

Acts of the Apostates

A Workbook for Memorizing

The Epistle of Jude

by

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Introduction

You are about to start a wonderful adventure! Memorizing Scripture is an awesome privilege. As you memorize and meditate on the very Words of our Lord, you'll find them penetrating the very essence of your being. They'll feed your soul and bathe your spirit as nothing else. You'll experience parched areas of your life being satisfied as never before. You'll find yourself experiencing the all loving, all powerful Author in new and intimate ways. And as you begin memorizing the book of Jude, always remember that the Bible is unlike any other book - it is the *all-powerful, never failing Word of God*. It is God speaking to you. You can know that He says what He means and means what He says.

The Epistle of Jude is one of the shortest books in the Bible, consisting of only one chapter. It is, of course, written by Jude, a half brother of our Lord. Even though he was biologically related to Jesus, he makes no reference to this in his epistle. We know about it only because of his reference to being "*a brother of James*", and the two of them are mentioned together in Scripture as Jesus' brothers.

Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't His brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? (Matthew 13:55, also Mark 6:3)

The name Jude is short for Judas. Two of the twelve apostles were named Judas: Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of our Lord, and another Judas who is identified as "*Judas, not Iscariot*" (John 14:22). Perhaps the use of the shorter form of Judas used to identify this epistle is also to avoid any connection with the infamous betrayer.

Apparently neither James nor Jude believed in Jesus while He was alive, for we're told in John 7:5 that "*even his own brothers did not believe in Him.*" But after His resurrection they are mentioned in Acts 1:14 as being with the disciples in the upper room. "*They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.*"

This letter is written to correct heresy and apostasy that was creeping into the young church and threatening to pollute sound doctrinal teaching as it was presented by the apostles. It was important that this be promptly addressed in order to warn new Christians who were being taken in by false teachers. Some Bible scholars feel that the book of Jude is prophetic of the apostasy that will prevail in the last days.

Jude's letter is described by David Guzik as being "broken and rugged, bold and picturesque, energetic, vehement, and glowing with the fires of passion and conviction." He says, "Luke wrote about the `Acts of the Apostles,' but Jude will tell us all about the `Acts of the Apostates'".

Commentaries that have been helpful in the preparation of this workbook are: "Matthew Henry Commentary on Jude", "Through the Bible with J. Vernon McGee", "Commentary on Jude" by Thomas Manton, and "David Guzik Study Guide for Jude".

Note: As you memorize each verse, be sure you can say it without mistakes, then quote it to someone who will check it for you to make sure you are saying it word perfect. Always be sure you know each verse perfectly before going on to the next one. Say the Scripture you have learned often - to yourself and out loud - while you're working around the house, riding in the car, lying in bed or whenever your mind is not active in other areas. The more often you say it, the easier it will be to remember. Writing it out will also help to impress it on your memory. Some people find it helpful to note word and letter associations (such as acronyms and alphabetic sequence) as they go along to help jog their memory when needed. (You will find the book *The Sword! Scripture Memorization a Must For Today* an invaluable resource to challenge and guide you in your journey of Scripture memorization. You can purchase it or download it, free of charge, on this web site.)

May God reveal Himself to you in a special way as you launch into this new venture of faith.

Jude 1a

Jude 1a - Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,

When Jude wrote this epistle, almost 2000 years ago, it was customary for the writer to identify himself at the beginning of a letter instead of at the end as we do today. That's why the first word in this epistle is the name of the author. . . "Jude!"

Jude, as mentioned in the introduction, was a half-brother to Jesus. Having grown up with Jesus, he saw Him every day. He talked with Him, played with Him, ate with Him and probably slept with Him. Yet he makes no mention of these things in his letter. He did not say, "Hey, you guys, Jesus was my brother, you'd better listen to me!" He refers to himself only as a "*servant of Jesus Christ*". To him, the greatest honor and most worthy title he could think of was to identify himself as a *servant* of his Brother and Lord.

Jude knew that being a member of Jesus' earthly family had no spiritual significance. He knew that the blood Jesus shed for him on the cross was what was important, not the blood flowing through his veins that related him biologically to the Savior. He knew that the only way to heaven was to acknowledge his sin and need for a Savior. He knew he must invite Jesus into his heart to cleanse him from sin and clothe him with His righteousness - just like you and me or anyone else.

As mentioned in the introduction, the only way we know that this is the Jude who was related to Jesus is that he tells us James was his brother and we know that James was the half brother of Jesus. James was well known as an elder in the church at Jerusalem and the author of the epistle that bears his name.

(Filling in blanks is a great way to learn, but in order to get the full benefit it will be important for you to cover up each portion as you complete it to eliminate the temptation of looking back at the answers. It will also be important for you to quote what you have learned to someone else who can carefully check it for you as you say it. It is important to know Scripture word perfect. We will remind you of these things just to get you started. You'll soon get into the habit and just do it automatically.)

Beginning:

Vs. 1a - Jude, a _____ of Jesus Christ and a brother of _____,

(Be sure to cover up this "Beginning" part before doing the "Progressing, and cover up the "Beginning" and "Progressing" parts before doing the "Advancing"; then cover up "Beginning", "Progressing" and "Advancing" before doing your "Arriving". Actually this is such a short portion we really don't need four steps, but we are using them anyway just to establish the pattern.)

Progressing

Vs. 1a - _____, a servant of _____ Christ and a _____ of James,

Advancing:

Vs. 1a - Jude, a _____ of _____ and a _____ of _____,

Arriving:

Vs. 1a - Jude _____

Jude 1b

Jude 1b - To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ.

This letter is not addressed to a specific person or church as most other epistles, but to the church as a whole - to the church that existed at that time, as well as to all churches for all times. It is addressed to *"those who have been called!"* Called? Called by whom? Called to what? Christians are called by God out of this world to higher and better things, to things unseen and eternal; called from sin into Christ, from vanity to awareness, from uncleanness to holiness. (I Cor. 1:9, I Peter 4:2)

Did you know that God chose you to be His child even before the world was created? He had you picked before you were even born, because He loved you and wanted you to be His child. Ephesians 1:4 says *"... he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight."* Yes, He called us to be His very own and sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for all the rotten stuff we've done so we could have that privilege. Jesus took our sins on Himself and clothed us with His own righteousness so that through Him we might *"be holy and blameless..."* If you know Jesus as your Savior, this letter is addressed to you. Jude is writing to you and to me.

A-A-A-n-n-n-d-d-d, as God's children, we are *kept* by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. What does it mean to "keep" something? It has the meaning of protection, of keeping it *safe*, doesn't it? Something that is kept doesn't have to do anything itself, it is kept by another. So Jesus is the One who "keeps" us in His care. We don't have to worry: He is the One who does the keeping. He is our Guardian and Protector.

(Be sure to say this entire verse now to someone who can check it for you to make sure you have it - word perfect. Whereas it may be a little tedious to write out the verses as you go along, it is a good idea to do it at least for a while. If you have a typewriter or computer, it's easy to type them out in review. This will help to brand them on your memory. So for now it will be helpful to write or type out this first verse to make sure you have it well in mind before going on)

Beginning:

Vs. 1b - To _____ who have _____ called, who are loved by _____ the Father and _____ by _____ Christ. *(Don't forget to cover up the steps as you go along.)*

Progressing:

Vs. 1b - To _____ who have been _____, who are loved by _____ the _____ and kept by _____.

Advancing:

Vs. 1b - To _____ who have been _____, who are _____ by _____ the _____ and _____ by _____.

Arriving:

Vs. 1b - To _____

Jude 2

Jude 2 - Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

People usually bestow a blessing on others in matters that are significant to them. Whereas other epistles begin with a greeting of "grace and peace" or "grace, mercy and peace", Jude's emphasis is on God's great "mercy, peace and love". (*As you memorize, it will be helpful to take note of this sequence.*) He doesn't trifle with concern for earthly stuff such as prosperity and fame, but regardless of whatever one's lot may be in this life, Jude wants his readers to be aware that God's "mercy, peace and love" supersedes all. And he doesn't just want us to have scraps or a mere smattering. He wants us to have overflowing portions. He wants us to experience them - "in abundance".

Matthew Henry puts it this way:

1. "The *mercy* of God is the spring and fountain of all the good we have or hope for; mercy not only to the miserable, but to the guilty.
2. "Next to mercy is *peace*, which we have from the sense of having obtained mercy. We can have no true and lasting peace but what flows from our reconciliation with God by Jesus Christ.
3. "As from mercy springs peace, so from peace springs *love*, his love to us, our love to him and our brotherly love to one another."

Love is an attribute of God. We are told that "God is love". He is love personified and His love encompasses the entire world - "God so loved the world". His love takes in everyone. Nor does He have any special favorites. We are all His favorites. He loves *you* in a very special way. As Dr. McGee says, "Now you can keep from experiencing God's love, but you cannot keep Him from loving you. You can't keep the sun from shining, but you can put up an umbrella to keep the sun from shining on *you*. And there are certain umbrellas you can put up to keep from experiencing the love of God, the umbrella of resistance to His will, of sin in your life, etc."

And although God loves us with an all consuming love, love does not satisfy His justice and holiness. The penalty for sin must be paid. In His great mercy and love He offered His Son as an atonement for our sins, so that we can know peace *with* God, as well as the peace *of* God.

(Well this is another short one isn't it? But now you have two verses. Say them together to the one who is checking for you. And write or type them out together to help establish them in your mind before going on.)

Beginning:

Vs. 2 - _____, peace and love be _____ in abundance. (*Again, this is such a short verse we really don't need more than one or two "fill-in-the-blanks". For the sake of continuity we are not digressing from the format, but you can know they will get longer. Blessings on you!!*)

Progressing:

Vs. 2 - Mercy, _____ and _____ be yours in _____ .

Advancing:

Vs. 2 - _____, _____ and _____ be _____ in abundance.

Arriving:

Vs. 2 - _____

Jude 3

Jude 3 - Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

Jude obviously loves the people to whom he is writing and this opening comment is also indicative of God's great love expressed in this very warm address - "*Dear friends*". Then he talks about the "*salvation we share*". Again, it's important for us to remember that there is only one "salvation" and one way to heaven shared by all of us. There isn't one way for rich and one for poor, one for "good" and one for bad. Even though Jude was the brother of Jesus and had known Him all his life, and even though another brother was a prominent leader in the church, Jude came to Jesus the same way as you and I. It is only through the forgiveness that is offered to us by the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ that he or any of us can know the joy of eternal salvation.

Jude says he was "*eager*" - anxious and excited - about writing concerning this wonderful salvation he had experienced. He writes this letter because even though he could not be there in person, he didn't want to miss the opportunity of sharing his love and concern for them. As mentioned in the Introduction, Jude didn't believe in Jesus when he was growing up. In fact, it seems not until Jesus rose from the dead did he and his brother, James, realize that Jesus, their older brother, was who He said He was - the long awaited Messiah who would die for their sins and the sins of the whole world. And now that he knows Jesus as his own, personal Savior, Jude can't wait to share this joy with others and encourage them in this exciting way of life. Like Jude, you and I should always show our love to Christian brothers and sisters and take advantage of every opportunity to encourage them in the things of the Lord.

But even though he wanted to write about the wonderful salvation that we as Christians share, Jude says that an emergency has arisen that he must address. The word "contend" here has the idea of warfare. It means to "fight strenuously for". First he refers to the "salvation" that we share by faith and then he talks about "contending" or fighting for this faith. We are to hold fast to our faith in God and His precious Word. We only guard things that are valuable, don't we? If you walked into an art gallery with no guards and no security system, you would conclude that there is nothing very valuable there - valuables are protected. Jude is saying here that we must guard and defend the priceless gift we have in Christ.

There are many ways our faith in God might be threatened and Jude tells us we must fight strenuously in its defense. God has told us that as long as we are here on this earth we will be in a battle. We have an enemy bent on doing everything possible to destroy us and our testimony for the Lord. The Bible tells us he is a thief out to "steal, kill and destroy" (John 10:10). He's not an opponent we can see with our eyes, but he's a very real and formidable adversary. He will use any means possible to lure us away from the Lord whether it's discouragement, ridicule, disappointments, evil temptations, false doctrine - wherever he sees a weakness on our part, he will take advantage of it. He can make things look very innocent in order to lure us in to his schemes. He often uses his followers to manipulate and pressure. This is especially evident today as young people constantly face the pressure of their peers trying to lure them into compromising situations. We need to be alert because we are told in I Peter 5:8 that the devil "*prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*" - someone who is unprepared and weak, who is easy prey. That's why it's important for us to ask the Lord every day to help us see with His eyes and to be as wise as serpents and as harmless doves. This is a battle we can't fight with human strength. "Contending for the faith" is a spiritual battle and we need to be armed with spiritual resources in order to prevail.

Take a moment to look at Ephesians 6:12-17 where God tells us about His armor and sword that are needed for such warfare. Look at verse 17. Here the Lord commands us to "take . . . the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God". He doesn't just suggest it; He commands it. The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God! Some people think that the bound book, that is our Bible, is the "Sword of the Spirit". Indeed this book records the Word of God that is our sword. But what do you suppose happened to soldiers who left their swords on the coffee table when they went to fight against an enemy? In order for us to have our sword with us at all times we must memorize it. We must have it in our heart. As you are now memorizing Scripture, you are learning to take the Sword of the Spirit for yourself. You are hiding God's Holy Word in your heart because it's only as you memorize it that you will have it securely in mind and in hand to defend against enemy assaults at all times. No matter what realm our adversary may consider vulnerable and attack - whether it be emotional, sensual, physical, doctrinal or whatever - the Sword of the Spirit is the weapon our Lord has given us to use - both for defense and offense.

Notice, the privilege and responsibility of "contending for the faith" has been "entrusted to the saints" - to you and to me. If you know Jesus as your Savior, you are called to be a "defender of the faith". Be sure you have your Sword securely in hand ready for combat.

(Time for review. Start from the beginning and say verses one, two and three together to the one helping you and write or type them out to be sure they are correctly and firmly impressed in your mind.)

Beginning:

Vs. 3 - Dear friends, _____ I was very _____ to write to _____ about the _____ we share, I felt I had to _____ and urge you to _____ for the _____ that was _____ for all entrusted to the _____. *(You won't forget to cover up each section as you complete it, will you?)*

Progressing:

Vs. 3 - Dear _____, although I _____ very _____ to write to you _____ the salvation we _____, I _____ I had to write and _____ you to _____ for the faith _____ was once for _____ entrusted to the _____.

Advancing:

Vs. 3 - _____, although I was _____ eager to _____ to _____ about the _____ we _____, I _____ I _____ to _____ and _____ you to _____ for the _____ that was _____ for all _____ to the _____.

Arriving:

Vs 3 - Dear _____

Jude 4a

Jude 4a - For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you.

Now we learn why Jude gave us that strong exhortation to "contend" for the faith. Here is the situation. Wicked men secretly crept into the church. They weren't men who wore buttons that said "Danger! False Teacher!" In fact, they may have seemed more spiritual than anyone else. The devil's workers are deceitful. They come in under false pretenses. Oh, they probably knew all the good old Christian clichés and "cozied" up to the "right" people, but they were wolves in sheep's clothing and up to no good. Jude says that their "*condemnation was written about long ago.*" Ever since the time of Adam, Satan has been busy trying to destroy God's people. Throughout the ages, the great deceiver uses those whom he has succeeded in deceiving to lure others. Jude is writing to caution the church about these ungodly men who have crept in to dilute and pollute the teachings of Christ in the church.

We need to be careful not to assume that everyone who comes to church or is a member of the church or calls himself a Christian, is a child of God. John gives us the test of a true believer in I John 4:1-3. Anyone who is from God believes that *Jesus Christ is the Son of God*. Anyone who does not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God is not from God. So if you meet someone you are just not sure of, always ask them what they think about Jesus. If they acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God come in the flesh *and* God, the Son - then you can know that they are Christians. If they do not, then you know they are not. Do not simply accept someone else's teaching because he is a Christian or says he is a Christian. It could be that some teachers even in the church are not teaching truth as set forth in God's Word. It's always good to test any teaching that you hear with the Word of God because even Christians sometimes digress. As you are now memorizing God's Word you will have it always handy, hidden in your heart, so that you can compare teaching that is given with the actual Words of Scripture.

(Don't forget to review the previous verses along with this one when you quote to the one who is working with you and preferably write or type them out to impress them on your mind.)

Beginning:

Vs. 4a - For certain _____ whose condemnation _____ written about long _____ have secretly _____ in among _____. (Don't forget to "cover up".)

Progressing:

Vs. 4a - _____ certain _____ whose _____ was _____ about _____ ago have _____ slipped in _____ you.

Advancing:

Vs. 4a - _____ men _____ condemnation _____ about _____ have _____ slipped in _____.

Arriving:

Vs. 4a - For _____

Jude 4b

Jude 4b - They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Although they were sneaky and didn't openly reveal their identity, these evil men exhibited two characteristics that betrayed their heresy. In the last verse we alluded to the fact that we could tell whether or not someone was a servant of our God by knowing their stand on the deity of Christ. Now we learn very fast where these men were coming from. They not only denied the Sovereignty of Jesus, they were twisting God's Word to say that their own sinful actions were actually a good thing in God's sight.

They were people who loved to sin and felt that God loved to forgive. They thought that this was a great arrangement. They could just do whatever they felt like, no matter how evil, with no regard for God or conscience - without shame, or decency - contending that no matter what it was, God would forgive them, so it really didn't matter. And they were teaching others that this was the secret of a happy Christian life.

We can be sure that such ideas do not come from God! I John 5:18 tells us that *"anyone born of God does not continue to sin."* and I John 3:6 says, *"No one who continues to sin has either seen Him (God) or known Him."*

(Are you ready for the review? Say verses 1-4 to the one who is checking for you and write or type them out before going on.)

Beginning:

Vs. 4b - They are _____ men, who change the _____ of our God into a _____ for _____ and deny _____ Christ our only Sovereign and _____. *(I probably don't have to remind you to cover up these sections as you go along.)*

Progressing:

Vs. 4b: They are godless _____, who _____ the grace _____ our _____ into a license _____ immorality and _____ Jesus _____ our only _____ and Lord.

Advancing:

Vs. 4b: _____ are _____ . who change _____ of _____ into a _____ for _____ and deny _____ our only _____ and _____ .

Arriving:

Vs 4b - _____

Jude 5

Jude 5 - Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered His people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

Jude now compares these men to three groups of beings. The first group is the Israelites whom God delivered out of Egypt. They were all miraculously rescued from the clutches of Pharaoh and many times experienced God's blessing and miracles in the wilderness but, even so, some of them were later destroyed. Why? It's interesting that the Israelites committed many sins during their wilderness journey - murmuring, lust, idolatry, rebellion - but according to this verse it was the sin of *unbelief* that was the final defeat of some who were ultimately destroyed.

Unbelief is the worst sin of all because if we don't believe what God says, we are calling Him a liar, aren't we? This is blasphemy. By refusing to trust His Word, we are questioning His mercy, His power, His justice, His love and even - His holiness. Do you like to keep company with liars? This is the category we are putting our God in when we do not believe Him. How do you feel when someone calls you a liar? Not a good feeling, is it? Think of what it must be for a holy, all knowing, all powerful, all loving God to be considered a liar by the very people He so lovingly created and rescues from sin and its penalty at a great price!

(This is the beginning of a new section in the book of Jude, so be sure to quote from the beginning of the book, but just pick up verse 4 with this one when you write or type them out.)

Beginning:

Vs. 5 - Though you already _____ all this, I want to _____ you that the Lord _____ His people out of _____, but later _____ those who did not _____. *(This will be the last time I will remind you to cover up each section as you go along. I'm sure you'll remember from here on.)*

Progressing:

Vs. 5 - _____ you _____ know all _____, I want to remind _____ that the _____ delivered His _____ out of Egypt, but _____ destroyed _____ who did _____ believe.

Advancing:

Vs. 5 - _____ you already _____ all this, _____ want to _____ you that _____ delivered _____ out of _____, but later _____ those who did _____.

Arriving:

Vs. 5 - Though _____

Jude 6

Jude 6 - And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these He has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

I'm sure you know that Satan was once one of three mighty archangels in heaven - Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer. They all lived in the very presence of God. They worshipped Him, witnessed his holiness and majesty, and experienced His boundless love. But when Lucifer was overcome by His own importance, in pride and rebellion he decided that he could be greater than God Himself. You can read the story in Isaiah 14:12-15. Because of his sin he was cast out of heaven down to earth and today we know him as the devil, or Satan. Jesus said "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*" (Luke 10:18) When he fell, there were thousands of angels who sinned with him, perhaps as many as one third of all the angels in heaven.

While some of these angels have been chained up to await judgment, today Satan and his remaining horde struggle for authority on this earth. Because they can't destroy God, they do everything they can to destroy His people, and to thwart His plan for us. We have a hint here of the terrible consequences awaiting Satan and his fallen angels for their disobedience and defiance of the eternal God. *(When you quote to the one helping you, begin from the beginning of the book, but write or type out only verses 4-6)*

Beginning:

Vs. 6 - And the _____ who did not _____ their positions of _____ but abandoned their _____ home — these He _____ kept in _____, bound with everlasting _____ for judgment on the _____ Day.

Progressing:

Vs. 6 - And _____ angels who _____ keep their _____ of authority but _____ their own _____ — _____ He has _____ in darkness, bound _____ everlasting _____ for _____ on the great _____.

Advancing:

Vs. 6 - _____ the _____ who _____ not keep _____ of _____ but _____ their _____ — these He _____ kept in _____, _____ with _____ for _____ on the _____ .

Arriving:

Vs. 6 - And _____

Jude 7

Jude 7 - In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

When Satan and his angels perverted God's plan for them and were cast to earth out of the very courts of heaven, their main goal became to pervert the thinking of God's creatures and to seduce them into their corrupt way of life. They work constantly to keep people from knowing and accepting the salvation of our loving God. And if they are unsuccessful there, they try to tempt and destroy those who have come to know the God of creation. Satan and his fallen angels would like nothing better than to destroy you and your testimony for the Lord. They will do everything possible to lure you into situations that will draw you into their snares. One area of temptation is the realm of sexual immorality. Let me say to young people - once you have opened this door, it can never be closed. Virginity can only be given once, and once it is yielded, it can never be regained. This is a decision that is made forever and if it is wasted in a foolish way, it can never be the meaningful experience you want it to be for your life's partner.

Sex is a very beautiful thing that God intended to be the highest expression of love between a man and his wife. It is in this aura of love that He intended for babies to be conceived and born. But everything that God intends to be pure, good and special - the enemy of our souls delights in perverting to make into something that is dirty, evil and common. People who are not committed to living a pure life for Jesus often become preoccupied with sex. Almost everywhere we turn, today, we see sex presented in ways that are not as God intended. For many, it has become a common expression of lust and self interest, and for some it is an uncontrolled obsession.

Then there are those who are so distorted in their thinking that casual sex and pornography are not enough. Women are having sex with other women, men with other men - and pursuing other perverted forms. This is what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah. You can read this sordid story in Genesis 19:1-29. In Romans 1:18-28 God also speaks of repulsive sexual practices that control the lives of some who turn their backs on His love.

It is important to remember that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and to pollute it with illicit sex is a very serious thing. Your life is made up of choices, many choices. We all make many decisions every single day. Some of them are very minor, like "What shall I wear?" or maybe "What shall I have for lunch?" But there are also major, life changing decisions that come up. If it has not happened to you, already, one thing you will surely face will be whether or not you will obey God and keep your body pure for Him and for your life's partner.

You may say to yourself, "Oh, illicit sex is something I would never do." That is good thinking. But it will be wise for you to commit this to the Lord and ask Him to give you the strength to fulfil this vow. There could well be a time when your sexual feelings toward someone will be so strong they will be hard to resist. There will be talk of love and even commitment, but always remember that your body belongs to the pure Holy Spirit of God and it is your responsibility to keep it untainted for Him. Oh yes, God will forgive you if you blow it and truly ask forgiveness in repentance, but you will never, never again experience the precious virginity and innocence that you will want to give to the one you will one day marry.

Today, we see a wide acceptance of sexual sins and sexual perversion in a society that is turning its back on God. This is an area in which the devil is very active. Sexual perversion is a major part of the occultic world. Sodom and Gomorrah were guilty of very serious sexual sins. This verse says that they "gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion". It controlled their lives. And they refused to repent. Right up to the end, they rebelled against God and we learn in this verse and in II Peter 2:6 that God holds them up as an example of the terrible consequences awaiting those who choose this life style. Jude makes it very clear that "punishment of eternal fire" is their ultimate end.

(When you quote to the one who is checking for you, be sure to begin at the beginning of the book. Later as you get further into it, it will be good to begin in different areas, then work back by paragraph until you ultimately end up quoting from the beginning. This way you will be able to have a complete review.)

Beginning:

Vs. 7 - In a similar way, _____ and Gomorrah and the _____ towns gave _____ up to _____ immorality _____ perversion. They serve as an _____ of those who _____ the punishment of _____ fire.

Progressing:

Vs. 7 - In a _____ way, Sodom _____ Gomorrah and _____ surrounding _____ gave themselves _____ to _____ immorality and _____. They _____ as an example _____ those _____ suffer the _____ of eternal _____ .

Advancing:

Vs. 7 - _____ a similar _____, _____ and _____ and the _____ gave _____ up to _____ and _____. _____ as an _____ of _____ who _____ the _____ of _____ fire.

Arriving:

Vs 7 - In _____

Jude 8

Jude 8 - In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.

Having cited three examples of groups of individuals who blatantly rejected God's love, Jude now compares the wicked men who have infiltrated their congregation with them. First of all, he says they are "dreamers". Dreamers are people who have lost contact with reality. They reject the reality of God who created them and who loves them, choosing rather to embrace the illusion of evolution, maintaining that this world "just appeared" out of sheer nothing. They consider themselves accountable to no one, contending that their only purpose in life is to "eat, drink and be merry". They see themselves as mere animals, which ultimately return to the dust, and they refuse to acknowledge the fact that they possess an eternal soul, that will somewhere live forever. In trying to flaunt their super intelligence, they show themselves to be fools. (Romans 1:22)

Take note also that those who "reject authority" are not only rejecting the authority of parents, teachers, government, or whomever, they are rejecting God because He is the one who places people in positions of authority. Peter tells us that we should submit ourselves "*for the Lord's sake, to every authority instituted among men . . .*" (I Peter 2:13). People who reject authority have made their own desires and sinful reasoning their prime focus. This is spiritual adultery in that they reject their loving Creator while chasing after their own sinful desires and interests which have become their idols. Oh, they may not worship gods of wood and stone, but they worship gods of self-desire, greed and self-gratification. When someone reaches this point of spiritual depravation, God often seems to say, in essence, "Okay, if that's what you want, you can have it". It is a small step from here to a lifestyle of sexual perversion and pollution of their bodies. You may want to read Romans 1:18-28 again. This passage deals with this subject in detail. (Comments are continued on the next page.)

(I'm sure you know by now to recite the chapter from the beginning and write or type out two or three prior verses along with this one. From here on I'm sure you can follow through at your own discretion.)

Beginning:

Vs. 8 - In the _____ same way, these _____ pollute their own _____, reject authority and _____ celestial beings.

Progressing:

Vs. 8 - _____ the very _____ way, _____ dreamers pollute their _____ bodies, reject _____ and slander _____ beings.

Advancing:

Vs. 8 - In the _____ same _____, these _____ their _____ . reject _____ and _____

Arriving:

Vs. 8 - _____

Jude 9

Jude 9 - But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

(Continuing commentary on verse 8) "Slander" is described in the dictionary as "a false report circulated to damage the reputation of another person". The term "celestial being" used in verse 8, is also translated "dignitaries". Some Bible scholars believe that Jude is here referring to officers in the church. We need to be cautious about criticizing God's servants. And young people need to be aware of the slander and ridicule of celestial beings promoted today in some punk lyrics and certain video games. Be aware that no matter what form it takes, the sin of slander as used in verses 8 and 9 is satanic. It is grouped together here with very grievous sins and we should be careful not to look upon it as an insignificant sin.

A glaring illustration is given. Exactly why Michael and the devil battled for the body of Moses is a topic for complex doctrinal dissertation, not for our brief comments. We know that it happened because it is here recorded in God's Word.

The thing that is important for us to recognize is that we here have Michael on one side, an exalted figure, an archangel in the courts of our Lord - and captain of all the armies of heaven. He defends what is good and right. On the other side we have the devil, who is the author and instigator of everything that is debased and evil, arch enemy of God and everything good. Certainly there was much Michael could have said in condemnation of his enemy. In fact, one might ask what could he have found that was good about him? Yet we're told that Michael didn't bring "*slanderous accusations*" against this wicked being even in the heat of battle. Instead, we're told he merely said, in effect, "Okay, Lord, you know all about this. After all this is your battle, you do the rebuking."

Now there has probably never been a situation that could be more clearly defined than this one. Irrefutable good on one side and ultimate evil on the other! We have one of God's most respected, and most powerful representatives, against his vilest enemy. Yet Michael, an archangel, "*did not dare*" slander or accuse his adversary.

Shifting now from a heavenly scenario to those of us who are earthbound mortals. If Michael was not justified in slandering and accusing Satan, what should our attitude be in regard to our fellow humans - others who are loved by God and for whom Jesus died? It's very easy for us to point a finger at another person who may not be doing things the way we think they should be done. It's something we are all guilty of at one time or another. Yet we need to realize that no matter how bad they are, God still loves them, and Jesus died for them. We should hate the evil things they may do, but God wants us to love the individual. It's not for us to slander and accuse, it is for us to leave it up to God to rebuke. Our part is to pray for them, to love them and to be willing for the Lord to use us in helping them as He sees fit.

Romans 2:1 tells us that the reason we see another's faults is because we ourselves are guilty of the same thing (if not in deed, then in thought). "*You therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.*" It would be good for all of us to think of this verse whenever we have the urge to start pointing a critical finger at someone else.

Beginning:

Vs. 9 - But even the _____ Michael, when he was disputing with the _____ about the body of _____, did not dare to _____ a slanderous _____ against him, but _____ "The _____ you!"

Progressing:

Jude 9 - But _____ the archangel _____, when he was _____ with the devil _____ the _____ of Moses, did not _____ to bring a _____ accusation against _____, _____ said, "The Lord _____ you!"

Advancing:

Vs. 9 - _____ even the _____, when he _____ with the _____ about the _____ of _____, did not _____ to _____ a slanderous _____ against _____, but _____ "The _____ rebuke _____!"

Arriving:

Vs. 9 - But _____

Jude 10

Jude 10 - Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand: and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—these are the very things that destroy them.

To "speak abusively" again refers back to their slanderous, destructive accusations. After citing an illustration of great contrast that can't be disputed, that of Michael and Satan, Jude now refers back to the evil men who are defiling the Christian fellowship. In essence he says that one would think they might learn from the example that Michael set, but no, they barge blatantly into areas where angels fear to tread. Peter says, ". . . they blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, . . . and like beasts they too will perish." (II Peter 2:12)

Today vain profanity is loosely tossed around by those who do not know the Lord. It's always devastating for us to hear abusive and blasphemous language about our holy God flaunted so casually.

Most of the time there is no thought given to the flow of profanity and filthy communication that is flowing out of their mouths. It's just a way of life to them. They have no understanding of the One whose name they are degrading, nor do they wish to know. I have often wondered why people use our Lord's name in vain. They don't know Him or anything about Him. How do they even know His name? Yet they thoughtlessly toss it around in blasphemous ways. Surely it must be the direct intervention of the evil one who fills perverted minds with such thoughts.

Jude tells us that such people are concerned only with fleshly and sensual desires. They think life is made for food, drink, sex and violence. And these are the things they avidly pursue. They have no comprehension of God, no realization of their accountability to Him, no respect for Him or even for themselves. Nor is any thought given as to how their actions may affect other people. They say what they like, slander whomever they choose and pursue whatever feels good in order to satisfy their own interests and lusts. This is the way animals live, and they have degraded themselves to this level. Such rejection of Deity and disregard for anything or Anyone holy can reap only an eternity of darkness - separation from God in an eternal hell.

Beginning:

Vs. 10 - Yet these men _____ abusively _____ whatever they do not _____ : and what _____ they do _____ by instinct, like _____ animals—these are the very _____ that destroy them.

Progressing:

Vs. 10 - Yet these _____ speak _____ against whatever _____ do not _____ ; and _____ things _____ do understand by _____ like unreasoning _____ — _____ are the _____ things that _____ them.

Advancing:

Vs. 10 - _____ these men _____ against _____ they _____ ; _____ what _____ they do _____ by _____ , like _____ —these are the _____ that _____ them.

Arriving:

Vs 10 - Yet _____

Jude 11

Jude 11 - Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

In this verse Jude highlights three people who have distinguished themselves in all of history - not as glowing examples for us to follow - but as a big red sign saying, "Danger!! Don't be like them. Don't make the mistakes they made!"

Cain was the first murderer. You can read his story in Genesis 4:2-8. John said "*Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.*" (I John 3:12:) Cain hated his brother because of jealousy. God had accepted his brother, Abel's, sacrifice but not his. This infuriated Cain! Oh, there was nothing stopping Cain from receiving God's favor and acceptance too, but he was too proud to humble himself and admit that he was wrong. His hatred and rage grew so intense against the Lord and against his brother that he ended up murdering his own brother.

The story of Balaam in Numbers 22:1-25:3 is not too clear, but the problem is spelled out in Rev 2:14. Balaam was greedy. Peter says he "*loved the wages of wickedness*". (II Peter 2:15) He loved money and didn't care who he hurt in order to get it. The enemy of God's people, Balak, offered Balaam a tidy sum if he would curse the Israelites when they were coming out of Egypt. The Lord told Balaam to bless them and not to curse them, but Balaam couldn't resist the temptation. In the end it seems that even though the Lord would not let him curse the Israelites, he figured out his own way of handling it in order to collect the reward that was offered. He told Balak how he could entice the Israelites into sins that the Lord hated so that His anger would be stirred against them. As a result, God's people were ensnared in terrible wickedness. Balaam had the opportunity to be a blessing, but instead, he used his abilities to bring an evil curse on God's chosen people.

Korah was one of the multitude who came out of Egypt with Moses. You can read his story in Numbers 16:1-35. (A condensed version is in Numbers 26:9-10). Moses and Aaron were men picked by God to lead the Children of Israel. But Korah resented their leadership and authority. He decided that he and his friends could do better. (Does this remind you of some we see today who rebel against any form of authority and proudly display bumper stickers, like, "Question Authority"?) This is the spirit that dominated Korah's life and because of his lust for power he led others in a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. God judged them on the spot as the earth opened up and an enormous earthquake destroyed them all. Numbers 26:10 says "*And they served as a warning sign.*"

So we have Cain who was overcome with pride and hatred and ended up murdering his brother. Then we have Balaam who loved money so much he was ready to sell God's chosen people down the tubes in order to get it. And we have Korah who resented authority and, in pursuing the power and recognition of others, met his death in God's terrible judgment.

These are sad examples of men who rejected the authority of a supreme God and let their own lust and pride dominate their lives. They all had great potential, but they were so busy lusting after what others had, and taking things into their own hands, they never did experience the beautiful plan God had for them. It is important for us all to remember that God has a unique work for each of us. He has a very special place for you in His plan - a place designed just for you, and you alone. He has equipped you with all of the talents, the background, experience and the traits of character you need to play your part in His predestined plan. We should all be careful not to waste our time envying other people, looking at what they have or how God is using them. Instead, we should ask God to help us fill the place He has called us to and to be the person He has called us to be.

It's important for us to note that the negative influence of these three men not only wrecked their own lives, but was also the means that Satan used to corrupt and destroy the lives of others. But we all influence those around us, don't we? Paul said, "... *none of us lives to himself alone...*" (Romans 14:7) Whether we want to or not, you and I influence every person we meet - either for good or evil. It's a wise thing for us to ask the Lord to help us at all times to be *His* person in *His* place so that we can be an expression of His love (and restraint) to all those with whom we come in contact.

We should be aware that we are also influenced by those with whom we keep company so it is important for us to pick our friends carefully. The more time we spend with someone the more like them we will become. Now that you and I are spending time memorizing Scripture, we are getting to know the Lord in more intimate ways. And the more time we spend with Him, talking with Him and meditating on His Word, the more like *Him* we'll become. And the more like Him we become, the more effective we can be for Him as he uses us to encourage others in His ways.

Beginning:

Vs. 11 - Woe to _____! They have taken the way of _____; they have _____ for profit into _____ error; they _____ been _____ in Korah's _____.

Progressing:

Vs. 11 - _____ to them! _____ have taken the _____ of Cain; they have _____ for _____ into Balaam's error; _____ have _____ in _____.

Advancing:-

Vs. 11 - _____ to _____! They _____ the _____ of _____; they have _____ for _____ into _____ error; _____ have _____ in _____.

Arriving:

Vs. 11 - Woe _____

Jude 12a

Jude 12a - These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves.

Jude proceeds to show how the evil men who have infiltrated their fellowship have pursued lusts similar to those mentioned in the previous verse and are now infecting their whole fellowship of believers.

It was customary for the early church to gather for meals to enjoy times of fellowship and worship. These gatherings were designed to encourage believers and strengthen their unity in the Lord and often included the celebration of the Lord's supper, their most holy observance. This is undoubtedly the "*love feasts*" referred to in this verse.

Because of the deceivers who had infiltrated their ranks, their feasts were becoming a time of revelry and gluttony. Instead of them being a time of holy worship as they were intended to be, Christians were encouraged to pursue their own lusts. Thus they were mocking the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus with absolutely no fear of God's vengeance or eternal punishment reserved for those who defy and deny His Son.

The comparison to shepherds is ironic. A shepherd's whole life is centered around his sheep - making sure they have adequate food and care - and protecting them with his own life if necessary. It is ridiculous to think of a shepherd who would put his own interests above that of his sheep. Peter equates shepherds with pastors and exhorts them, "*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care.*" (I Peter 5:2) But the pastors, or shepherds, Jude is speaking about live only for themselves and have no concern for their flock. We have pastors like this today who do not believe that the Bible is the Word of God, they do not believe that Christ is the Son of God, or that He died for the sins of the world. They ignore, even encourage, behavior that is condemned in Scripture. They feed off the flock but have nothing to feed them in return. They have no concern for the spiritual welfare of those under their care and end up leading them even further into a life of degradation and self gratification. You can read the harsh words our Lord has for such shepherds in Ezekiel 34:1-10.

It is good to remember that situations like this one Jude is citing do not happen all at once. Usually they start out very innocently. A tree may lean only slightly at first, but unless it corrects itself, it will, as time goes on, veer further and further off its intended course. This is why we must be sensitive to others around us to be aware of the direction they are leaning in order for us to remain on course in God's plan for us. We shouldn't just accept the lifestyle and concepts of others, even pastors, merely because they profess to be Christians. We need to test them as John tells us in I John 4:1: "*... do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*"

Beginning:

Vs. 12a - These men are _____ at your love feasts, _____ with you without the _____ qualm—shepherds who _____ only themselves.

Progressing:

Vs. 12a - These _____ are blemishes at your _____ feasts, _____ with you _____ the slightest qualm—_____ who feed only _____.

Advancing:

Vs 12a - These _____ are _____ at your _____, _____ with you _____ the slightest _____ who _____ only themselves.

Arriving:

Vs. 12a - These _____

Jude 12b

Jude 12b - They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.

Sounds pretty bleak, doesn't it? Today farmers have irrigation systems, but in those days, they were solely dependent on rain for their crops. It was very difficult for a farmer whose crops were dry and parched to see dark clouds and expectantly look for rain, only to have his hopes dashed when he realized they were just empty clouds being blown along by the wind. Jude is saying that this describes these men perfectly. They talk big, but have no substance to their life. They have no resistance, and no backbone to stand up for right or against wrong. They are people who have no real convictions, so they are blown around by every whim that comes along. Whatever they want at the moment is what they grab for. They have no respect for themselves or concern for others.

And have you ever seen a field of fruit trees that has been uprooted so all that's left is rows and rows of massive roots and dirt? Because the orchard had ceased to bear fruit, it was completely useless. Here is an unfortunate farmer who has labored all year for his fall crop, but there is no fruit to harvest so he has to dig up all his trees to make room for new ones. After all of his labors, he has nothing to sell, nothing for his family to eat and nothing to share. This is the sad picture of these men. They are like an uprooted orchard - barren and useless. The Lord has given them talents and longs for them to walk in His way and to bear fruit for Him, but they have produced nothing in their lives. They have no roots in God's Word to keep them stable; they just talk big and produce devastation not only for themselves, but for everyone in their path.

Beginning:

Vs. 12b - They are _____ without _____, blown along by the _____; autumn _____, without fruit and uprooted—twice _____.

Progressing:

Vs. 12b - _____ are clouds _____ rain, _____ along by the _____; autumn _____, without _____ and _____—
_____ dead.

Advancing:

Vs. 12b - _____ are _____ without _____, blown _____ by the _____; _____ trees, _____ and _____—twice _____.

Arriving:

Vs. 12b - They _____

Jude 13

Jude 13 - They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

And here is more! Have you ever stood at the seashore and watched the breakers crashing against the cliffs? They never follow any pattern, do they? And they never stop. This is another picture of men who endlessly waste their lives just thrashing around following their own whims and desires with no purpose, no reverence for God and no concern for anyone but themselves.

Finally, they are pictured as lost stars just wandering out there in millions and millions of miles of emptiness, with no direction and no plan. And as they wander around in the dark in this life, rejecting God's love, and thumbing their noses at His ways, so they will spend all of eternity, without God and without hope. If you have ever been in a cave or a situation where there is absolutely *no* light, you may have just an inkling of what will be their fate throughout all eternity. A very sad and scary picture.

In contrast to these "wandering stars" headed for eternal darkness, God's world functions in an efficient and orderly fashion. For example, we know that this planet we live on is fixed on course. It takes one year for it to orbit the sun, one day for it to turn on its axis, and one month for the moon to orbit around it. We set our clocks and make up calendars according to the plan that God has set in motion. Psalm 147:4 tells us that our Lord counts the millions of stars and more than that, He even calls them all by name. He has put them all in their places for His purpose. And as He has planned our universe, so He has planned each of our lives.

But He has not set us in a fixed course as He has the stars. He has given us a free will that we can exercise in any way we choose. He longs for us to fulfill the plan of love He has designed for each of us - but we can, if we so choose, be one of the aimless, useless people described in this verse. We can waste our lives just bouncing around doing whatever "feels good," if that's what we want to do. We can be like the mist blown along by the wind, and go with the crowd without exercising any resistance toward what we know is wrong, and we can spend our time thrashing around like the waves of the sea.

But may we all choose the better way! Always remember - as our Lord has designed the universe in His great plan, he has also designed your place in it. He has made you different from everyone else who ever lived. He made you the very special person you are to represent Him at this particular time in history. You have a combination of strengths and abilities that is shared by no one else in the whole world. The Lord gave them to - *you* - to fill *your* unique place in His perfect plan. He does not want any of us to wander aimlessly through life as the men described in these verses. He wants us to walk in His light, and in contrast, to enjoy His presence throughout all of eternity. Oh, no one said it would be easy, but *it is* the way of joy and ultimate victory. Our Lord has provided us with a guide book that gives specific instructions and directions for such a life. As you now memorize it, and store it up in your heart, God's Holy Spirit will be able to use it to guide you in His way, not only now, but throughout your entire life.

Beginning:

Vs. 13 - They are wild _____ of the _____, foaming _____ their _____; wandering _____, for whom blackest _____ has been reserved _____.

Progressing:

Vs. 13 - _____ are _____ waves of _____ sea, _____ up _____ shame; _____ stars, for whom _____ darkness has been _____ forever.

Advancing:

Vs. 13 - They are _____ of the _____ , _____ up their _____ ; _____ , for whom _____ darkness has been _____ .

Arriving:

Vs. 13 - They _____

Jude 14

Jude 14 - Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones . . .

There are several "Enochs" mentioned in the Bible, so Jude identifies this "Enoch" as being the seventh generation from Adam. Whereas in verse 11 Jude mentions three men who wasted their days on this earth, and whose evil lives serve as warnings to us, we now have a very unusual man who was one of only two men in the Bible who never died. We are told that Enoch "*walked with God*" and one day while they were out walking together, the Lord just said, in effect, "Enoch, why don't you come on home with me?" He apparently was taken up to heaven right on the spot. (Genesis 5:24) You know this could happen to us, too. We don't know exactly when our Lord Jesus will come, but He promised one day to come back for us and as we walk with Him, we too could be snatched up to be with Him in heaven just as Enoch was. (Comments are continued on the next page.)

(The prophesy referred to here is not recorded elsewhere in the Bible, so we don't know if it is from a book that may have existed in Jude's day that we don't have, or perhaps the Holy Spirit showed this to Jude directly. But either way, it is obvious that the Lord recorded it here because it was important for us to know.)

Beginning:

Vs 14 - Enoch, the seventh from _____, prophesied about these _____: "See the _____ is coming with _____ upon thousands of his _____ ones . . .

Progressing:

Vs. 14 - _____, the _____ from Adam, _____ about these _____: "See the Lord is _____ with thousands _____ thousands of his holy _____ . . .

Advancing:

Vs. 14 - Enoch, the _____ from _____, prophesied _____ these _____: " _____ the _____ is _____ with _____ upon _____ of his _____ ones . . .

Arriving:

Vs. 14 - Enoch, _____

Jude 15

Jude 15 - . . . to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

(Continuing comments on verse 14) The term "holy ones" used in verse 14 is translated in different ways in different versions. According to Dr. McGee, the Greek word used can apparently refer to either supernatural or natural creatures. So the NASB and Phillips agree with the NIV. The KJV uses "saints"; the RSV - "holy myriads"; the NEB - "angels" and the YLT - "saintly myriads". The Amplified Bible uses "holy ones" in the text, then a dash, and "ten thousands of His saints". Perhaps it means a combination of both saints and holy angels. Anyway, we know that one day the Lord Jesus is going to come back with "thousands upon thousands of His 'holy ones'" to judge the earth.

Whereas those who have accepted God's redemption have had even their most grievous sins forgiven, and with a clean slate can look forward to an eternity in the glories of heaven, those who have rejected His love and lived for their own evil desires will face fearsome judgment at His coming. Everything they have ever done or ever said in defiance of God will be judged and punished. Some people question why the Lord lets wicked men seemingly "get away" with the evil things they are doing, but we need to remember that our great God is in charge and He will judge them in *His* time.

Beginning:

Vs. 15 - to judge _____, and to convict all the _____ of all the _____ acts they have _____ in the _____ way, and of _____ the harsh words _____ sinners have _____ against him."

Progressing:

Vs. 15 - to _____ everyone, and to _____ all the ungodly of _____ the ungodly _____ they have done in the ungodly _____, and _____ all the _____ words _____ have spoken _____ him."

Advancing:

Vs. 15 - to judge _____, and to _____ all the _____ of _____ the _____ acts they have done in the ungodly _____, _____ of _____ the _____ ungodly _____ have _____ against _____."

Arriving:

Vs. 15 - to _____

Jude 16

Jude 16 - These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

We have here five blatant characteristics of people talking in defiance of God's laws.

(1) They murmur and mutter in undertones, an expression of discontent as they insult God and question His ways. Someone has said "Murmuring is the scum of discontent, or the vent of impatience". Oh, it's not loud and obvious, they just exude an undertone of complaining. The problem is they grumble *about* God, not *to* God which is the place we should take our displeasure. (It is interesting how David, a man after God's own heart, was not hesitant to voice his complaints to His great Mentor. It is at His feet we are reminded to unload our problems.) From undertones of grumbling they erupt into . . .

(2) complaining openly about their lot in life and finding fault with others. If they recognize God at all, they blame Him for everything that has happened to them. Maybe you know someone like this who constantly complains and never has anything good to say about anyone

(3) Notice these men "*follow*" their own desires or lusts. A Christian may be overcome by his lusts, but he is not subservient to them. He battles them and cries to the Lord for help, but these are men who are led by their lustful desires. "*Following*" is of a progressive nature that indicates the course and tenor of their lives.

(4) Their conversation is empty and arrogant. These are people who constantly boast about themselves: who they are, what they have and what they have accomplished. Someone said, "A proud spirit is no great spirit, no more than a swollen arm can be accounted big."

(5) Having no stature themselves, they flatter the right people, in order to promote themselves. They are like ivy that is unable to support itself so it twines around the oak until it chokes out its very life.

Beginning:

Vs. 16 - These men are grumblers and _____; they follow _____ own evil _____; they _____ about themselves and _____ others for their own _____ .

Progressing:

Vs. 16 - _____ men _____ grumblers _____ faultfinders; _____ follow _____ own _____ desires; _____ boast about _____ flatter _____ for _____ advantage.

Advancing:

Vs. 16 - _____ men are _____ and _____ they _____ their _____ ; they _____ about _____ and _____ for _____ own _____ .

Arriving:

Vs. 16 - These _____

Jude 17-18

Jude 17-18 - But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires."

Having described these godless intruders, Jude now exhorts the faithful to take note. He says, "So much for those who reject God and His sovereignty. There's something very important for us to remember, here. All of these things were predicted by the apostles." There are a lot of people who question why God permits people to blaspheme Him, to persecute Christians and even pollute His church with false doctrine. Jude is here saying, "Don't be concerned about all this. Look, it didn't take God by surprise. God knew this was going to happen. The apostles even told us that this was going to happen. They told us there were going to be men who would *follow* their own ungodly desires and now it's happening."

Notice again, they "*follow their own ungodly desires*". This is their way of life - their daily agenda. They are busy pursuing their own evil desires in direct defiance of God's loving caution.

The Lord condemns this way of life, knowing that it can lead only to grief and ultimate destruction, but such men turn their back on God and scoff at those who choose to follow Him. We see this attitude today becoming ever more prevalent. Those who stand up for what is right are frequently held up to scorn and ridicule. It isn't politically correct. It's not cool. The trend in the world today is to do what they *feel* like. "If it feels good, do it!" And if someone takes a godly stand in defense of what is right, or in opposition to what is wrong, they can expect to be scoffed at and made the butt of sarcastic ridicule. But we shouldn't think that this is something strange that is happening to us. This is what we should be expecting. Actually, this is a confirmation of the inspiration of Scripture. The apostles told us that in the last days, this was going to happen and we are just seeing God's Word being fulfilled.

We need to comfort ourselves and others with the fact that in the midst of all this confusion, Christ will maintain His church as He has promised, and make good His promise, that "*the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" (Matt 16:18 KJV). The more our Lord and His people are ridiculed and persecuted, the more firm should be our stand as we hold the Sword of the Spirit securely in hand - memorizing Scripture and storing it in our hearts for use during these troublesome times. Having been forewarned, it is important for us to be thus forearmed.

Beginning:

Vs. 17-18 - But, dear _____, remember what the _____ of our Lord _____ Christ foretold. They _____ to you, "In the _____ times there will be _____ who will follow their own _____ desires."

Progressing:

Vs. 17-18 - But, _____ friends, _____ what the apostles _____ our _____ Jesus _____ foretold. _____ said to _____, "In the last _____ there _____ be scoffers _____ follow _____ own ungodly _____."

Advancing:

Vs. 17-18 - _____, dear _____ remember _____ the _____ of our Lord _____ They _____ to _____, "_____ the _____ there _____ be _____ who _____ their _____ ungodly _____."

Arriving:

Vs. 17-18 - But, _____

Jude 19

Jude 19 - These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

Jude says that these men follow mere "natural" instincts. They do not have God's Holy Spirit to guide them, so they live like animals just doing whatever feels good. The natural man is selfish. He wants to get all he can; eat all he can; get all the money and favor he can. He lives entirely for himself. When the Holy Spirit is in control of our life, we are guided into serving the Lord and others; honoring our bodies and trusting God, not money or men, for our needs.

Jude says these ungodly men are dividing them. The enemy knows about "dividing and conquering" and those who follow him use this to advantage. Earlier, Jude mentioned the wickedness of Korah, who by following the great deceiver succeeded in dividing the children of Israel into two camps, those for Moses, and those against him. It was an unfortunate time when God's judgment fell on them with vengeance. Beware of people who try to sow dissention in the church. People who whisper about others, about pastors and leaders, about believers in other denominations, setting themselves up against them. This is not God's way. We are to encourage and exhort, the body of Christ, not criticize and divide. Paul tells us in Titus 1:9 that we "must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that (we) can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it."

Beginning:

Vs. 19 - These are the _____ who _____ you, who _____ mere natural _____ and do not have the Spirit.

Progressing:

Vs. 19 - _____ are the men _____ divide you, _____ follow mere _____ instincts and _____ not have the _____ .

Advancing:

Vs. 19 - These _____ the _____ who _____ you, _____ mere _____ and _____ not _____ the _____ .

Arriving:

Vs. 19 - These _____

Jude 20

Jude 20 - But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

Jude has been showing us how other people can deceive us. Perhaps even people we have come to trust. But now he emphasizes the need for us to be aware that ultimately each of us is responsible to God for his own actions and spiritual growth.

When we build a house, we begin with a foundation, don't we? It's the same way in our Christian life. The foundation we lay is our faith in Christ as we come to Him for salvation and commit our lives to Him. But the foundation of a house does not constitute a place to live. It's just a base on which to build - as is our initial commitment to the Lord. It's not enough to come to the place of beginning, it's important that we build on this base and grow from there. As we can watch a house being built and measure its progress as it takes form, so we should be able to measure growth in our Christian life. We have been learning that looking to people and just relying on them is not the way to go. Jude is telling us that it's important for each of us to take the responsibility for our own lives and progress. "But where do I start?" you may ask. The Lord reveals Himself in His Word. As you are now memorizing God's Word and as you continue to memorize it, meditate on it, speak it and study it, you'll get to know the Lord in a more intimate way and find your daily walk being guided more closely by His truths.

The other thing mentioned in this verse is praying "*in the Holy Spirit*". In the last verse we are told that those who follow their own evil desires do not have the Holy Spirit. Now Jude emphasizes the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian. We as Christians have the Holy Spirit in our lives to guide us in prayer as well as in our daily walk - as we look to Him and rely on His leading. Whereas we may be prone to a prayer time of asking and knocking, it is the Holy Spirit who leads us on into times of precious communion, praise, worship, and rejoicing in the Lord. (Romans 8:26-7 says also that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we don't know how to pray.)

Beginning:

Vs. 20 - But you, _____ friends, _____ yourselves up in your _____ holy faith and _____ in the Holy Spirit.

Progressing:

Vs 20 - _____ you, dear _____, build _____ up in _____ most _____ faith and pray _____ the _____ Spirit.

Advancing:

Vs. 20 - _____, you, _____, build _____ up in _____ holy _____ and _____ in the _____.

Arriving:

Vs. 20 - _____

Jude 21

Jude 21 - Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Here Jude again emphasizes the responsibility of the individual for his own spiritual welfare and growth. He tells us, "*Keep yourselves in God's love.*" How do you reconcile this with the first verse of Jude which talks about our being "*kept*" by the Lord Jesus? If Jesus is keeping us, why does Jude say we must "*keep*" ourselves?

I think we must take note that there is an important factor to be considered - the fact that the Lord made us with a free will. We have the choice of walking with the Lord and keeping ourselves in harmony with His ever-present love - or - doing our own thing. Have you ever tried to hold a child who didn't want to be held? You may want to hold and cuddle him, but he has a mind of his own and if he has other ideas, it's a futile effort. The Lord wants to hold us close to Himself and keep us in His perfect love, but we have a free will. If we want to go in another direction, we are perfectly free to do so. The Lord will not force us to walk with Him against our will. He is the great prototype of an earthly shepherd. The shepherd loves the little lamb spending all its time in the furthest corner of the field, just as much as the little one always tagging along at his heels - but he's able to show His love more to the one who stays close.

We keep ourselves in His love by consistently *choosing* His way. And as we walk with the Lord through the perils of this life, we should have our eyes fixed on the eternal hereafter - the great hope we have only because of His unbelievable love and mercy. Truly this is not what we deserve. It is only the great mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that saves us from an eternal hell. "*. . . there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*" (Acts 4:12)

Beginning:

Vs. 21 - Keep _____ in God's _____ as you _____ for the _____ of our Lord _____ Christ to bring you to _____ life.

Progressing:

Vs. 21 - _____ yourselves in _____ love as _____ wait for the mercy of _____ Lord Jesus _____ to bring _____ to eternal _____ .

Advancing:

Vs. 21 - Keep _____ in _____ as you _____ for the _____ of our _____ to _____ you to _____ .

Arriving:

Vs. 21 - Keep _____

Jude 22-23

Jude 22-23 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 last two verses have dealt with introspection and review of our own personal walk and growth in the Lord. Now Jude guides our thinking toward our relationships with others. Jude wants us to be concerned about others who may be influenced by negative forces in their lives, especially as he has been talking about false teachers. We are not only to be sensitive to our own walk with the Lord, we need to be sensitive to others who may need a helping hand. He cautions us to be compassionate to those who have honest doubts. As Matthew Henry put it, "We must watch over one another, must faithfully, yet prudently, reprove each other and set a good example to all about us."

It is clear that we should be careful not to apply the same set of rules to everyone. Manton said, "Prudence is the queen of graces. Different tempers require different remedies." We need to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in order to know how to best help those in need. Some people need to be treated with "kid gloves", tenderly and gently. While dealing with others, Matthew Henry says, we should "Endeavor to frighten them out of their sins; preach hell and damnation to them." But with all we should be careful that we do not cause them to be hardened instead of helped. Some commentaries seem to feel that "*clothing stained by the flesh*" refers to barging into these situations without the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit, while others feel it speaks of sin or anything that even looks like sin. Undoubtedly we can apply both scenarios to advantage.

Beginning:

Vs. 22-23 - Be _____ to those who _____ ; _____ others from the _____ and save them; to _____ show mercy, _____ with fear— _____ even the _____ stained by corrupted flesh.

Progressing:

Vs. 22-23 - _____ merciful to _____ who doubt; snatch _____ from _____ fire and _____ ; _____ others show _____ , mixed with _____ —hating _____ the _____ stained by _____ flesh.

Advancing:

Vs. 22-23 - Be _____ to _____ who _____ ; _____ from the _____ and _____ them; to _____ show _____ , _____ with _____ — _____ even the _____ by _____ .

Arriving:

Vs. 22-23 - _____

Jude 24

Jude 24 - To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—

In my opinion these two verses that conclude Jude's epistle are some of the most beautiful in the entire Bible. Jude has been a book of warnings, but now he closes his letter with strong affirmation that our God is *able* to guide us and protect us from the pitfalls and to present us victorious on the other side - by His wondrous mercy, grace and love.

We must point out again, however, that this is not necessarily an automatic thing. Although our God is *able*, even eager to keep us in His care, we are also *able* to interject our own will and veer off course, out of His perfect will and protection.

Peter speaks of some who receive a "*rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*". That's where we should have our sights focused. When we rise in the morning, it should be with our minds firmly fixed on the One who is able to keep us from falling. With our faith lodged in His ability to guide and keep us, we must draw from Him help and strength to stay focused on the eternal joy that awaits us in His glorious presence. Then, on that momentous day when we see Him face to face, may we too experience the "*rich welcome*" Peter tells us about.

"Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (II Peter 1:10-11)

Beginning:

Vs. 24 - To _____ who is _____ to keep _____ from falling and to present _____ before _____ glorious presence without _____ and with _____ joy—

Progressing:

Vs. 24 - To Him _____ is able to _____ you from _____ and to _____ you before His _____ presence without _____ and with _____ joy—

Advancing

Vs. 24 - To _____ who _____ to _____ you _____ and to _____ before _____ without _____ and with _____ joy—

Arriving:

Vs. 24 - To _____

Jude 25

Jude 25 - to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

We all look forward to the finale of a fireworks display, don't we? It is always such a spectacle of beauty. Jude seems to use this same idea as he now concludes his letter with an awesome burst of praise and expression of grandeur worthy only of our great God and Savior. It is like Psalm 8:1: "*O Lord our God, the majesty and glory of your name fills all the earth and overflows the heavens.*" (Living Bible) This is our God. It is by His name that we are called and the name which you and I have the joy and privilege of proclaiming to the world in these last days.

This God of the universe, who knows all things and possesses all wisdom; this God whose resplendent glory fills the earth and overflows the heavens; this all powerful, ever present, King of all kings, Lord of all Lords - is the One who humbled Himself to become a man and bear the penalty for our sins - yours and mine. Could it be that such an awesome Being could so love us with such an all-consuming love? Praise God He does and He is able to keep us in that love, not only for today, but throughout all eternity.

During our remaining days on this earth, may we ever walk close to Him, drawing guidance and strength from His Word while keeping our eyes fixed on the eternal goal - as we look forward to that rich welcome into His eternal kingdom.

(Congratulations!! You have now completed the book of Jude. It will always be a blessing to you. Be sure to go over it thoroughly so you can say it with no hesitation and review it often. It will also be a blessing to you and to others as you share it with your Bible Study group, Sunday School Class and even in Church. Others are often encouraged to start memorizing Scripture - in context - when they hear it quoted in this way. Blessings on you!)

Beginning:

Vs. 25 - to the _____ God our _____ be glory, _____, power and _____, through Jesus _____ our Lord, before all _____, now and forevermore! _____.

Progressing:

Vs. 25 - to _____ only God _____ Savior be _____, majesty, _____ and authority, _____ Jesus Christ our _____, before all ages, _____ and _____! Amen.

Advancing:

Vs. 25 - to the _____ God _____ be _____, majesty, _____ and _____, through Jesus Christ _____ Lord, _____ ages, _____ and _____! _____.

Arriving:

Vs. 25 - to _____

Jude

**1. Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,
To those who have been called,
who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ:**

2. Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

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

**4. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago
have secretly slipped in among you.
They are godless men,
who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality
and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.**

**5. Though you already know all this,
I want to remind you that the Lord delivered His people out of Egypt,
but later destroyed those who did not believe.**

**6. And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority
but abandoned their own home—
these He has kept in darkness,
bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.**

**7. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns
gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion.
They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.**

**8. In the very same way,
these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.**

**9. But even the archangel Michael,
when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses,
did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him,
but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"**

**10. Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand
and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—
these are the very things that destroy them.**

**11. Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain;
they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error;
they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.**

**12. These men are blemishes at your love feasts,
eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They
are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind;
autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.**

**13. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame;
wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.**

**14-15. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men:
"See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of His holy ones
to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly
of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way,
and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.**

**16. These men are grumbles and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires;
they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.**

17. But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

**18. They said to you,
"In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires:"**

**19. These are the men who divide you,
who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.**

**20. But you, dear friends,
build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.**

**21. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to
bring you to eternal life.**

**22. 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.**

**24. To Him who is able to keep you from falling
and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—**

**25. to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.**