

Outline (based on Constable, but modified)

- I. Salutation (1–2)
- II. The purpose of this epistle (3–4)
- III. Warnings against false teachers (5–16)
 - A. Historical failures (5–7)
 1. The example of certain Israelites (5)
 2. The example of certain angels (6)
 3. The example of certain pagans (7)
 - B. Present failures (8–16)
 1. The nature of the error (8–9)

Text today: 5-8, so overlapping sections of the outline

Jude's purpose altered:

1. Would rather write about the common salvation, but instead wrote urging readers to contend for the faith (3)
2. Reason: certain people have crept in unnoticed

The characteristics of the “creeps” who crept in:

1. Long ago marked out for condemnation
2. Are ungodly persons, turning grace into licentiousness and denying Christ

Read Jude 5-8

Reference	Subjects	Issue in their Judgement
5	Israel in wilderness	Turned from faith to fear
6	Angels	Turned from proper place
7	Sodom/Gomorrah	Turned from proper use to “strange flesh”
Summary	Usurping God's order	

Notes:

“The connective particle rendered ‘Now’ (*de*) indicates that something more, but different from what has just been said, needs to be added about these libertines. Having remarked that such men will surely be judged (v. 4), Jude now illustrates the truth that divine judgment upon such flagrant evildoers is no novelty.”¹

Verse 5:

Cross-reference: Num 13.30-14.12, 14.20-25

Questions: When Jude says “God destroyed those who did not believe,” what does he mean?

God made them wander until they died in the wilderness.

Who should be warned by this reminder: true believers, or false teachers? (Note particularly the “keeping” language in Jude 1 and 24-25.)

False teachers. Jude is confident that believers are kept by God.

What was the issue that brought about their judgement for this sin?

They who had seen great deliverance couldn’t believe God would give great deliverance. They left their first experience for a state of fear and unbelief.

Verse 6:

Dueling cross-references:

Gen 6.1-4, but compare Mt 22.30;

Lk 10.17-20, Rev 12.9, Isa 14.12-15, Rev 9.1-3, 11

What is the issue in Jude 6 that leads to judgement?

Angels abandoned their created role to usurp God’s order.

¹ D. Edmond Hiebert, *Second Peter and Jude: An Expository Commentary* (Greenville, S.C: Bob Jones University Press, 1989), 228.

Verse 7:

Cross reference: Gen 19.1-7

What is the issue that brings on the judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah, as described by Jude?

Men abandoned their created design for “strange flesh”

In summing up these examples, given as reminders, what is common to all three?

Usurping God’s order

Verse 8:

Now Jude brings us back to the false teachers of verse 4: “these men,” (v. 8). How is it that these men are in some way the same as the three examples?

As the examples turned from their original state into sin, in the same way these turn from their original profession into apostasy.

Who are they in the church?

Men who seem to be Christians but promote error.

Three categories of their errors:

1. Defile the flesh = Lust (see v. 7, Sodom)
2. Reject authority = rebellion (see v. 5, Israel)
3. Revile angelic majesties = irreverence (see v. 6, angels)

What motivates them to engage in these errors?

Their dreaming (probably “imagination” rather than visions)

What is the implication of connecting them to the three examples? (Consider my title, “As Then, So Now”)

False teaching in the church is parallel to usurping God’s created order