The Chapters of Jude

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SECTION OUTLINE ONE (JUDE 1)
Jude writes about apostasy.

I. THE BURDEN TO WARN AGAINST APOSTASY (1:1-3)
   A. Jude’s prayer (1:1-2): He asks God to grant his readers mercy, peace, and love.
   B. Jude’s plan (1:3a): He originally planned to write concerning God’s wonderful salvation.
   C. Jude’s perception (1:3b): He then realized that the Spirit wanted him to warn against apostasy.

II. THE NEED TO WARN AGAINST APOSTASY (1:4a): Wicked apostates have secretly slipped in among the believers.

III. THE HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF APOSTASY (1:5-6, 7b, 11): Jude lists six such examples.
   A. The nation of Israel (1:5): Apostasy caused by unbelief.
   C. Sodom and Gomorrah (1:7b): Apostasy caused by sexual immorality.
   D. Cain (1:11a): Apostasy caused by religious perversion.
   E. Balaam (1:11b): Apostasy caused by financial greed.
   F. Korah (1:11c): Apostasy caused by rejection of divine authority.

IV. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF APOSTASY (1:4b-4c, 8-10, 16-19)
   A. Changing God’s grace into a license for immorality (1:4b)
   B. Denying the deity of Jesus Christ (1:4c)
   C. Degrading the human body (1:8a)
   D. Rejecting authority (1:8b)
   E. Slandering celestial beings (1:8c-9): Here Jude gives a classic example underlining the seriousness of this particular sin.
      1. The background (1:8c-9a): The archangel Michael was disputing with Satan about the body of Moses.
      2. The back-down (1:9b): Michael refused to level a slanderous accusation against the Devil, leaving that to God himself.
   F. Degenerating into brute unreasoning animals (1:10)
   G. Faultfinding (1:16a)
   H. Flattering others only for their own advantage (1:16b)
   I. Scoffing and divisive, following their own evil instincts, which are totally devoid of God (1:17-19)

V. THE METAPHORS FOR APOSTASY (1:12-13)
   A. Dangerous reefs that can cause shipwrecks (1:12a)
   B. Self-centered shepherds (1:12b)
   C. Waterless clouds (1:12c)
   D. Dead autumn trees (1:12d)
   E. Wild waves of the sea (1:13a)
   F. Wandering stars (1:13b)

VI. THE DIVINE JUDGMENT ON APOSTASY (1:7b, 14-15)
   A. Past judgment (1:7a): Jude reminds his readers of the fiery judgment rained down upon the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
   B. Future judgment (1:7b, 14-15): Jude predicts God’s fire judgment on apostasy and reminds his
readers of Enoch's prophecy concerning Christ's second coming.

VII. THE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST APOSTASY (1:20-25)

A. The believer and self (1:20-21)
   1. Believers are to build on the Word of God (1:20a).
   2. Believers are to pray in the power of God (1:20b).
   3. Believers are to remain in the love of God (1:21).

B. The believer and sinners (1:22-23): Jude instructs on how to deal with three types of sinners.
   1. Those who are in great doubt (1:22)
   2. Those who are in great danger (1:23a)
   3. Those who are in great depravity (1:23b)

C. The believer and the Savior (1:24-25)
   1. Jesus' ministry (1:24)
      a. His current ministry (1:24a): Preventing us from falling down here.
      b. His coming ministry (1:24b): Presenting us faultless up there.
   2. Jesus' magnificence (1:25): "Glory, majesty, power, and authority belong to him, in the
      beginning, now, and forevermore. Amen."