

# The Epistle of Jude

BYU New Testament Commentary Translation  
*(prepublication version)*

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# About the Brigham Young University New Testament Commentary Series

Welcome to the BYU New Testament Commentary, a project by a group of Latter-day Saint specialists offering to readers a careful, new look at the biblical records that witness the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the first generation of his church. The commentary series seeks to make the New Testament more accessible to Latter-day Saint general readers and scholars by employing much of current biblical scholarship while reflecting important LDS insights. At the same time, this effort may also be helpful to interested readers of other faiths who want to learn how a group of Latter-day Saint scholars understands the Bible. A fundamental article of faith for Latter-day Saints (Mormons) affirms the Bible “to be the word of God” while adding, understandably, that it needs to be “translated correctly” in order for it to be accurately comprehensible to modern language speakers.

These objectives have helped shape the purposes and parameters of this commentary series. Serious LDS readers of the Bible search the scriptures, looking for depth and breadth in passages whose meanings and mandates may ultimately be plain but not shallow. Such readers and interpreters are served by treatments that unite faith and research, reason and revelation, in prayerfully confronting profound and difficult issues that arise in the texts and affect one’s path of progression. The New Testament has served as an influential guide to western civilization for centuries. As such, its records have long been studied by lay people and scholars alike, resulting in a rich reservoir of information that illuminates the New Testament era culturally, historically, and linguistically. Selectively, the BYUNTC builds upon this vast body of knowledge, resting on the Greek texts of the New Testament and connecting helpful elements of linguistic, literary, historical, and cultural research and traditional scholarship together with LDS scriptures and doctrinal perspectives. The combination of all these features

distinguishes the BYUNTC from other commentaries, which are readily available elsewhere and which readers may also want to consult for more encyclopedic or specialized discussions.

The tone of the BYUNTC aims to be informative rather than hortatory, and suggestive rather than definitive in its interpretation. The opinions expressed in this series are the views of its contributors and should not necessarily be attributed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Brigham Young University, where many of those involved here are headquartered; or anyone else, though these works have benefited from input and guidance from a number of colleagues, advisers, editors, and peer reviewers.

Each volume in this series contains a new working translation of the New Testament. Calling it the “BYU New Testament Commentary Translation” ties it to the Commentary series and clarifies that it does not seek to replace the authorized KJV adopted by the LDS Church as its official English text. Rather, it aims to enhance readers’ understanding conceptually and spiritually by rendering the Greek texts into modern English with LDS sensitivities in mind. Comparing and explaining the new Translation in light of the KJV then serves as one important purpose for each volume’s notes, comments, analyses, and summaries. This effort responds in modest ways to the desire President J. Reuben Clark Jr. expressed in his diary in 1956 that someday “qualified scholars [would provide] . . . a translation of the New Testament that will give us an accurate translation that shall be pregnant with the great principles of the Restored Gospel.”

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Commentary Series

The Epistle of Jude



# The Epistle of Jude

1 Jude, a bondman of Jesus Christ and brother of James, addressing those who have been called and are highly regarded by Heavenly Father and protected by Jesus Christ: 2 May mercy, peace and charity be multiplied unto you.

3 Beloved ones, in making time to write to you celebrating the salvation that we share, I felt the need to write to you first to encourage you to exert yourselves to defend the covenantal faith as it was originally delivered to the holy followers of Christ. 4 For certain people have secretly slipped into our church. These people have long ago been forewarned of God's judgment. They are attempting to change our words about God's holy covenantal bond into permission for indecency and sexual immorality, and they deny our only lord and master Jesus Christ.

5 So I want you all to recall how the Lord once rescued the people out of the land of Egypt, but then he later destroyed those who were not faithful. 6 And likewise those angels, who kept not their first estate and who ignored their assigned responsibilities and abandoned their own habitations, have been held by God in everlasting chains and in darkness until his great day of judgment. 7 Indeed, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities surrounding them who similarly committed immoral homosexual acts have been set forth as an example of the punishment of eternal fire that awaits those who do 8 likewise, acting like filthy dreamers who defile the human body, reject religious authority, and speak blasphemously of glorious heavenly beings.

9 Yet even the archangel Michael—when he was arguing with the devil over who had the right to possess the body of Moses—did not dare to accuse Satan of blasphemy, but simply said, “May the Lord rebuke you.” 10 But these dreamers who are among you indeed speak blasphemously about things they do not know, thinking only physically, as irrational animals, and thereby in those things they corrupt

and destroy themselves. 11 Woe unto them! for they have followed the way of Cain; and for money and gain they have devoted themselves to the error of Balaam and shall perish as in the strife of Core.

12 These are like hazardous reefs in your charitable meals; when they feast with you, they fearlessly care only for themselves. They are like waterless clouds blown around by the winds. They are like withering fruitless barren trees, and they will die a second time as they are torn out by their roots. 13 They are like raging waves of the sea, spuing out their own shamefulness; they are shooting stars, for whom the mists of darkness are kept for the eternities.

14 And Enoch also, the seventh descendant from Adam, prophesied of these individuals, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with ten thousand saints 15 to execute judgment against all the wicked and to convincingly expose every ungodly person, along with all the ungodly deeds they have wrongfully committed and with all the harsh words that those ungodly sinners have babbled against Him. 16 They are murmurers, faultfinders, living according to their own desires; their mouths talk big, and they admire those around them in order to get gain.

17 But, beloved ones, you remember the words that have been declared by the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ and 18 how they tried to tell you that there would be deceivers in the last time, living according to their own desires of ungodly thoughts and deeds. 19 These are they who cause divisions, who are sensual, natural men and women, and lack the Spirit. 20 And you, beloved ones, build up yourselves upon the foundation of your most sacred covenant of faithfulness, pray as you are guided by the Holy Ghost, 21 keep yourselves in the pure love of God, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, all of which will lead you into eternal life.

22 Show love to those who are struggling alone or are confused and feeling estranged. 23 Save others by snatching them out of the fire and reject especially any robe that is defiled by the flesh.

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and able to make you flawless with great joy in the presence of his celestial glory, 25 let there be given glory, eternal praise, honor, strength, and authority to the only God, through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, from all past eternity, and now in the present, and on into the eternities. Truthfully, amen.