

THE LETTER FROM JUDE

OUR GREATEST CONCERN

“I FELT IT URGENT TO WRITE YOU”

*What is your greatest concern
or what will be your greatest challenge
in 2022?*

- A significant financial issue?
- A college, job, relocation decision?
- Dealing with the uncertainties of the future?

THE LETTER FROM JUDE

The vigorous little epistle of Jude is without parallel in the New Testament for its denunciation of libertines and apostates. While displaying affectionate concern for true believers, it burns with fiery indignation and vivid pronouncements of judgment upon religious sensualists. Standing, as it does in our English Bibles, just before the Book of Revelation, it forms a fitting introduction to the concluding book of the New Testament.

D. EDMOND HIEBERT

- ▶ Jude: “a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James”
- ▶ Jude’s letter was written to all followers of Christ in response to the doctrinal corruption and spiritual laxity that was becoming prevalent in the churches.

*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.*

*Be merciful to those who doubt,
snatch others from the fire and save them;
to others show mercy, mixed with fear,
hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.*

THE GREATER NEED

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

JUDE 3

- ▶ It was Jude's original, and eager, intention to write a letter that was "fellowship" oriented—"about the salvation we share"—instead, he was compelled to write a letter of urgency: *"I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."* (NASB)
- ▶ It was still the era of the apostles, probably about 67 or 68 A.D., yet already the gospel, and the faith of believers, was being corrupted.

OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE

Our challenge is not a personal issue, goal, or decision; it is maintaining the necessary level of spiritual urgency and effort. This is highlighted by the words that Jude uses:

- ▶ "contend" (*epagonizomai*) - to struggle for
- ▶ "build" (*epoikodomeo*) - to build up in spiritual advancement
- ▶ "pray" (*proseuchomai*) - to pray, i.e. supplicate, worship (earnestly for)
- ▶ "keep" (*tereo*) - to guard and watch over protectively; to keep in a condition; to keep custody of

The reality is that, if we are not contending, we are complacent, and if we are not building, we are backsliding.