The Author:
- Jude (Jude 1)
- The brother of James.
  - James was a physical brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:55) and later an elder in the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13; Gal. 1:18).
  - Originally, James and Jude (Judas) did not believe in His deity. (Jn 7:3-6)

Date of the Letter: The date and place of writing of this epistle is impossible to state due to a lack of information in the letter itself.

Audience: Christians in general (Then and Now)

Thoughts: Put yourself into the first century time period. The church is new, the Christian faith is new and the devil wants to do everything he can to destroy it. The devil uses persecution from the outside as well as false teachers from the inside as well as complacency. Now come more than 2,000 years forward and where does the devil attack us today? The warnings in Jude are just as relevant to us today as they were in the first century.

Outline:
- Introduction (vs 1, 2)
- Contend for the faith (vs 3, 4)
- Reminder of the Results of Apostasy from the Past (vs 5 – 11)
- What to Watch for Today (vs 12 – 15)
- Characteristics (vs 16 – 19)
- Stay the Course (vs 20 – 23)
- Praise to God (vs 24, 25)

Study:
- Introduction (vs 1, 2)
  - James tells us a little about himself.
    - Bond servant – Someone who is in slaved to someone by choice. In this case, Jesus Christ
      - Exodus 21:1-6
      - How committed are we to Christ?
      - What is your attitude?
    - Brother of James (Mt 13:54-56)
      - Brother of Jesus
  - To whom is the letter written
    - Called – We are all invited to be a part of God’s kingdom. (2 Ti 1:9)
      - Call comes through the Gospel (1 Ti 2:3-4)
    - Sanctified by God – Set aside by God, to make Holy
    - Preserved in Jesus Christ – Maintaining in original state, like new, pure, protected (Jn 10:27-30)
• Contend for the faith (vs 3, 4)
  o Jude started to write to his audience about their “common salvation” (Jude 1:3); however, due to the current false teaching of ungodly men, Jude changed to write a letter exposing the character of false teachers. There are many similarities between the book of Jude and II Peter 2.
  o Jude wants to address individuals that he refers to as “ungodly” that “turn the grace of God into lasciviousness” (Jude 1:4).
  o Jude tells us that the false teachers creep in unnoticed (Jude 1:4).
  o False teachers deny Jesus by rejecting His authorized teachings (Jude 1:4).
  o Jude exposes a precise distinction between the character of men who hold and teach error and those who hold to nothing but the truth (Jude 1:20-21).

• Reminder of the Results of Apostasy from the Past (vs 5 – 11)
  o False teachers lose sight of God’s promises and thereby take matters into their own hands as those who came out of Egypt did (Jude 1:5).
    ▪ God destroyed those that did not believe. In this case, He had saved them and then destroyed them because of their lack of faith.
  o False teachers compared to fallen angels (they once had truth and fellowship with God; however, their desire for other things compelled them to reject and thereby be rejected by the Lord) (Jude 1:6).
    ▪ Seeking to leave God’s boundaries confines them with chains. Many today want to live outside of what God has stated and then claim that God’s love for them accepts them (and their sin) (2 Pet 2:4)
  o False teachers will be condemned to eternal hell fire just as the wicked that lived in Sodom and Gomorrah (Jude 1:7).
    ▪ Seeking physical pleasures that were against God’s will, they suffered instead.
  o Likewise - False teachers (Jude 1:8)
    ▪ Deny those of authority such as church elders, parents, employers, civil government, and most importantly the Lord.
    ▪ They deny the authority of others when they reject orders and commands.
    ▪ Do not have a problem speaking out against those who hold positions of authority such as church elders, parents, employers, civil government, and most importantly the Lord.
  o Michael contending with the Devil, (Jude 1:9).
    ▪ Recognize, that the Authority must come from God
  o Said men are likened to animals who do things only because it seems good to them to do (Jude 1:10).
    ▪ Work from instinct rather than the word of God
  o Jude uses the example of Cain to illustrate that the children of God and the devil are made manifest by their attitude toward truth and righteousness (Jude 1:11).
    ▪ When we do it our way
  o False teachers are compared to Balaam in that they have a love for things other than God’s word. These teachers cast stumbling blocks before God’s people with their erroneous teachings (Jude 1:11).
    ▪ Rules and Traditions trump God’s word.
  o False teachers are like Korah in that they contradict and twist God’s holy word to fit their likes and dislikes (Jude 1:11).
    ▪ Taking advantage of people for money, fame, and power.
• What to Watch for Today (vs 12 – 15)
  o Doctrines of false teachers are treacherous. These individuals seek self-glory, give false hope, and produce no good fruit (Jude 1:12).
    • Motivation – About themselves
    • Clouds – No Substance
    • Trees – No Fruit
    • Twice Dead – No Life Left
    • Raging Waves of the Sea – Their actions bring shame
    • Wandering Stars – Lost in the darkness of space
  o Jude tells us that false teachers do not rest until they have things their way. (Jude 1:13)
  o Those who seek their guidance or council are lost. The eternal abode of the false teacher is the blackness of hell (Jude 1:13).
  o Jesus will come with 10,000 angels (holy ones) to execute judgment upon those who teach false doctrines (Jude 1:14-15).

• Characteristics (vs 16 – 19)
  o These men pursue their desires (lust) at the cost of brethren’s faith and the truth (Jude 1:16).
    • False teachers grumble and complain when given instructions to follow (Jude 1:16).
    • As long as men and women are vigorously upholding the truth in the church the false teacher will be there complaining (Jude 1:16).
    • They will say things to gain advantage (Jude 1:16)
  o False teachers are sensual and have not the Holy Spirit because they do not wholly accept truth (Jude 1:18).
  o False teachers cause divisions in the church (Jude 1:18-19).

• Stay the Course (vs 20 – 23)
  o We all need to be striving to increase our faith and knowledge. We can do this by studying God’s word as well as our prayer life. The better we understand God’s will, the easier it will be for us to understand if we are within it or on the outside of it. Christ’s mercy provides the cushion when we fall and we need to have a similar compassion for others who fall. Let the Christian beware (Jude 1:22-23).

• Praise to God (vs 24, 25)
  o If we keep our Focus on God and His word, He can keep us from stumbling and will allow us to be faultless in the sight of God. Not that we are without sin, but that we are striving to align our will with God’s. This is how we enter into His Glory. (Jude 1:24)
  o God alone is wise. How often do we depend on our wisdom instead of God’s? We need to submit to God’s Glory, Majesty, Dominion and Power…Now and Always.
Portrait of a False Teacher

- Sneaky
- Lost Focus
- Physical
- Instinct
- Twist Word
- No Substance
- No Fruit
- Crashing Waves
- Self First
- Cause Division

- Deny Jesus
- Wrong Desire
- Deny Auth.
- Not of Word
- About Them
- Twice Dead
- Wandering Stars
- Become Auth.

Other things to consider Regarding False Teachers

- Galatians 5:7-12
  - False teachers distract Christians from obeying the truth of the gospel
  - False teachers replace the call of God with their own deceptive persuasiveness
  - False teachers gain control over the whole church
  - False teachers cause confusion and discouragement
  - False teachers spread false reports about spiritual leaders
  - False teachers emphasize sensational rituals
- 2 Peter 2
  - Destructive Doctrines
  - Doom of False Teachers
  - Depravity of False Teachers
  - Deceptions of False Teachers
    - Great Swelling Words
    - Empty Words
    - Work through the Lust of Flesh
    - Through Lewdness
    - Promise Liberty, but are Corrupt Themselves
    - Bringing others into Bondage
    - Polluting
Even though this paragraph is allegedly about the author, it’s not actually about you. It’s about your reader, and what that person is looking to learn or gain from your article. It helps to think of this setup as a well-composed sentence -- you’re the object, and the reader is the subject. If you write about conversion optimization, for example, explain what kind of experience you have with it. If you have academic degrees, list them -- but only if they're relevant to the publication or article. Stephen is of Scots-Irish ancestry, stands 6'4" and weighs about 200 pounds. He is blue-eyed, fair-skinned, and has thick, black hair, with a frost of white most noticeable in his beard, which he sometimes wears between the end of the World Series and the opening of baseball spring training in Florida.