

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

Jude

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Chapter 1 1

Jude

1 *I,* Jude, serve Jesus the Messiah, and I am a brother of
James. *I am writing* to you whom God has called, to you
whom God the Father loves, to you whom Jesus the Messiah is
keeping *for himself*. 2 I pray that God will increase his merciful
acts toward you and make you more peaceful and make you
experience more of his love.

3 *Fellow believers* whom I love, I tried my best to write *a*
letter to you about how God has saved all of us *who believe*.
However, I needed to write *this letter instead* in order to urge
you to defend the true things that we believe. *These are things*
that God has given for all time to all those whom he has
made holy. 4 *I am urging you to do this* because some men have
crept stealthily *into your meetings*. *They are men* whom God has
chosen to condemn a long time ago. They do ungodly things.
They think that our God permits people to be sexually immoral
because he is kind. *They also* oppose what is true about Jesus
the Messiah, who alone owns us and rules over us.

5 Although you previously knew all these things, I desire
to remind you *of them*. *Remember* that after Jesus rescued the
people *of Israel* from the country of Egypt, he destroyed those
people *among them* who did not trust him. 6 Also, *some* angels
did not continue to remain in their proper places where they
had authority but abandoned them. *Because they did this* God
has imprisoned them forever in darkness *in hell*. *God did this*
in order to judge them on the important day *when he judges*
everything. 7 The same is true of *the people who lived in the cities*
of Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities near them. They acted
in a sexually immoral way in the same way as those angels
did. They participated in all kinds of improper sexual acts. By
causing these *angels and people* to suffer for eternity in the fire
of hell, God is making them an example *of those who reject*
him. 8 Similarly, these *false teachers* are dreamers who not only
make their own bodies dirty by living immorally, but also
reject the Lord's commands. They even insult God's glorious
angels.

9 Even the archangel Michael was not so bold as to speak
slanderous accusations against Satan when he argued with
him concerning the dead body of Moses. Instead, he *merely*
said, "May the Lord reprove you!" 10 By contrast, these *false*
teachers speak evil words about spiritual things that they do
not understand. They are just like animals that cannot think
rationally. The things that they are naturally able to understand
are destroying them.

11 How sad it is for them! They act like Cain, *who murdered*
his brother. They have dedicated themselves to committing
the same sin that Balaam committed in order to get money.
God will certainly destroy them like he destroyed Korah and
those who rebelled *against Moses with him*. 12 These people are
shamelessly eating with you. At your fellowship meals they
are like rocks hidden under the water that ships crash against.
They only take care of themselves. They are *useless,* like clouds
that the wind carries away before they can give rain. They are
useless, like trees that do not bear fruit at harvest time. *They*
are like trees that will die twice because God will uproot them.
13 They are *uncontrollable,* like the sea's thrashing waves. They
display their disgraceful acts just like the waves bring up foam.
They are like stars that do not stay where they should in the
sky. God is reserving the dark gloom *of hell* for them forever.

14 Even Enoch, the seventh person in the line of people
who descended from Adam, spoke about these false teachers
when he said: "Listen carefully to this: The Lord will certainly
come with a countless number of his holy *angels*. 15 *They will*
come to judge everyone and rebuke everyone for all their
ungodly deeds that they have done in ungodly ways, and for
all the harsh insults that these people, who sin and dishonor
God, spoke against Jesus." 16 These *false teachers* grumble *to*
themselves and complain *to others*. They live according to their
sinful desires and brag about themselves. They flatter people
in order to get what they want *from them*.

17 But you *fellow believers* whom I love, remember what
the apostles of our Lord Jesus the Messiah said long ago.
18 *Remember* that they told you, "In the last days *before Jesus*
returns, there will be people who mock *the true things that God*
has told us. *They will* live according to their own sinful desires
that dishonor God." 19 These *mockers* are the people who are
making believers angry with each other. *They live according to*
their natural instincts. The *Holy* Spirit does not dwell within
them.

20 However, you *fellow believers* whom I love, by increasing
your trust in God and by praying with the Holy Spirit's help,
21 keep living in a way that enables you to experience God's
love. *Do this* while expecting the merciful return of our Lord
Jesus the Messiah, *which will result in* living eternally *with him*.

22 And be merciful to those who are confused *about what*
they should believe. 23 But rescue other people urgently, as if
you are pulling them out of the fire of hell. And be merciful
to some other people, but be cautious with them, as if just
touching their clothing could make you sinful.

24 God is able to prevent you from returning to a sinful
life. *He is also able* to take you without sin into his glorious
presence. *You will stand there* with great joy. 25 There is only
one God. He has saved us as a result of what our Lord Jesus
the Messiah *did for us*. I pray that everyone will recognize
that God is glorious, majestic, powerful, and rules with great
authority. *He was like that* before time began. *He is like that*
today, and *he will remain like that* forever! May it truly be so!