the day that all things both in Heaven and on the earth change forever coming under the complete leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ. However this does not mean complete obedience, remember judas walked with Jesus and betrayed The Saviour.

Enoch is mentioned in [Gen 5:18-24](#), [1 Chr 1:3](#), [Luke 3:37](#), [Heb 11:5-6](#), [Jude 1:14-15](#). The scriptures have no record of this prophecy so from where does Jude get the information of Enoch's prophesy? Whilst I have an interest in any other book besides the Bible as far as The Truth goes it appears Jude is quoting from the 'book of Enoch', such books were used back in the time before The Holy Spirit selected the 66 books/canons that make up the written Word of God. However this is not the subject matter of or for this study. Enoch declared the end times ruins, how serious does The Holy Spirit place this end time event? He first warns us some 5000 years ago and has from the day of Enoch echoed this warning over and over. This is a warning to who ever will hear! We are living in the time when the anti-christ will soon assume power forging towards world domination, this means as bad as the situation is now it is going to get much worse! This great deception that begun possibly hundreds of years ago is developing into its final stages. False doctrines that have been nurtured for hundreds of years are spitting out false teachers, prophets, pastors and so on, this is satans greatest effort to dismantle the Church. Jude in verse 3 tells us to [earnestly contend for The Faith which was once delivered unto the Saints](#) This is 'The Faith given to The Saints' The faith speaks of Jesus Christ and His wonderful Life giving Work on The Cross and The Saints speaks of those that believe the message of The Cross. The greatest problem we face today is a lack of dependency on The Holy Spirit. We see 3 alarming statements made in [2 Cor 11:4](#) [For if he that cometh preaches another Jesus, ye receive another spirit, or another gospel](#) We must only preach Jesus Christ and Him Crucified! We must not receive another jesus or another gospel. However the prophecy Jude has quoted speaks of the return of The Lord, hence false teachers will be no more! So why has Jude penned that word? The next verse gives the reason.

[1:15](#) [To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.](#)

This is not speaking of the Rapture but the second coming of The Lord. The Lord cometh! That tells us that they will not get away with their lies and wayward ways, The Judge cometh and will hold all accountable! And He is coming back as sure as today is called today and all the saints will be with Him. Jesus will bring forth Judgment upon all nations, firstly The lord will honour His Covenant with Israel and the nations will be cursed or blessed in accordance to how they acted towards Israel. The final Judgment will come after His 1000 year reign. Jesus was judged for the sins of the world past present and future and it is by His Blood that man is saved or is doomed hence two different judgment sittings! Jude then wrote [and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.](#) To [convince](#) means The Holy Lord will convict them of their sin, refute all their arguments, and leave them without reason for their unbelief. The number four (4) signifies completeness in the Bible and the word 'ungodly' is used four times as also the word 'all' which tells "All ungodly" folk will be found wanting in their faith and judgment will be laid out. No one will escape The Lords Judgment. There is no middle ground one is either for Christ or against Him. What we glean from this also is the fact all words spoken that stand in opposition to The Lords ways are recorded. Remember these people have just gone through the Great Tribulation, and are about to start the 1000 year reign of The Lord. The point of this is no one will get away with the evil they have thought, said, or done at anytime throughout the earths history!

The Epistle of Jude

1:16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaks great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Murmurers, complainers, swim in their own lusts of righteousness...which causes them to speak folly one to another and convincing weaker believers not just to hear them but to believe them! They go home after hearing a message and strip it down until all that is left is their hopeless religion, they then work cunningly to pull down the structure of the church. But Jude has written they walk after their own lusts and in the end ones lustful desire will not and in fact cannot be satisfied. Further **their mouth speaks great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.** In Truth they do not trust God nor are they honouring Him in anyway at all...They speak great words which are illusory, imaginary, deathly...and all for profitable gain be it for self prestige or money! In most cases I feel it is really for the praise of man!

1:17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude reminds us we are 'the beloved' we must hold to The Truth of The Lord. In the Greek the term used here by Jude **But, beloved,** is actually '**But you, beloved**' meaning we are loved of God... '**remember**' meaning...don't forget the message given to us by The Holy Spirit concerning Salvation which can only come through The Work of The Cross. Jude who himself was an Apostle tells us to remember the words spoken by his fellow workers in the Lord's Work. Peter wrote to the Church for the purpose of stirring up their 'pure minds by way of remembrance' **2 Peter 3 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the Holy Prophets, and of the commandment of us the Apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.** Let us continue to stir our minds in the deeper pure, truth of our Saviour, this is telling us that it is going to become hard if not impossible to remain pure unless we stay planted in the Word of Jesus at The Cross.

1:18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

We are living in this time, this is the time of the end of the true Churches life! This is indeed the last few breaths we have left in our spiritual lungs. The state of the Church is so bad that if the Lord was to delay His return there would be no Church left, even the strongest of us would fail to walk as we should due to the wickedness that gathers it's last but powerful pace in power to usher in the great tribulation period. Only those that turn into the Lord will survive and hear the Trump sound! To turn into The Lord means to understand you are a sinner saved by Grace, and have no right to point the finger at anyone else but yourself. The '**Church IN Christ**' needs reformation then we will see revival, and reformations means returning to the Work of The Cross. We cannot be reformed, changed into that which is holy unless we understand the Power of The Work Jesus Christ did at The Cross! These ungodly people walk after religion! After their own god! After their own well-being, after their own doom and we are not to follow. This means we are to deal with them in a righteous and none condemning way, this is a matter of eternal hell or heaven so should be seriously looked at by each individual.

1:19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

Most scholars agree the words 'themselves' should not be in this sentence, it should simply read '**These be they who separate**' Rather they search out the vulnerable attach-

ing themselves to as many people as possible, they love the praises of man. They separate people by causing a division of opinion, just as Korah and his company did claiming to be enlightened and sadly deceived thousands all to which paid the highest penalty (**They all paid the price of sin**). They appear part of the Church but secretly turn the fundamental principles upside down, proposing another Jesus, another spirit, and another gospel. These people make The Cross of none effect by blindly creating a different religious sounding gospel with fleshly words of man's wisdom which mislead people into a false picture of life and grace. Be it deliberate or by ignorance if the believer is not being pointed to the Work of Jesus at the Cross then they are being moved away from this Mighty Work. Is a lack of knowledge an excuse? **Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.** The lack of knowledge is caused by rejecting The Holy One! No excuse therefore! They did not want to hear the Truth, they made their own way and paid the price. What are we doing? Jude then writes "**sensual, having not the Spirit.**" The Greek word 'psychic' has no English equal so **sensual** being the closest in meaning is used. Psychic is the middle term of a triplet of terms being 1/ carnal, 2/ psychic, 3/ spiritual. The carnal man is ruled by his passions and rises little above animals, the psychic man is ruled by human reason and affections and does not rise above the worldly senses and the spiritual rises to that which can only be spiritually discerned and is the highest place. Jude is saying that these people take the first two meanings of the word by use of human reasoning, affections, and passions and rise to little above animals. As they have not The Spirit they are totally deceived themselves. They started with The Spirit in most cases but by refusing as Israel did the Lords Knowledge they have turned themselves against His Leading. Therefore today we have millions of Christians worldwide who are truly Saved which means they truly have The Spirit but receive little help from Him due to their refusing His way. **Rom 8:2** tells us the way **For the Law of The Spirit of Life In Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death!** The Holy Spirit Works by the Law which comes through by what Jesus Christ did! For it says the **Life In Christ Jesus** and this life came by Him overcoming death at the Cross and it is In Christ we must live by faith!

1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most Holy Faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

Jude separates the goats from the sheep, '**But you, Beloved**' If we are 'The Beloved' then the Spirit of Truth is working within us, and this is proven to us as our desires change and we understand at least four most important truths **1/** His Righteousness becomes alive within us **2/** Our sinfulness becomes obvious to us **3/** A strong desire grows for inner change which invites The Holy Spirit to crucify us Into the Lord Jesus' Death **4/** Realizing that the Righteousness of Christ is being Resurrected within us, which is in fact our Resurrection into True Life!! Jude then writes **building up yourselves on your Most Holy Faith** I see the word 'yourselves' in two different ways **1/** it speaks to each individual **2/** it speaks also to the body working as one (**Very important**). **Cor 1:2 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of The Spirit and of Power:** The demonstration of The Spirit and of Power speaks of the inner changes within the believer which produces maturity to the believer plus eventually flowing onto the body of believers. Building yourselves up speaks of an action or some might says 'works' but these 'works' are based on what Jesus did at The Cross, it is something we must do and it is done by presenting a 'willing mind and obedient heart' we can do no more! This again speaks individually and corporately to us all. Jude continues to point towards Jesus...**On your Most Holy Faith** Your most Holy Faith must be In Christ Jesus, **Mat 7:24-27 Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of Mine,**

and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock and 1 Cor 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Never allow Your Most Holy Faith to be weakened by foolish people, keep your faith tied up 'In Jesus Christ and The Work He did at The Cross'. Then Jude states **praying in The Holy Spirit**, this is how one remains in the Faith by faith that The Holy Spirit is leading us, by honest prayer unto The Lord, 'honest prayer' is the power house which lifts us onto higher ground, and honest prayer places us into the 4 points mentioned above! (see above points **1 2 3 4**). For one to do this he/she must be surrendered to The Holy Spirit by believing and only believing in The Work of Jesus Christ at The Cross this will allow one to be **1/** filled with The Spirit **2/** controlled by The Spirit **3/** Lead by The Spirit...

1:21 Keep yourselves in The Love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto Eternal Life.

This is a responsibility of each person, every person will give an account to God for their actions and there will be no blaming, judging, or accusing anyone else for ones own actions. The Bible has this command repeated over and over **Keep yourselves in The Love of God**, This is our task or works as stated above we must offer a 'willing mind and obedient heart' building ourselves up by praying in The Holy Spirit (**this does not mean speaking continually in tongues**) It does however mean obedience. **looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto Eternal Life.** I have not passed over Jude's words **in the love of God** as it is The Love of God that gives us The Power to look towards The Mercy of our Lord Jesus, it is The Love of God that allows us to build ourselves up in The Holy Faith! The words **in the love of God** presents The Love of The Father for the believer and not our love for God! The Mercy of Jesus Christ is not hard to find! He laid it all out for us at The Cross. He told us to seek the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness... the Righteousness is Jesus Christ! As we seek this we receive the Fruit of The Spirit...Who then offers The Gifts of The Spirit...which develops Christ-likeness unto Righteousness and Holiness. Therefore Love in Christ guarantees Eternal life. Jude also brings us back to the Rapture by writing **looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life** For this is mercy that He would free the Church from the sin of this worlds grasp. "Come Lord Jesus" I say "come".

The Epistle of Jude

1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

There are two groups spoken of by Jude...a lot of people/commentators add a third or even think he is talking strictly about the false teachers.. 'wrong'. This is not talking about having compassion on a false teacher! We must except that these false teachers are here being self acclaimed prophets who hurt and mislead members of the body who in turn inadvertently lead others down that wrong path. Jude has already dealt with the false teachers in the above verses in no uncertain terms, He wrote of them **1/** they crept in (being uninvited by The Lord) **2/** they are self servers seeking only the praise of man. **3/** abuses of the Grace of God. **4/** They deny all that The Lord Jesus has done! **5/** They are defilers of the flesh **6/** dreamers **7/** they despise all authority back stabbing leaders and especially those that oppose their theologies **8/** ungodly men/women who's fate has already been ordained bound for outer darkness!

The first group Jude wrote of where we can make a healthy difference is by showing God's compassion, mercy, and long suffering! This is a gentle process aiding them to-

wards The Truth within the absolute Holy Spirit Power of true repentance. These people are normally the young in Spirit possessing a tender heart and delicate sole. Such people need careful leading which can only be given by The Holy Spirit, and only those that seek through The Lord's Work at The Cross can offer this True Guidance and leading by The Mighty Spirit.

1:23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

This serves as a warning to us all that we can fall into deep sin leaving the safety of The Lord. Many also get this wrong they think they are the ones doing the Saving by their great words of wisdom and so on...truth is as just stated such people can only be Saved by The Holy Spirit through the Work of The Lord Jesus Christ. I write here of the second group. They are not at the edge of the cliff, rather they are in the fire, they are being burned up from within! These people that were once saved are so close to eternal damnation their next breath could be their last one! These people as all others are sinners but they have moved their faith unto another Jesus! another baptism! another spirit! Their faith has been slowly eroded and finally lost regarding The Work of Jesus at The Cross! Jude tells us to save with fear! It is a healthy fear of God that drives one to do what is right. The fear of eternal damnation for others equals love! We must preach the fear of God without reservation! For this is Power! This is Truth! We must also fear that their lies will effect others so immediate action is required without holding back. They can only be brought back into the fold by a harsher approach than the first group! Their hearts are hard and they stand within the fire...We must intercede for such people, seeking The Lord's Mercy and Grace...We must close down their foolish arguments and forbid such in the Church otherwise we aid their evilly spotted flesh. Jude is saying we are not to take false doctrine lightly. It must be addressed, or else souls will be eternally lost. Jude has above warned us as to the power of deception the devil welds, he has offered a long list of people being deceived along with one third of the heavenly angels! Think about that! We must preach The Truth, Jesus Christ and Him Crucified! And we must not entertain false doctrine or what may be construed as just small foolish talk! For this all speaks of life and death, Heaven or hell, blessings or cursing! To end with Jude wrote **hating even the garment spotted by the flesh** These people have every part of their being effected by misguidance and sin and as stated will effect others if they are not stopped. We are to show mercy and love as with the first group but with a firm and unwavering directness loving the sinner but hating the sin. May our Lord Jesus Christ give us all wisdom as to how we are to aid such people! Amen.

1:24 Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the Presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Jude ends with **Now unto Him that is able** I am so glad he wrote that, The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are more than able. Right at this moment The Mighty Holy Spirit is doing just that through the awesome Work of Jesus Christ. He is The One that **keep you from falling** He keeps us, guards us, watches over us, we are under His keeping, watching, guarding protection... hallelujah. **And to present you faultless** This letter ends in supper positive mode He will present us! Faultless! Perfect, unstained, He will take us into The Holy Place...He will! All this is due to the Bravery, Love and Power of our Lord Jesus, we have done nothing to earn such a reward, it is all by His Grace, thank You Lord. And this is the topping **before the Presence of His glory with exceeding joy**, We will stand before The Throne, before The Glory of all that there is, Before The Living God!!!! The words with '**exceeding joy**' are two fold, and I have no idea as to the order...His Joy, our God's Joy, will be complete in us, and our joy will have no boundaries as no height has ever been reached as the height of this joy.

It IS finished!

1:25 To The Only Wise God our Saviour, be glory and Majesty, Dominion and Power, both now and ever. Amen.

Consider the Heavens, the oceans and the lands and all that is in and on them! How wise is our Saviour? How great is He? Can any one do that which He has done? Can anyone make life as He has? And would anyone pay the price He paid to keep that life alive? No! So **to The Only Wise God our Saviour, be glory and Majesty, Dominion and Power, both now and ever. Amen.**