

## The Epistle of Jude

# 19

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses that the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we open the book of **Jude**. The author of this short letter calls himself Jude (a short form of Judah (Hebrew) or Judas (Greek), a common name in New Testament times. He also calls himself a servant of Jesus Christ and the brother of James.

The author was most likely Judas, the natural brother of the Lord Jesus (**Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3**) and the brother of James, the leader of the Jerusalem church (and author of the epistle of **James**). He does not claim to be an apostle, but rather sets himself slightly apart from the apostles (note **verse 17**).

Jude’s reason for writing this epistle is given in **verse 3**. He had obviously planned to write a full treatise on salvation and grace, but had been prompted by urgent circumstances to write this brief epistle. He writes how “certain men” had infiltrated the churches, perverting the grace of God (**verse 4**).

To drive his point home, Jude draws heavily from Peter’s second epistle (note the similarities between **Jude** and **2 Peter 2**), and even quotes directly from **2 Peter 3:3**. He also quotes from two sources that are not accepted as part of inspired Scripture – the *Assumption of Moses* (**verse 9**) and the *Book of Enoch* (**verses 14-15**). Although these books were products of the 1st century B.C., they were held in high regard in New Testament times. The fact that Jude quotes from them does not mean that he considered these books inspired, however; just that he counted those particular quotes as true and relevant. Paul too quoted from pagan poets, such as Epimenides (**Acts 17:28; Titus 1:12**), Aratus (**Acts 17:28**) and Menander (**1 Corinthians 15:33**), without in any way purporting that everything these poets wrote was true.

**Jude** is an epistle written in great haste to avert an impending danger to the churches. Read this letter all the way through, letting Jude’s sense of urgency strike you, as it would have struck his original readers.

# Memory Verse

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Jude 20-21

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!