

# JUDE

Lesson 4

## A DOXOLOGY FOR THE AGES

CLEAR FAITH IN A BLURRY WORLD

### INTRODUCTION

Proverbs tells us that there are two voices calling out in the marketplace - the voice of wisdom and the voice of folly. All through the Christian life both voices ring in our ears. Jude warns believers to be aware of these voices and the dangers of folly that can so easily pull them off course.

Jude encourages believers to reach out to those around them who are struggling, showing mercy to people with spiritual or physical needs. Christians are to care for those in doubt, pulling them from danger while holding strong to their convictions. Sin is cunning. It creeps in and can ensnare anyone. It is destructive, and all of us are vulnerable.

Despite this sober warning, Jude concludes his letter with a glorious note of hope, a hymn of praise to God. We can fall in so many ways, yet the grace that first called us - while we were still sinners - continues to cover us. God holds us in the palm of his hand. Nothing can separate us from his love. He is the one who enables us to hear his voice and persevere. He is the one who one day will present us blameless before himself, to his glory and praise.<sup>17</sup>

### OPEN IT

1. **How do you typically finish your emails or text messages? Do you have a signature way to finish written correspondence? Or a traditional phrase when you're saying goodbye in person?**

### READ IT

**Jude 1:24-25**

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<sup>17</sup> Getty, Kristyn. Perseverance Under Attack, Jude 17-25. ESV Women's Study Bible. Crossway.

## EXPLORE IT

2. Jude 1:17-23 paints a beautiful portrait of faithful Christian living. What does verse 24 say is God's role in this?
3. What four things does Jude say God deserves?
4. As Jude closes his urgently-written letter, what in verses 24-25 shows he's taking an eternal perspective?
5. What will God be experiencing when we are presented to Him blameless?

## APPLY IT

### God Makes Us Secure

This is the way doxologies work. They refer first to something that God has done or will do, and then they ascribe attributes to God that account for that action, or are expressed in the action. So, for example, you might say, "Now to him who fashioned the intricacies of the human eye and every molecule and atom in it — to him belong infinite, inscrutable wisdom and skill." Or you might say, "Now to him who adopts dirty, abandoned, rebellious children into his family — to him belong compassion and boundless mercy."

In other words, the attributes that you ascribe to God are the ones that account for the action you are praising, or that come to expression in the action you are praising. His wisdom and skill are expressed in making the eye. His compassion and mercy are expressed in adopting of unworthy foundlings. These attributes account for the actions you are celebrating. So it is in Jude 1:24–25.<sup>18</sup>

6. Have you ever heard someone pray a super ornate prayer? When can that be problematic? When can it be helpful?

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<sup>18</sup> Piper, John. April 12, 2012. Glory, Majesty, Dominion, and Authority Keep Us Safe for Everlasting Joy. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/glory-majesty-dominion-and-authority-keep-us-safe-for-everlasting-joy>

7. **What does it mean that God can keep you from stumbling? Does that give you greater confidence in God's saving work?**
8. **Do you ever fall into the trap of depending on your own strength? What other Bible verses remind us about God's power?**

### **God Makes Us Blameless**

Jude was not writing about the possibility of the believer sinning and falling from God's family. We have noted before that he made it clear in Jude 1 that true believers are "preserved" and cannot be lost. He was writing about the believer's daily walk with the Lord and the danger of going astray and stumbling. If we do disobey God, we may confess our sins and receive his forgiveness (1 John 1:9). If we persist in disobedience, he will chasten us in love (Hebrews 12:5-11). He will never permit one of his own to be lost.

The father has covenanted with the Son that all of his people will one day see and share his glory (see John 17:22-24). Jesus Christ will have the special Joy of presenting his bride, the church, before the Father's throne! It was the anticipation of this joy that helped him endure the sufferings of the cross (Hebrews 12:2). The purpose of salvation is not simply to rescue sinners from hell, as wonderful as that is. The grand purpose is that God may be glorified for all eternity (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14).

Today, there are spots and blemishes in the church, but on that day God's people shall be blameless. Satan will find nothing to accuse. The bride will be arrayed in the righteousness of Christ to the glory of God.<sup>19</sup>

9. **What's something you were blamed for as a kid? Were you actually guilty that time?**

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<sup>19</sup> Wiersbe, Warren W. The Bible Exposition Commentary. Jude.

10. How does feeling guilty typically affect you? Does it change your mood? If you've been saved, does feeling guilty change how God sees you?
11. Read Hebrews 10:22. What does this tell us about how Christians should think about blame or guilt? Is there anything you need to adjust?
12. Jude reminds believers fighting earthly distractions of our glorious destination. Why is an eternal perspective important for our daily lives?

### **God Makes Us Worshipers**

Jude began his letter with a prayer to God (v. 2). Now Jude was closing his letter with praise to God. This doxology has been a favorite of Christians for centuries, probably because of how hopeful it is. Imagine how Jude's recipients might've felt while hearing Jude's letter, so much of it being about the ungodly, judgment, and false teaching. Then the closing with instructions on how to contend for the faith, which included the command to fear God and His judgment lest they fall like those around them. By this point, the doxology would've been their "exhale," their chance to respond in praise for who God is, what He's done, and what He will do.<sup>20</sup>

13. What makes verse 25 such a compelling picture of worship?

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<sup>20</sup> Hill Perry, Jackie. 2019. Jude - Bible Study eBook. LifeWay Press.

**14. Choose one of the four things from verse 25 that God deserves: Glory, Majesty, Dominion, Authority. What does it look like for you to ascribe that to God in daily life?**

**15. What is your favorite worship song or hymn? What do you like about it? Why don't you voice it right now and sing it aloud to the Lord, because He is "the only God, our Savior." He deserves it always, "before all time and now and forever." Amen!**