

SERMON NOTES:



1st Feb, 2026

JUDE Pt 1

Pastor Mick Spann

Who Is Jude / Judah?

- Jude (Yehudah / Loudas) is one of Jesus' brothers (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3)
- During Jesus' ministry His family thought He was out of His mind (Mark 3:20–21; John 7:5)
 - After Jesus resurrection all four brothers became leaders in the early church.
 - They went from disbelief to worship.

Jude's Hebrew Way of Teaching

- Jude writes like an Old Testament prophet using stories, imagery, and “hyperlinks” from Scripture and other Jewish religious writings (e.g. 1 Enoch, Testament of Moses)
- These Jewish religious texts were not regarded as Scripture by the Jews, but were nevertheless respected and familiar to both the Jews and first-century Jewish Christians
- Similar to a modern pastor or author quoting:
 - C.S. Lewis, John Bunyan, or The Cloud of Unknowing
- Jude uses imagery from sources familiar to his readers to press home his point.

Why Jude Is So Concerned

- The issue is not abstract theology but embodied belief
- Grace is being used as permission for:
 - Sexual immorality
 - Rebellion against authority
 - Irreverence toward God (sacred things) (Jude 1:4, 8)
- Jude's logic:
 - What we believe shapes how we live
 - Lifestyle reveals theology

Jesus had already made a similar point

- Jesus warned about false teachers:
 - “By their fruit you will recognize them” (Matt. 7:15–16)
- Bad theology often shows up first as:
 - Moral compromise
 - Self-rule
 - Rejection of restraint

Old Testament Warnings (Jude 1:5–10)

- Israel in the wilderness (Num. 14)
 - Delivered from Egypt
 - Destroyed because they refused to trust God (Jude 1:5)
- Angelic rebellion (Gen. 6; interpreted through 1 Enoch)
 - Rejection of God's created order (Jude 1:6)
- Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19)
 - Sexual immorality as rebellion (Jude 1:7)
- In every case:
 - People follow desire over obedience
 - Behaviour reveals belief

Michael and Reverence (Jude 1:9)

- Referencing a creative retelling of Numbers 30-34 called "the Testament of Moses" which describes the archangel Michael fighting with Satan over the body of Moses.
 - Michael refuses to slander Satan, but rather simply says: "The Lord rebuke you"
- This example exposes the arrogance of these false teachers as they make light of sacred things.

Jude's Warning to the Church

- These people:
 - Participate in church life, but live without restraint
- Grace is treated as a license for indulgence
- Jesus' lordship is denied by lifestyle
- Theology leaks what we truly believe is often made evident by the way we handle things like: sex, money, power, speech, and private behaviour.
- **The real concern, is that people who behave contrary to Christ... often influence others to do the same.**

Take-Home Reflections

- Ask the Spirit:
 - What did my choices this week reveal about what I really believe?
- Refuse to make a distinction between 'Church life' and 'real life'
- Remember:
 - Grace is not permission to 'sin all the more'
 - Grace is freedom to live the life God intended for us... It provides the power to follow Him.
- Treat Jesus as someone to follow and obey, not just someone to discuss.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY



BibleProject Podcast Series on Jude

4 Episodes
(about 50minutes each)

CLICK HERE



In The Unseen Realm, Dr. Michael Heiser examines the ancient context of Scripture, explaining how its supernatural worldview can help us grow in our understanding of God. He illuminates intriguing and amazing passages of the Bible that have been hiding in plain sight.

CLICK HERE



I have never read the “cloud of unknowing” that was so loved by Martin Luther (and is considered a timeless Christian classic). Unfortunately it is known to be difficult to understand because even its ‘modern translations’ were made in old english. I have found a new contemporary translation which is on backorder with Koorong. I’ll let you know when I get hold of it and we can pull straws to see who reads it first.

-Mick

