

# Jude

## Lesson 1 – Who is Jude?

### Identification of the Author

Jude 1:1 *Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,*

The name Jude is the same as Judas. They are Greek for of the name Judah (Y'hudah). Judah was a son of Jacob and one of the 12 tribes of Israel. It was a common name in Jesus' day. Jesus had two disciples by the name of Judas, the infamous Judas Iscariot, and the other Judas called "not Iscariot" in John 14:22. That Judas was also called Thaddaeus and Lebbaeus. The confusion comes when in two passages he is called the brother of James. If, however, he were the brother of James of the Sons of Thunder why was he not listed with them in their call? The passages in question say he was Judas of James, leaving doubts about whether he was the son of James or the brother of James. It is most likely that he is a son of James. It gets confusing, thus in church history many believe the writer of this letter to be this Jude. Yet the majority of scholars believe Jude of this letter to be the half-brother of the Lord, whose older brother was James, half brother of Jesus and head of the church in Jerusalem mentioned in Acts 12 and 15.

### **There were many named Judas in New Testament**

- Matthew 10:4 *Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.*
- **Luke 6:16** *And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.*
- John 14:22 *Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us*
- **Acts 1:13** *And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.*
- Acts 5:37 *After this man rose up Judas of Galilee*
- Acts 9:11 *And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul,*
- Acts 15:22 *to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas,*

### **Who is James? – There are many Biblical characters called James.**

**1. James, brother of John, sons of thunder**, Boanerges, Mark 3:17, martyred in 44 AD by Herod. He was put to the sword, which usually meant he was beheaded. Acts 12:2

**2. James the Less (younger) Son of Alphaeus**, Mary mother of James. Jerome says he was a cousin of Jesus, many confuse him as being the brother of Jude.

- Mark 15:40 *Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.*
- Mark 16:1 *Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.*
- Matthew 27:56 *Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.*

**3. James brother of the Lord**, leader of Jerusalem Ch, Acts 12:17 and 15:13

Author of the Book of James, and Killed AD 62

- Galatians 1:19 Paul says, *I saw only James, Lord's brother*
- 1 Corinthians 9:5 *Jesus appeared to other apostles and to the Lord's brother*
- Acts 1:13-14 He was present at Pentecost with his brother Jude

## **The List of Disciples – Jude was not a disciple, nor was his brother James**

*The listing of the disciples can be rather confusing because of names and nicknames. A careful study will reveal that the brothers of Jesus were not part of the 12 Apostles, though there were several James and several named Jude.*

- Matthew 10:2-4 (see list)
- Mark 3:14-19 (see list)
- Luke 6:14-16 (see list)
- Acts 1:13-14 (see list)

## **The Family of Jesus –**

We believe, and church history asserts, that the writer of this letter is Jude, the brother of James, half-brother of Jesus. Those who argue against this follow the Roman Catholic dogma that Mary was a virgin perpetually and had no other children. Scripture declares that she did have other children.

- Matthew 13:55-56 *"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us?"*
- Mark 3:32 and they told him, *"Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."*
- Mark 6:3 *Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?"*
- Luke 8:19 *Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him...*
- Acts 1:14 *Those in the upper room were disciples and Mary, Jesus mother and his brothers.*

## **Jude, the Brother of the Lord**

### 1. His doubts about Jesus –

- Mark 3:21 *When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."*
- Luke 8:19-22 *Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. (Parallels Mark 3 story)*
- John 7:3-5 *Jesus' brothers said to him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him.*

### 2. His Conversion – “You must be born again.” (John 3:3 and 2 Corinthians 5:17)

- Mark 3:21 – *His brothers thought he was crazy*
- Luke 22:32 to Peter he said, *“When you are converted, strengthen your brothers.”*
- John 20:26-31 *Thomas did not believe then said, “My Lord and My God.”*

### 3. His Pentecost – “Bond slave of the Lord”

- Jude 1;1 *A bond-servant of Jesus Messiah*
- Exodus 21: 4-6 *If he is a willing bondservant for life – pierced ear*
- Acts 1:13-14 *Listed with the apostles on day of Pentecost (sons of Mary)*
- Acts 2:1-12 – *The Holy Spirit came and filled them all*
- Romans 12:1-2 – *Present your bodies living sacrifices – wholly sold out to Jesus*

### 4. His Mission and Death – (Mt. 16:24 and Luke 9:23 “Take up cross and follow me.”)

- His mission – *traveled with apostles to Armenia with Bartholomew and Thomas*
- His martyrdom & burial – *died with arrows, hung on a cross, buried near Caspian Sea*