Jude

Helpful Background for the Book, Part 2

**The audience that Jude had in mind while he wrote the letter were Christians who were vulnerable to false teachings that permitted immoral living. Choosing to be obedient to God’s standrads for daily life was very difficult for first century believers, especially if they had previously been living as non-believers in Greek/Roman culture. Jude encouraged the Christians to stay strong in their convictions and trust that God would keep all of His promises for their future. He also challenged the believers to defend or fight for the Word of God, as ONLY the Word would not change and remain secure.**

**2. In addition to OT examples, Jude reminded his readers to trust the words and teachings of the apostles. Even by the time Jude wrote his letter, the words of those directly called and commissioned by Jesus, His apostles, were being considered to be authoritative. Some of his audience may have even heard the apostles personally, as Jude refers to the reality that some may have been told about “the last times” directly.**

**3. The words “told” to you by the apostles mentioned in v. 18 closely parallel 2 Peter 3:3. Peter wrote about how scoffers would come in the last days, and how they would smock and deny the truth to indulge their own lusts. The other apostles had also echoed similar words, and even Jesus had taught about the coming of false teachers in the “last days” in Mark 13:21-23. (Also see Acts 20:28-31, 2 Thes. 2:1-12, 2 Tim. 3:1-5, 1 Jn. 2:22, 4:1-3)**

**4. In the NT, the term “last times/days” refers to the period that began with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It will end with the second-coming of Jesus Christ. Every generation within this time period has considered/will consider their time to be the absolute last days. We are to eagerly await the return of Jesus, but no one, including Jesus, knows when that will be.**

**5. In v. 19, Jude refered to the false teachers, but finally revealed the root of the problem. These ungodly people appeared to be followers of Jesus, and were in the midst of the community of the Church, but they did NOT have the Holy Spirit within them. Every true follower of Jesus Christ, who genuinely trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord, was given the Holy Spirit as a promise of security in God. (1 Cor. 12:3, John 14:17, 16:13) Those who are in the Church are to be discerning about the teachers from whom they receive the Word of God. They are to test the teaching with exisiting scriptures and with the character and nature of God. (James 3:13-18)**