

**LIVING GODS WILL**

**The Disciple**

**JUDE**



**The Disciple Jude by Duccio**

<b>Born:</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
<b>Died:</b>	<b>AD 80, Armenia</b>
<b>Death:</b>	<b>Crucified and pierced by arrows</b>

Also known as "**Judas**"

He was the son of **Joseph** and **Mary**

He was the **half-brother** of **Jesus**

He was the **brother** of **James the Just, Simon and Joses (Joseph)**

He was one of the **seventy disciples**

**The Disciple Jude authored the book of Jude of the Holy Bible**

**Jude** was a son of **Mary and Joseph** and therefore a **half-brother** to **Jesus** and brother to **James the Just, Joses (Joseph), Simon** and their **sisters (Matthew 13:55)**.

According to the **Protoevangelion of James**, **Jude was the son of Joseph** along with the other '**brethren of the Lord**' mentioned in the scripture, **from a marriage prior to his betrothal to Mary**.

We know virtually nothing about **Jude**, the **brother of Jesus**, in the New Testament. Jude is listed in **Matt 13:55** and **Mark 6:3** simply as a brother of Jesus.

He likely was **not a believer during the ministry of Jesus**, (**Mark 3:21, 31**). He would have become a believer after the resurrection (**Acts 1:14**), but we know nothing of his conversion, whether he was a witness to the resurrection, etc.

The "brothers of Jesus" are mentioned in **1 Cor 9:5** as having taken believing wives, although it is not clear whether this is literal brothers or not.

The fact that Jude and the other brothers of Jesus were unbelievers until after the resurrection, the title "**servant of Jesus**" can be seen as a humble acknowledgment of Jesus' Lordship.

After the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, **Saint Jude** traveled about **preaching the Gospel**. He propagated the faith in Christ at first in Judea, Galilee, Samaria and Idumaia, and later in the lands of Arabia, Syria and Mesopotamia.

Finally, he went to the city of Edessa. Here he finished the work that was not completed by his predecessor, **Saint Thaddaeus**.

It is somewhat intriguing that a brother of Jesus should write a book which is so much dependent on the **Hebrew Bible**. Perhaps, like his **brother James**, Jude was well trained in the Hebrew Bible and able to use the scripture to argue against a false teaching within **Jewish Christian communities**.

The Holy Apostle Jude died as a martyr around the **year 80** near Mt. Ararat in **Armenia, where he was crucified and pierced by arrows**.

## THE BOOK OF JUDE

### Heart of the Story:

Jude warns readers against individuals who have **surreptitiously** gained entry into the Church. These same individuals are perverting the true faith with **false teachings**.

### Backstory:

Jude is the **brother of Jesus and James**. Probably, his actual name was "**Judas**"; but, in the early Church the name Judas generated so much negative thoughts and feelings that he was called "**Jude**."

Most believe Jude's letter was written in the late **60s AD**. From earliest times, Jude was accepted in the canon of scripture. Scholars identified that **Jude** was written to a Jewish audience because Jude drew on Jewish apocalyptic traditions, i.e. **1 Enoch and the Testament of Moses**.

### Story Line:

Jude admits that he wanted to write a letter with a focus on **salvation**; however, events were occurring in churches which overrode his original purpose for writing.

### What was occurring in the Church which was so awful?

#### Jude identified four problems:

1. In the new Church, individuals are indulging in **sexual immorality** and **unnatural desires**
2. Individuals are relying on their dreams, **rejecting authority** (most likely apostolic authority), and **blaspheming** the glorious ones (the Triune God)
3. Church members were **committing ungodly deeds** to include being loud-mouthed boasters and showing favoritism to gain advantage
4. These same individuals participate at **love feast** (which included the Eucharist) without fear of God and his wrath.

Jude compared these individuals to **shepherds that feed themselves** rather than the flock, waterless clouds, fruitless trees, dead trees, wild waves of the sea, and wondering stars.

Jude also identified the outcome for these individuals; it is the **gloom of utter darkness which will last forever (Jude verse 13)**.

### Pondering Relationships:

Jude reminded the Christians in the early church that the apostles predicted that at the last days there will be **scoffers** following their own ungodly passions and worldly people (**devoid of the Holy Spirit**) who cause divisions in the church.

In contrast, **Jude implored Christians** to build themselves up, pray in the Holy Spirit, keep themselves in the love of God, have mercy on those who doubt, lead others to salvation by snatching them from the fire, and show mercy to others with fear.

### Reflection:

Jude finished his letter by assuring its recipients that **God is able to keep them from stumbling**. What amazing reassurance!

In the Epistle much profound truth was expressed in a few words.

Saint Jude's Epistle speaks about the **Holy Trinity**, about **the Incarnation** of the Lord Jesus Christ, about the **good and bad angels**, and about the dreaded **Last Judgment**.

The Apostle **urges believers** to guard themselves against fleshly impurity, to be diligent in prayer, faith and love, to convert the lost to the path of salvation, and to guard themselves from the teachings of heretics.

He also says that it is not enough just to be converted to Christianity, but faith must be demonstrated by **good works**. He cites the rebellious angels and men punished by God (**verse 6**) to support this.

## SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 13:55** Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

**Jude 1:1** Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: