

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2018-19
Session #9: Overview of The Letter of Saint Jude;
History's Judgment Against False Teachers**

CSB – Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
CCSS – Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures
JR – J. Ratzinger, Pilgrim Fellowship of Faith
SN = Special Notes / NAB = New American Bible
SK = Chinese Bible / CCC = Catholic Catechism

<p>A</p>	<p><u>Overview of The Letter of Saint Jude</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author, date, & destination – the author was not one of the Twelve Apostles; he called himself “Jude, brother of James”. It is possible that he was a “brother” of Jesus and James; or a cousin. He didn’t occupy an important place in the early church. • Since 2Peter was written around 60-70 A.D. and it shares Jude’s materials, Jude’s letter has to be written during 50 – 60 A.D. This book addresses Jewish-Christians in Palestine or the coastal regions of the Mediterranean Sea. • The goal of Jude is to appeal to the Christian community “to contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (1:3), and to oppose the false teachers who question God’s standards of morality and rebel against the church’s leaders. • Three main themes: “to contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (1:3); those who are “kept” and whom God “to keep from falling” (1:1, 21, 24), all should also “keep” themselves in the love of God; mercy far exceeds judgment (1:21-23). • Jude favours using key words (or catchwords) and triplets in his writing, such as, “kept” (or “keep”), “May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you” (1:2). 	<p>CCSS 191, CSB</p> <p>CSB</p> <p>CCSS 192, CSB</p> <p>CCSS 194, CSB</p> <p>CCSS 194</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>Overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the “Salutation”, he called himself “Jude, a ... brother of James”. He appeals to believers “to contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”. Among us are false teachers who “pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness” • The people who have been saved “out of the land of Egypt” are destroyed because they “did not believe”. The angels “that did not keep their own position ... have been kept by him in eternal chains in the deepest darkness” until their judgment; just as Sodom and Gomorrah that “acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust” are cast into the eternal fire as punishment. All these serve as warnings. 	<p>1:1-7</p> <p>1:1-4</p> <p>1:5-7</p>
<p>C</p>	<p><u>Salutation and Occasion of the Letter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jude addresses himself in two ways: “ a servant of Jesus Christ”, commonly used in NT, connotes the virtues of humility and 	<p>1:1-4</p> <p>1:1, CCSS, Is 53</p>

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	<p>obedience; this points to his willingness to imitate God's servant, Jesus Christ. "Brother of James" – see intro. to author.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "To those who are called, beloved in God" and those who are "kept" – Jude utilizes triplets here; the terms come from Isaiah's Servant Song: beloved – Is 42:1; called – 41:9, 42:6, 49:1; kept – 42:6, 49:8. In other words, all Christians are God's servants. • Triplets in Jude's Salutation: "May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied". Message: mercy, peace and love are at the heart of the Christian spirit; in the later part of the letter, the author appeals believers to treat the non-believers in the same spirit (1:22). • Jude appeals to Christians "to contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" – faith is "a personal adherence of man to God ... it is a free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed". Through our one baptism, there's only one faith from God; the "pillar and bulwark of the truth" that is kept, pass down, and proclaim by the Church, like a "deposit" to be kept in safe-guard and preserved. • The false teachers are "designated for this condemnation" (see 1:5-19 for details); the "ungodly" ("godless"), those who lack respect for God; "pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness". Their behaviours and words are not trustworthy; that is, they "deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ". 	<p>Gal 2:20, 2Titus 4:6</p> <p>1:1, CCSS</p> <p>1:2, CCSS</p> <p>1:3, Eph 4:5, CCC 150, 172 1Ti 3:15, CCC 171, 175 1Cor 11:23, 15:3, 1Ti 6:20, CCSS, CSB</p> <p>1:4 2Peter 3:11, CCSS CSB</p>
<p>D</p>	<p><u>Judgment on the Ungodly</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God "who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe" => demonstrates that when believers loss their faith, they may never regain their faith again. • The angels "have been kept by [God] in eternal chains in the deepest darkness" due to sins – alludes to Gen 6:1-4 where rebel angels, "the sons of God", came down from heaven to have sexual relations with women => one should not follow their examples of abandoning God and committing sins. • "Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire" => indulgence in lust will be punished by eternal fire. 	<p>1:5-7</p> <p>1:5, CSB, CCSS SN1</p> <p>1:6, 1Enoch, CCSS, CSB</p> <p>1:7 CCSS, CSB</p>

Special Notes:The misconception about "once saved, always saved", see Mt 7:21, 24:10; Lk 8:13, 1Cor 6:9-10; 9:24-27; 10:1-12, Gal 5:4; 1Ti 1:19; Rev 22:19; CCC 837.