

Jude-by Rick Stark

Chapter 1

How encouraging is the remarkable description of true Christians: "*called, beloved, kept*" (1)! But this first of several 'triads' is more than sentimentality; sometimes "*the faith*" requires "*the fight*" (3, where "*contend*" comes from the root "*to agonize over*"). Over what? Jude reminds them (5ff) – over the holiness (furious, white-hot love) of God and all that belongs to Him, especially the church. A second 'triad' in redemptive history is used to illustrate God's contention (*Sodom and Gomorrah*, 5; *Korah's rebellion*, 11; *Enoch's prophecy*, 14). The lesson? First, the church should not take salvation for granted, for God is holy in both His mercy to save and His fury to destroy. Nothing escapes the Lord's holy and sovereign eye. Second, the church should not be surprised at the decadence and deceptions of the world (17-19). So we contend and we cultivate ("*build up in the faith*," 20). How? We "*pray... keep... wait... witness*" (20-23). And through it all, we rely and rest upon this one beautiful benediction: our present God and Savior who is able to present us blameless and with great joy (24-25)!

-Reflecting on Jude-

Before moving on to our next book of the Bible, take some time today to reflect on what we've read in Jude. Perhaps re-visit a favorite chapter or an especially meaningful passage. Or read the beginning chapter(s) again, now that you've read the whole. Or go back to a part of the book that struck you as curious and see if it makes more sense now. Or speed-read the whole thing again, seeking to reinforce its main themes. Or... perhaps you need a catch-up day to finish Jude before we move forward?

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2.6