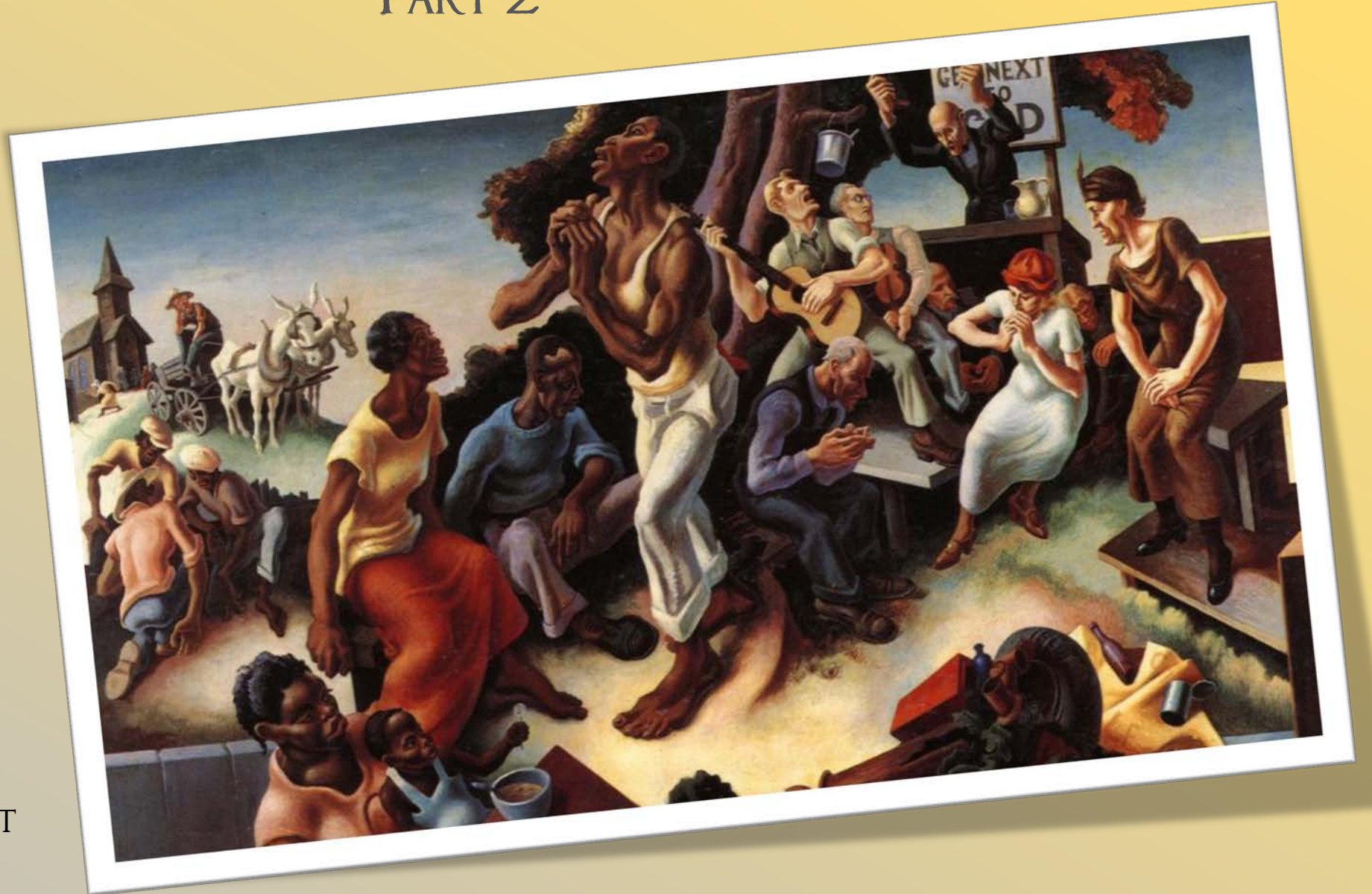


# CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH

## PART 2

“I NOW FEEL  
COMPELLED INSTEAD  
TO WRITE TO  
ENCOURAGE YOU TO  
CONTEND EARNESTLY  
FOR THE FAITH THAT  
WAS ONCE FOR ALL  
ENTRUSTED TO THE  
SAINTS.”

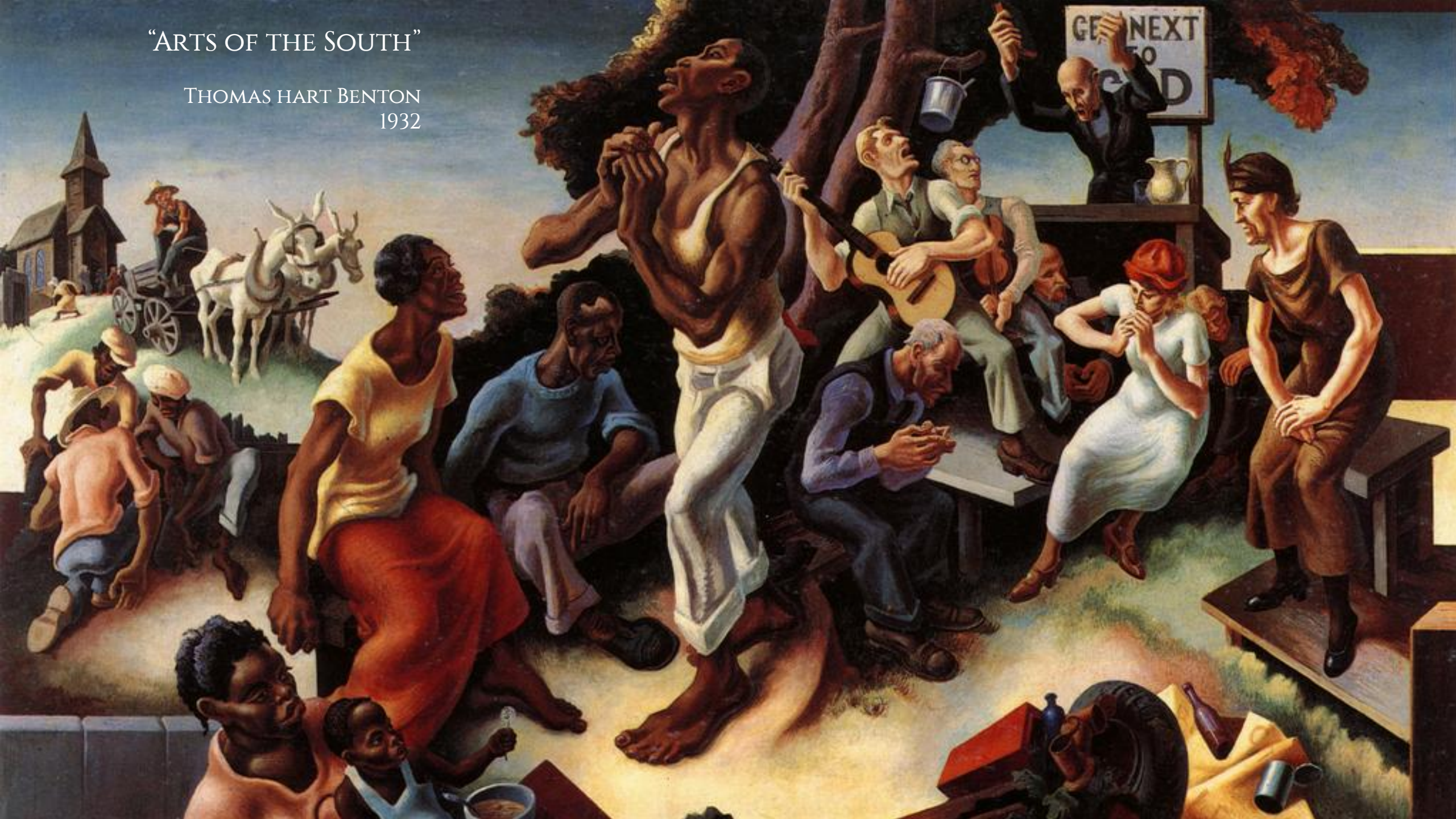
# JUDE 1:3B NET





# "ARTS OF THE SOUTH"

THOMAS HART BENTON  
1932







*"It keeps me from looking at my phone every two seconds."*



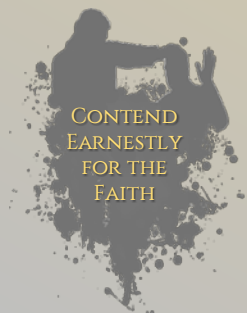
# CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH SERIES OUTLINE

## QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT IS THE “FAITH THAT WAS ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS?”
2. WHO WERE THE SAINTS?
3. HOW *DID* THEY CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH?

## TOPICS:

1. CHRISTIAN ORTHODOXY
2. THE PROBLEM OF FALSE TEACHING
3. APOSTOLIC AND EARLY CHURCH FATHERS
4. CHURCH HISTORY

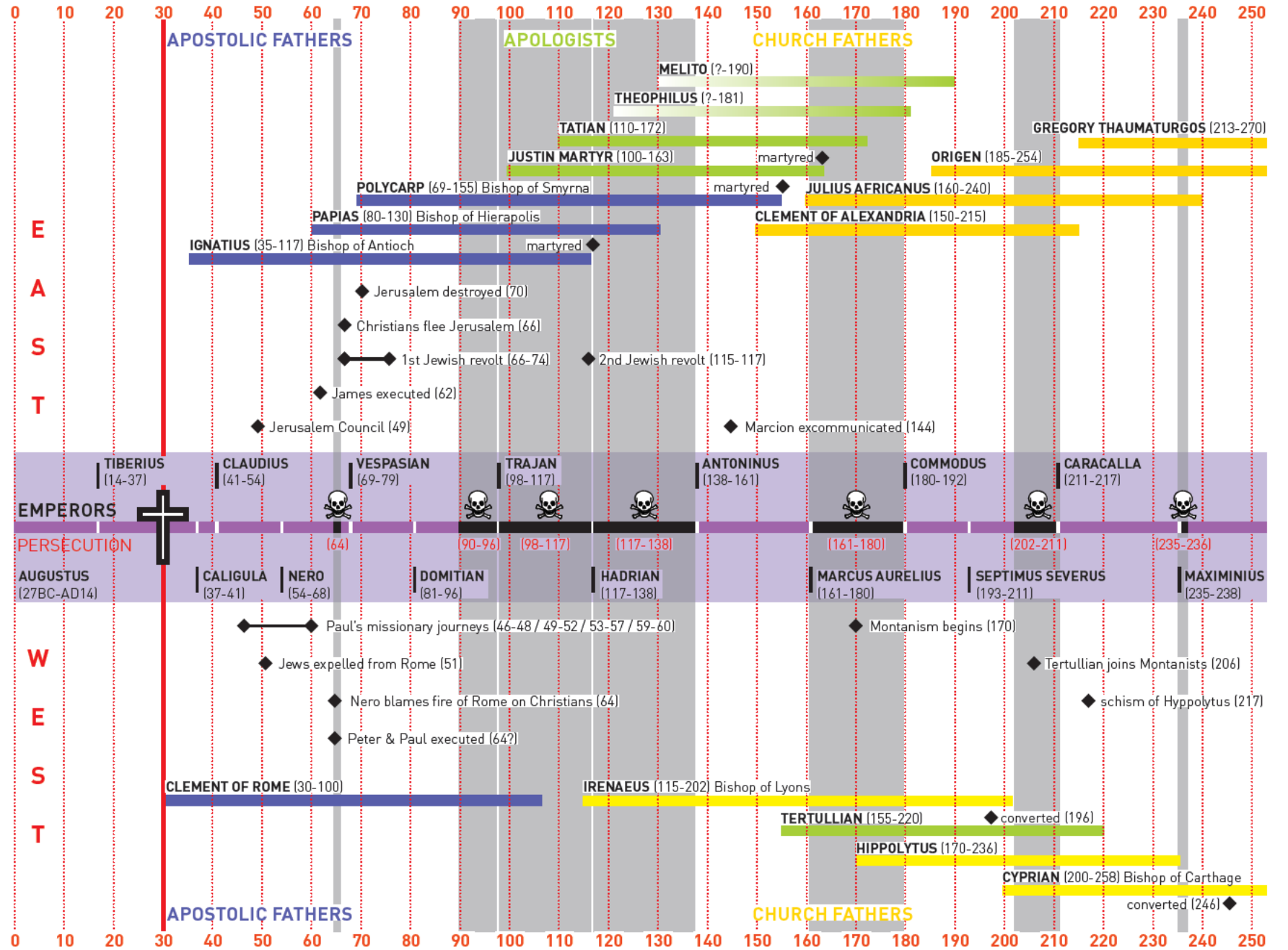




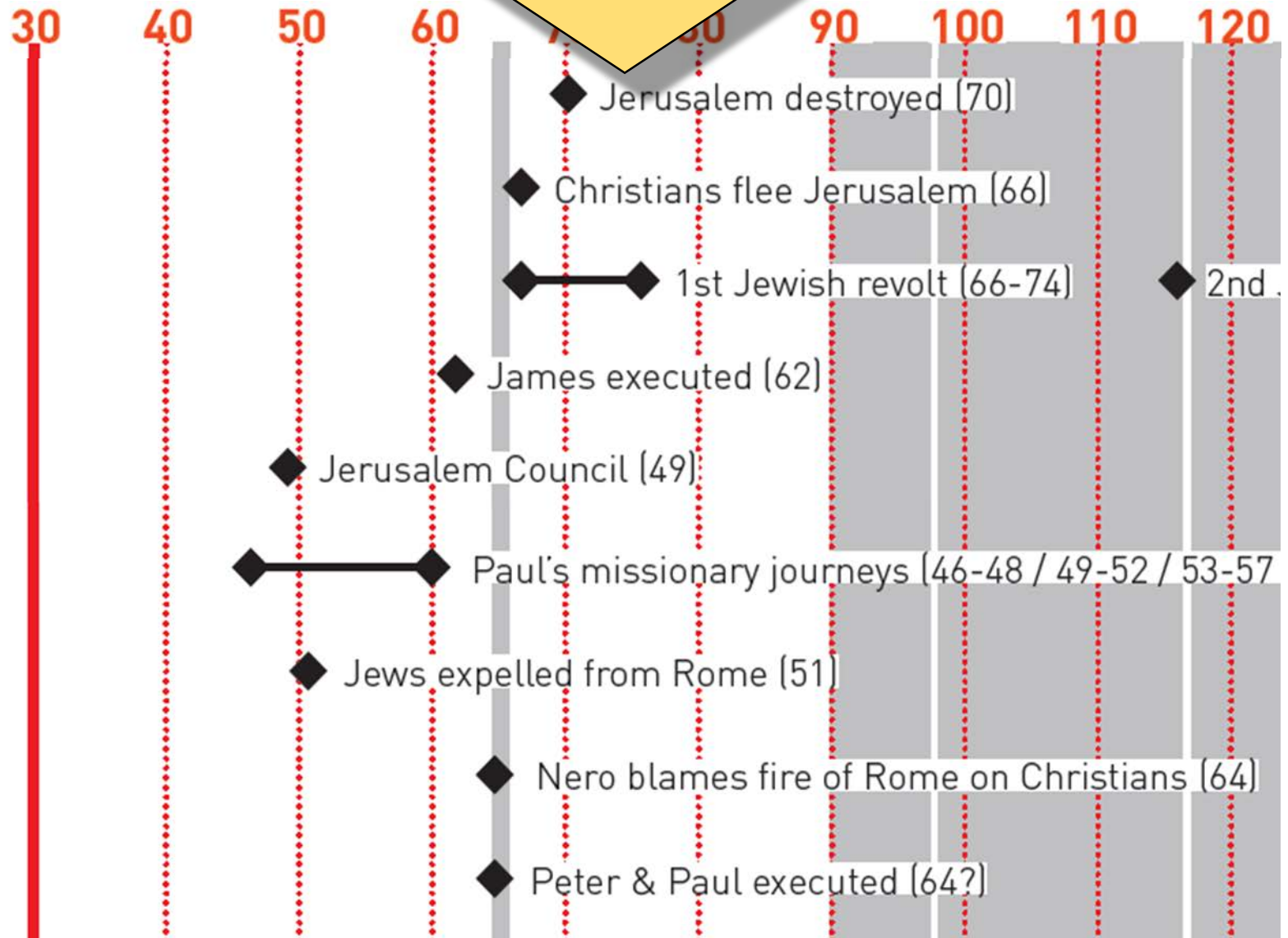
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# EARLY CHURCH HISTORY



BOOK OF  
JUDE  
67-80



CONTEND  
EARNESTLY  
FOR THE  
FAITH

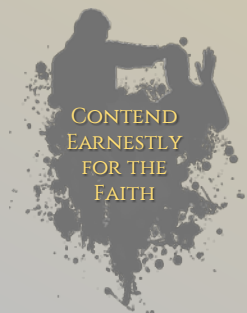


# THE EPISTLE OF JUDE

## NET

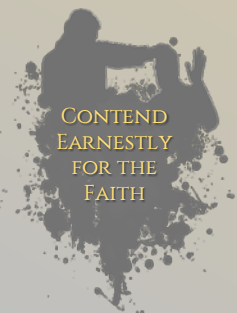
<sup>1</sup> FROM JUDE, A SLAVE OF JESUS CHRIST AND BROTHER OF JAMES, TO THOSE WHO ARE CALLED, WRAPPED IN THE LOVE OF GOD THE FATHER AND KEPT FOR JESUS CHRIST. <sup>2</sup> MAY MERCY, PEACE, AND LOVE BE LAVISHED ON YOU!

<sup>3</sup> DEAR FRIENDS, ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN EAGER TO WRITE TO YOU ABOUT OUR COMMON SALVATION, I NOW FEEL COMPELLED INSTEAD TO WRITE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH THAT WAS ONCE FOR ALL ENTRUSTED TO THE SAINTS. <sup>4</sup> FOR CERTAIN MEN HAVE SECRETLY SLIPPED IN AMONG YOU - MEN WHO LONG AGO WERE MARKED OUT FOR THE CONDEMNATION I AM ABOUT TO DESCRIBE - UNGODLY MEN WHO HAVE TURNED THE GRACE OF OUR GOD INTO A LICENSE FOR EVIL AND WHO DENY OUR ONLY MASTER AND LORD, JESUS CHRIST.



<sup>5</sup> NOW I DESIRE TO REMIND YOU (EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE BEEN FULLY INFORMED OF THESE FACTS ONCE FOR ALL) THAT JESUS, HAVING SAVED THE PEOPLE OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, LATER DESTROYED THOSE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE. <sup>6</sup> YOU ALSO KNOW THAT THE ANGELS WHO DID NOT KEEP WITHIN THEIR PROPER DOMAIN BUT ABANDONED THEIR OWN PLACE OF RESIDENCE, HE HAS KEPT IN ETERNAL CHAINS IN UTTER DARKNESS, LOCKED UP FOR THE JUDGMENT OF THE GREAT DAY. <sup>7</sup> SO ALSO SODOM AND GOMORRAH AND THE NEIGHBORING TOWNS, SINCE THEY INDULGED IN SEXUAL IMMORALITY AND PURSUED UNNATURAL DESIRE IN A WAY SIMILAR TO THESE ANGELS, ARE NOW DISPLAYED AS AN EXAMPLE BY SUFFERING THE PUNISHMENT OF ETERNAL FIRE.

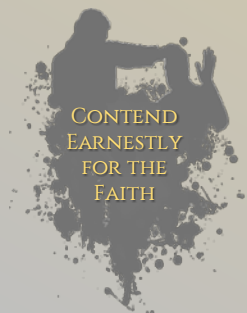
<sup>8</sup> YET THESE MEN, AS A RESULT OF THEIR DREAMS, DEFILE THE FLESH, REJECT AUTHORITY, AND INSULT THE GLORIOUS ONES. <sup>9</sup> BUT EVEN WHEN MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL WAS ARGUING WITH THE DEVIL AND DEBATING WITH HIM CONCERNING MOSES' BODY, HE DID NOT





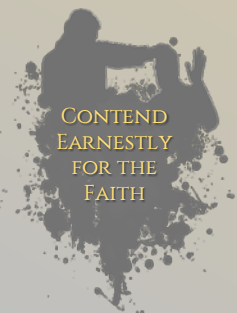
DARE TO BRING A SLANDEROUS JUDGMENT, BUT SAID, "MAY THE LORD REBUKE YOU!" <sup>10</sup> BUT THESE MEN DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE THINGS THEY SLANDER, AND THEY ARE BEING DESTROYED BY THE VERY THINGS THAT, LIKE IRRATIONAL ANIMALS, THEY INSTINCTIVELY COMPREHEND. <sup>11</sup> WOE TO THEM! FOR THEY HAVE TRAVELED DOWN CAIN'S PATH, AND BECAUSE OF GREED HAVE ABANDONED THEMSELVES TO BALAAM'S ERROR; HENCE, THEY WILL CERTAINLY PERISH IN KORAH'S REBELLION. <sup>12</sup> THESE MEN ARE DANGEROUS REEFS AT YOUR LOVE FEASTS, FEASTING WITHOUT REVERENCE, FEEDING ONLY THEMSELVES. THEY ARE WATERLESS CLOUDS, CARRIED ALONG BY THE WINDS; AUTUMN TREES WITHOUT FRUIT - TWICE DEAD, UPROOTED; <sup>13</sup> WILD SEA WAVES, SPEWING OUT THE FOAM OF THEIR SHAME; WAYWARD STARS FOR WHOM THE UTTER DEPTHS OF ETERNAL DARKNESS HAVE BEEN RESERVED.

<sup>14</sup> NOW ENOCH, THE SEVENTH IN DESCENT BEGINNING WITH ADAM, EVEN PROPHESED OF THEM, SAYING, "LOOK! THE LORD IS COMING



WITH THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF HIS HOLY ONES,<sup>15</sup> TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT ON ALL, AND TO CONVICT EVERY PERSON OF ALL THEIR THOROUGHLY UNGODLY DEEDS THAT THEY HAVE COMMITTED, AND OF ALL THE HARSH WORDS THAT UNGODLY SINNERS HAVE SPOKEN AGAINST HIM." <sup>16</sup> THESE PEOPLE ARE GRUMBLERS AND FAULT-FINDERS WHO GO WHEREVER THEIR DESIRES LEAD THEM, AND THEY GIVE BOMBASTIC SPEECHES, ENCHANTING FOLKS FOR THEIR OWN GAIN.

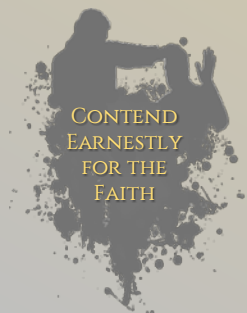
<sup>17</sup> BUT YOU, DEAR FRIENDS - RECALL THE PREDICTIONS FORETOLD BY THE APOSTLES OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. <sup>18</sup> FOR THEY SAID TO YOU, "IN THE END TIME THERE WILL COME SCOFFERS, PROPELLED BY THEIR OWN UNGODLY DESIRES." <sup>19</sup> THESE PEOPLE ARE DIVISIVE, WORLDLY, DEVOID OF THE SPIRIT. <sup>20</sup> BUT YOU, DEAR FRIENDS, BY BUILDING YOURSELVES UP IN YOUR MOST HOLY FAITH, BY PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, <sup>21</sup> MAINTAIN YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD, WHILE ANTICIPATING THE MERCY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THAT BRINGS





ETERNAL LIFE. <sup>22</sup> AND HAVE MERCY ON THOSE WHO WAVER; <sup>23</sup> SAVE OTHERS BY SNATCHING THEM OUT OF THE FIRE; HAVE MERCY ON OTHERS, COUPLED WITH A FEAR OF GOD, HATING EVEN THE CLOTHES STAINED BY THE FLESH.

<sup>24</sup> NOW TO THE ONE WHO IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU FROM FALLING, AND TO CAUSE YOU TO STAND, REJOICING, WITHOUT BLEMISH BEFORE HIS GLORIOUS PRESENCE, <sup>25</sup> TO THE ONLY GOD OUR SAVIOR THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, BE GLORY, MAJESTY, POWER, AND AUTHORITY, BEFORE ALL TIME, AND NOW, AND FOR ALL ETERNITY. AMEN.



# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

ACCORDING TO TRADITION, THE WRITER OF THIS EPISTLE WAS "JUDAS" (JUDE), WHO WAS BOTH THE HALF-BROTHER OF JESUS CHRIST (MATT. 13:55; MARK 6:3) AND A BROTHER OF JAMES, THE LEADER OF THE JERUSALEM CHURCH (JUDE 1; ACTS 15:13).

JESUS' PHYSICAL I  
MINISTERING (JO  
RESURRECTION (

[MATTHEW 13:55 NET] <sup>55</sup> ISN'T THIS THE CARPENTER'S SON? ISN'T HIS MOTHER  
NAMED MARY? AND AREN'T HIS BROTHERS JAMES, JOSEPH, SIMON, AND JUDAS?

[MARK 6:3 NET] <sup>3</sup> ISN'T THIS THE CARPENTER, THE SON OF MARY AND BROTHER OF JAMES, JOSES, JUDAS, AND SIMON? AND AREN'T HIS SISTERS HERE WITH US?" AND SO THEY TOOK OFFENSE AT HIM.

[JUDE 1:1 NET] <sup>1</sup> FROM JUDE, A SLAVE OF JESUS CHRIST AND BROTHER OF JAMES,  
TO THOSE WHO ARE CALLED, WRAPPED IN THE LOVE OF GOD THE FATHER AND  
KEPT FOR JESUS CHRIST.

"... WE SHOULD NOT SEE IT AS A 'CATHOLIC LETTER' ADDRESSED TO ALL CHRISTIANS, BUT AS A WORK WRITTEN WITH A SPECIFIC, LOCALIZED AUDIENCE IN MIND."





[ [edit](#) ]

Eusebius also relates (in Book III, ch. 32,5f.), that they su

[Epiphanius of Salamis](#), in his *Panarion*, mentions a Juda

"Of the family of the Lord there were still living  
"Information was given that they belonged to  
feared the coming of Christ as Herod also had  
Then he asked them how much property they  
denarii, half of which belonged to each of the  
and this property did not consist of silver, but  
supported themselves by their own labor."

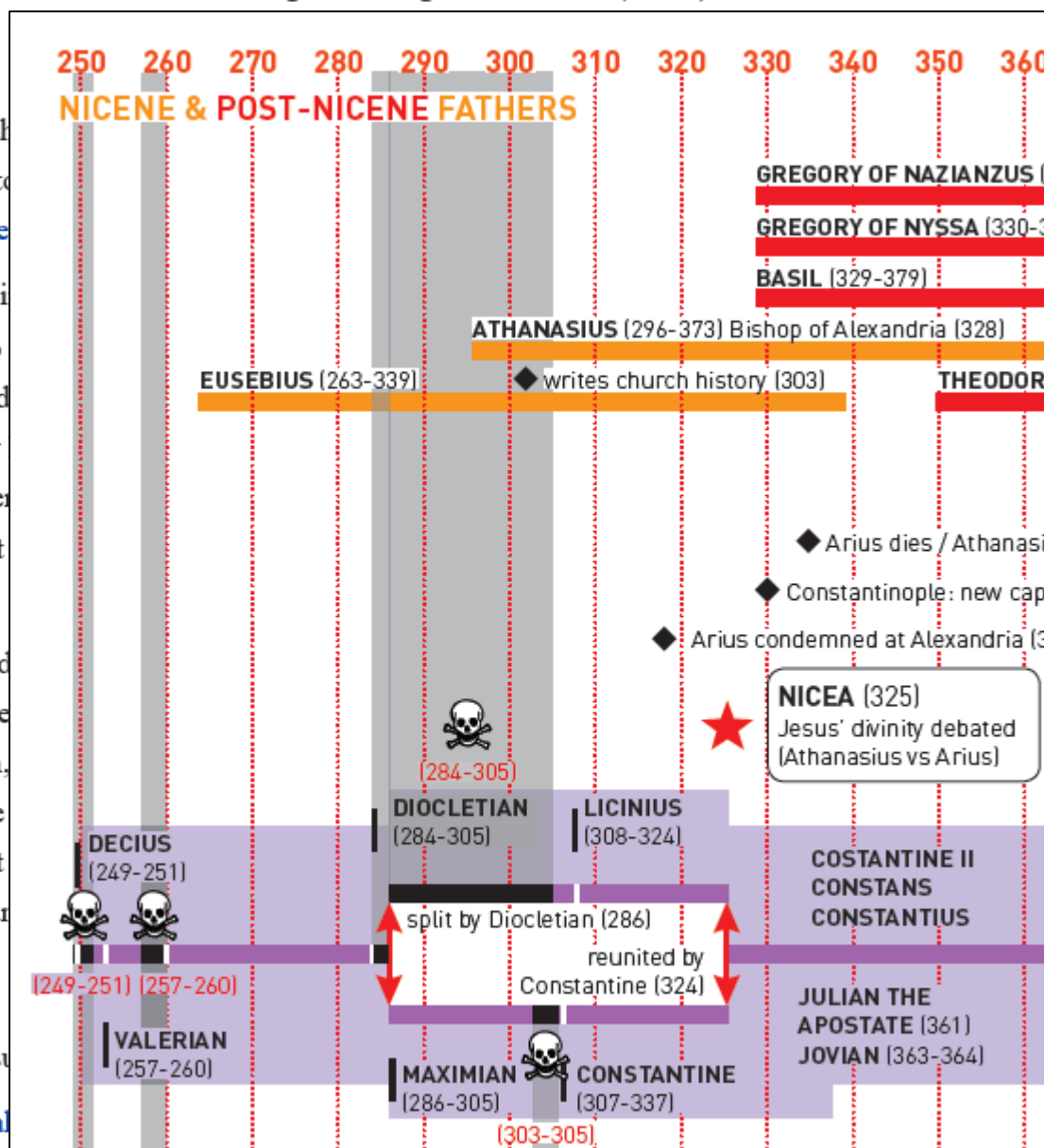
Then they showed their hands, exhibiting the hard  
their own labor. And when they were asked conce  
that it was not a temporal nor an earthly kingdom,  
glory to judge the quick and the dead, and to give  
them, but, despising them as of no account, he let  
ruled the churches because they were witnesses an  
These things are related by Hegesippus.<sup>[17]</sup>

Eusebius also relates (in Book III, ch. 32,5f.), that they su

[Epiphanius of Salamis](#), in his *Panarion*, mentions a Juda



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[Mark 6:3](#) and [Matthew 13:55](#) record the people of Nazareth saying of Jesus: "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Judas, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?". Some [Protestants](#), such as R.V. Tasker<sup>[6]</sup> and D. Hill,<sup>[7]</sup> generally relate these brothers and sisters to the [Matthew 1:25](#) indication that Joseph "knew her not *until* after she brought forth her firstborn" and the implication that Joseph and Mary had customary marital relations thereafter. But K. Beyer points out that [Greek](#) ἕως οὗ (*until*) after a negative "often has no implication at all about what happened after the limit of the 'until' was reached".<sup>[8]</sup>

Many Christians ([Roman Catholics](#), [Eastern Christianity](#), and some [Protestants](#)) believe that "[brothers of Jesus](#)" are not biological children of [Mary](#), but step brothers or cousins, which is part of the [doctrine of perpetual virginity of Mary](#).

According to the surviving fragments of the work *Exposition of the Sayings of the Lord* of the [Apostolic Father Papias of Hierapolis](#), who lived c. 70–163 AD, Mary the wife of Cleophas or Alphaeus would be the mother of Jude, the brother of Jesus that Papias identifies with [Thaddeus](#):

Mary the wife of Cleophas or Alphaeus, who was the mother of James the bishop and apostle, and of Simon and Thaddeus, and of one Joseph...(Fragment X)<sup>[9]</sup>

The bishop of Salamis, [Epiphanius](#), wrote in his work *The Panarion* (AD 374-375) that [Joseph](#) became the father of James and his three brothers (Joses, Simeon, Judah) and two sisters (a Salome and a Mary) or (a Salome and an Anna)<sup>[10]</sup> with James being the elder sibling. James and his siblings were not children of Mary but were children from a previous marriage. After Joseph's first wife died, many years later when he was eighty, "he took Mary (mother of Jesus)".<sup>[11][12]</sup>



#### Adversity

[Split of Christianity and Judaism](#) ·  
[Paul and Judaism](#) · [Marcionism](#) ·  
[Christian anti-semitism](#) · [Constantine](#)

#### Writings

[Gospel of Matthew](#) · [Epistle of James](#) ·  
[Clementine](#) · [Didache](#) · [Liturgy of St James](#) ·  
[Book of Elchasai](#) · [Jewish–Christian gospels](#) ·  
[Gospel of the Ebionites](#) ·  
[Gospel of the Hebrews](#) ·  
[Gospel of the Nazarenes](#)

#### Issues

[Aramaic of Jesus](#) · [Yeshua \(name\)](#) ·  
[Council of Jerusalem](#) · [Expounding of the Law](#)  
· [Sabbath](#) · [Quartodecimanism](#) · [Noahide laws](#)

V · T · E



# GENRE

MANY SCHOLARS REGARD THIS EPISTLE AS AN "EPISTOLARY SERMON." JUDE COULD HAVE DELIVERED WHAT HE SAID IN THIS EPISTLE AS A HOMILY (SERMON) IF HE HAD BEEN IN HIS READERS' PRESENCE. INSTEAD, HE CAST IT IN THE FORM OF A LETTER BECAUSE HE COULD NOT ADDRESS THEM DIRECTLY. OTHER NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES THAT ARE ACTUALLY WRITTEN HOMILIES INCLUDE JAMES, HEBREWS, AND 1 JOHN.



# PURPOSE

"ONE THOUGHT CHARACTERIZES THIS EPISTLE: **BEWARE OF THE APOSTATES.**"<sup>10</sup>

INCIPIENT GNOSTICISM SEEMS TO BE THE PRIMARY HERESY IN VIEW.

"HERE, IN AN UNDEVELOPED FORM, ARE ALL THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS WHICH WENT TO MAKE UP LATER GNOSTICISM—EMPHASIS ON KNOWLEDGE WHICH WAS EMANCIPATED FROM THE CLAIMS OF MORALITY; ARROGANCE TOWARD 'UNENLIGHTENED' CHURCH LEADERS; INTEREST IN ANGELOLOGY; DIVISIVENESS; LASCIVIOUSNESS."<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> EDWARD C. PENTECOST, "JUDE," IN *THE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY: NEW TESTAMENT*, P. 918.

<sup>12</sup> MICHAEL GREEN, *THE SECOND EPISTLE GENERAL OF PETER AND THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF JUDE*, P. 39. CF. A. T. ROBERTSON, *WORD PICTURES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT*, 6:184.





# OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION vv. 1-2
- II. THE PURPOSE OF THIS EPISTLE vv. 3-4
- III. WARNINGS AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS vv. 5-16
  - A. PREVIOUS FAILURES vv. 5-7
    - 1. THE EXAMPLE OF CERTAIN ISRAELITES v. 5
    - 2. THE EXAMPLE OF CERTAIN ANGELS v. 6
    - 3. THE EXAMPLE OF CERTAIN PAGANS v. 7
  - B. PRESENT FAILURES vv. 8-16
    - 1. THE NATURE OF THE ERROR vv. 8-9
    - 2. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ERROR vv. 10-13
    - 3. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ERROR vv. 14-16
- IV. EXHORTATION TO THE FAITHFUL vv. 17-23
  - A. THE REMINDER TO REMEMBER THE APOSTLES' WARNING vv. 17-19
  - B. THE POSITIVE INSTRUCTION OF THE READERS vv. 20-23
- V. CONCLUSION vv. 24-25



# EXPOSITION

"THE FAITH THAT WAS ONCE FOR ALL ENTRUSTED TO THE SAINTS" IS  
THE SPECIAL REVELATION OF GOD THAT SCRIPTURE CONTAINS  
AND THE APOSTLES PREACHED (CF. GAL. 1:23; 1 TIM. 4:1).

[GALATIANS 1:23 NET] <sup>23</sup> THEY, BY HEARING, "THE ONE WHO ONCE  
PERSECUTED US IS NOW PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE FAITH HE ONCE  
TRIED TO DESTROY"

[1 TIMOTHY 4:1 NET] THAT IN THE LATER TIMES  
SOME WILL DESERT THE FAITH AND WILL FOLLOW SPIRITS AND DEMONS  
THEY HAVE RECEIVED THROUGH THEIR DECEIVING

## CHRISTIAN ORTHODOXY

(ANSWER TO OUR  
1<sup>ST</sup> QUESTION IN  
THIS SERIES)





# EXPOSITION

JUDE'S READERS NEEDED TO STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN ("CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR") THIS 'FAITH,' AS A CHAMPION ATHLETE LABORS TO DOMINATE AND TO SUBDUE HIS OR HER CHALLENGERS (CF. 1 TIM. 6:12; 2 TIM. 4:7- 8; 2 PET. 1:5).

[1 TIMOTHY 6:12 NET] <sup>12</sup> COMPETE WELL FOR THE FAITH AND LAY HOLD OF THAT ETERNAL LIFE YOU WERE CALLED FOR AND MADE YOUR GOOD CONFESSION FOR IN THE PRESENCE OF MANY WITNESSES.

[2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8 NET] <sup>7</sup> I HAVE COMPETED WELL; I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE; I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH! <sup>8</sup> FINALLY THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS RESERVED FOR ME. THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE, WILL AWARD IT TO ME IN THAT DAY - AND NOT TO ME ONLY, BUT ALSO TO ALL WHO HAVE SET THEIR AFFECTION ON HIS APPEARING.

[2 PETER 1:5 NET] <sup>5</sup> FOR THIS VERY REASON, MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ADD TO YOUR FAITH EXCELLENCE, TO EXCELLENCE, KNOWLEDGE;



# FALSE TEACHERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



[2 PETER 2:1-2, 19 NET]

<sup>1</sup> BUT FALSE PROPHETS AROSE AMONG THE PEOPLE, JUST AS THERE WILL BE FALSE TEACHERS AMONG YOU. THESE FALSE TEACHERS WILL INFILTRATE YOUR MIDST WITH DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES, EVEN TO THE POINT OF DENYING THE MASTER WHO BOUGHT THEM. AS A RESULT, THEY WILL BRING SWIFT DESTRUCTION ON THEMSELVES.

<sup>2</sup> AND MANY WILL FOLLOW THEIR DEBAUCHED LIFESTYLES. BECAUSE OF THESE FALSE TEACHERS, THE WAY OF TRUTH WILL BE SLANDERED.

...

<sup>19</sup> ALTHOUGH THESE FALSE TEACHERS PROMISE SUCH PEOPLE FREEDOM, THEY THEMSELVES ARE ENSLAVED TO IMMORALITY. FOR WHATEVER A PERSON SUCCUMBS TO, TO THAT HE IS ENSLAVED.



# FALSE TEACHERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



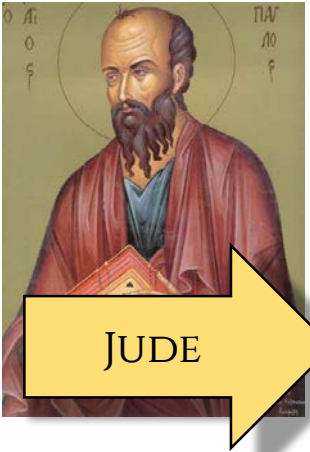
[GALATIANS 1:6-9 NET]

<sup>6</sup> I AM ASTONISHED THAT YOU ARE SO QUICKLY DESERTING THE ONE WHO CALLED YOU BY THE GRACE OF CHRIST AND ARE FOLLOWING A DIFFERENT GOSPEL - <sup>7</sup> NOT THAT THERE REALLY IS ANOTHER GOSPEL, BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO ARE DISTURBING YOU AND WANTING TO DISTORT THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. <sup>8</sup> BUT EVEN IF WE (OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN) SHOULD PREACH A GOSPEL CONTRARY TO THE ONE WE PREACHED TO YOU, LET HIM BE CONDEMNED TO HELL! <sup>9</sup> AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, AND NOW I SAY AGAIN, IF ANY ONE IS PREACHING TO YOU A GOSPEL CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU RECEIVED, LET HIM BE CONDEMNED TO HELL!





# FALSE TEACHERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



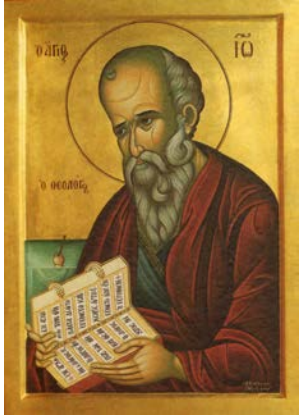
JUDE

[COLOSSIANS 2:6-8 NET]

<sup>6</sup> THEREFORE, JUST AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS AS LORD, CONTINUE TO LIVE YOUR LIVES IN HIM, <sup>7</sup> ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM AND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH JUST AS YOU WERE TAUGHT, AND OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS. <sup>8</sup> BE CAREFUL NOT TO ALLOW ANYONE TO CAPTIVATE YOU THROUGH AN EMPTY, DECEITFUL PHILOSOPHY THAT IS ACCORDING TO HUMAN TRADITIONS AND THE ELEMENTAL SPIRITS OF THE WORLD, AND NOT ACCORDING TO CHRIST.



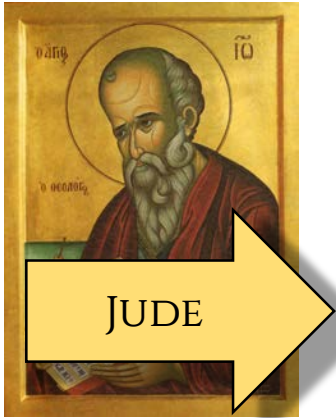
# FALSE TEACHERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



[2 JOHN 1:7-10 NET]

<sup>7</sup> FOR MANY DECEIVERS HAVE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD, PEOPLE WHO DO NOT CONFESS JESUS AS CHRIST COMING IN THE FLESH. THIS PERSON IS THE DECEIVER AND THE ANTICHRIST! <sup>8</sup> WATCH OUT, SO THAT YOU DO NOT LOSE THE THINGS WE HAVE WORKED FOR, BUT RECEIVE A FULL REWARD. <sup>9</sup> **EVERYONE WHO GOES ON AHEAD AND DOES NOT REMAIN IN THE TEACHING OF CHRIST DOES NOT HAVE GOD. THE ONE WHO REMAINS IN THIS TEACHING HAS BOTH THE FATHER AND THE SON.** <sup>10</sup> IF ANYONE COMES TO YOU AND DOES NOT BRING THIS TEACHING, DO NOT RECEIVE HIM INTO YOUR HOUSE AND DO NOT GIVE HIM ANY GREETING,

# FALSE TEACHERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



[1 JOHN 2:24 NET]

**24** AS FOR YOU, WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING **MUST REMAIN IN YOU.** IF WHAT YOU HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING REMAINS IN YOU, YOU ALSO WILL REMAIN IN THE SON AND IN THE FATHER.

[1Jo 2:24 NET]





DR. RYAN REEVES

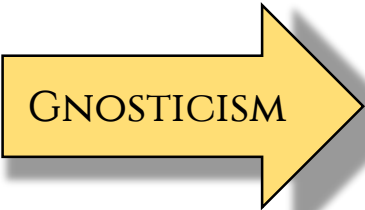
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# DISCUSSION

