

2 PETER & JUDE

THE AUTHOR OF 2 PETER

Many liberal scholars (i.e., scholars who don't believe that God is the ultimate author of the Bible) doubt that the apostle wrote this letter. They believe it was written long after Peter died. Yet the letter itself plainly claims to have been written by "Simon Peter, a bond servant and apostle of Jesus Christ" (2 Pet 1:1). Several facts support this claim that Peter is the author: (1) the Greek text actually reads "_____ [a] Peter," using the Hebrew form of Peter's name, and there's only one other place where that form of his name is used, and that's in Acts 15:14. A forger would not likely have used such an obscure form of Peter's name; (2) in 2 Peter 1:14 the author referred to Christ's prediction of his death (cf. John 21:18); (3) in 2 Peter 1:16-18 he claimed to be an eyewitness of Jesus' _____ [b]; (4) in 2 Peter 3:1 he referred to an earlier letter (1 Peter) that he wrote to his readers; (5) in 2 Peter 3:15 he referred to Paul as his "beloved _____ [c]," thus making himself Paul's spiritual _____ [d]; and (6) there is no compelling evidence to the contrary.

DATE AND DESTINATION OF 2 PETER

There are compelling reasons to accept the tradition that Peter was martyred near the end of Nero's _____ [e]. Because Nero died in AD 68, Peter's death must have taken place before that time. Also, it seems Peter wrote this letter shortly before he died because he wrote that Jesus had revealed to him that "the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is _____ [f]" (2 Pet 1:14). So, perhaps Peter died in AD 67 or 68, and since his death was "imminent," and he was _____ [g] in Rome, he probably wrote it while he was in prison there. As far the recipients of this letter go, Peter doesn't name them in this letter like he does in his first letter. However, since this was the second letter he had written them (2 Pet 3:1), they were likely the same people (or at least some of the same people) who lived in _____ [h] Minor (modern Turkey) in the _____ [i] of "Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia" (1 Pet 1:1).

PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF 2 PETER

Peter wrote his first letter to _____ [j] and instruct believers who were facing the _____ [k] threat of _____ [l]. In this second letter he addresses the _____ [m] threat of _____ [n] teachers who have invaded the churches in Asia Minor. They have already

caused many problems, and Peter foresees that their false teachings and _____[o] lifestyles will continue to have a disastrous effect on the churches they have infiltrated. He wants his readers to know about these false teachers and know how to _____[p] themselves from their evil agenda.

Peter's approach to equipping his readers to deal with these _____[q] and their _____[r] is rather interesting. Normally, you might expect him to first identify these false teachers and the errors they're promoting, and then you might expect him to discuss how they can protect themselves. But he actually does it just the opposite. He starts with his prescription for protection in Chapter 1, and then he discusses the false teachers in Chapter 2 and 3. So, let's start with Chapter 2 and check out the problem Peter's dealing with.

In Chapter 2 Peter gives a very graphic description of the false teachers his readers are facing. What is the particular heresy being peddled? In a nutshell, the heresy is a _____[s] of Christian _____[t]. This can be seen in Peter's charge that these false teachers "despise authority" (2 Pet 2:10) and that they are "promising freedom" (2 Pet 2:19) to his readers. You can almost hear these heretics saying, "Don't you know that you're free in Christ? Well, what does 'freedom' mean? It means you're free. It means no fences, no boundaries, no walls." Of course, these heretics are master _____[u]. They know how to put words together to make their deadly teaching sound perfectly holy. That's why Peter describes their tactics as "speaking out arrogant words of vanity" or "loud boasts of folly" (ESV) (2 Pet 2:18). Their teaching _____[v] so good and so right, but it's totally _____[w] of the truth.

In Chapter 1 Peter offers his readers the recipe for protecting themselves from these eloquent, lying apostates? That recipe is _____[x]. In other words, they have to keep _____[y] and _____[z] in Christ. Chapter 1 is a call for spiritual growth. In it Peter shares a list of virtues and _____[aa] that his readers must pursue if they want to stand firm against error and enter the eternal kingdom (2 Pet 1:10-11). It includes an aspiration for _____[bb] excellence, a _____[cc] of what is morally excellent, the practice of _____[dd], and _____[ee] in that moral self-control for the long haul (2 Pet 1:5-7). In other words, true Christianity is not absolute freedom. True Christianity requires moral transformation.

In Chapter 3 Peter shares more of what can be expected from these false teachers. These heretics scoff at the idea of Jesus' _____[ff] coming, and they claim that God doesn't intervene in world affairs. But Peter reminds his readers of one of God's monumental interventions in world affairs—the _____[gg] (2 Pet 3:3-7). He explains that what seems

like an unfulfilled promise on God's part is actually God's grace in action. In other words, God hasn't sent Jesus back yet because He wants more people to come to saving faith in Jesus.

THE AUTHOR OF JUDE

Some have said that Jude is the Song of Solomon of the New Testament. What they mean by that is that Jude may be the most _____ [hh] book in the New Testament as the Song of Solomon is probably the most neglected book in the Old Testament. Whether that's true or not, it is true that Jude doesn't get as much press as most other NT books.

So, who wrote it? The New Testament lists eight men named Judas ("Jude" is an English form of the Greek word "_____" [ii], which translates the Hebrew name "Judah"). Obviously, Jude was a very popular name, and one of the reasons was because "Judah" was the founder of the tribe of _____ [jj]. We can narrow down these possibilities by virtue of the fact that the author identified himself as a "brother of James." That clue brings us from eight to two: (1) the _____ [kk] Jude, and (2) the half-brother of _____ [ll]. We can rule out the apostle Jude because he was the *son* of a man named James, not the brother. I'm aware that the KJV calls Jude the apostle "the brother of James" in Luke 6:16 and Acts 1:13, but that's not correct. Fortunately, no other English translation makes that mistake. Furthermore, if Jude the apostle wrote it, he would have surely identified himself as an apostle. This leaves Jesus' brother, Jude, as the author.

Notice Jude's deep _____ [mm] right at the outset of the letter. Instead of identifying himself as the "brother of Jesus," he identifies himself as "brother of James" and "a bond-servant of Jesus Christ." We know almost nothing about Jude apart from this little letter. According to 1 Corinthians 9:5 we know he was married and was a traveling evangelist, but that's about it.

DATE AND DESTINATION OF JUDE

There's nothing in Jude that indicates when it was written. Jude 17 suggests that most of the apostles were _____ [nn] and gone when Jude wrote this letter, but it says nothing about how many had died or how long ago they had died. In fact, verse 18 seems to suggest that some of Jude's readers had heard some of the apostles _____ [oo]. Also, there are reasons to believe that Jude wrote his letter after 2 Peter (more on that in a moment). This would suggest a date of the late 60s AD. The specific church or churches to which Jude wrote aren't known. In light of his choice of illustrations from the Old Testament and the Jewish apocrypha, his readers seem to be mostly _____ [pp] Christians.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF JUDE TO 2 PETER

There are obvious parallels between Jude and 2 Peter. Scholars differ as to which author used the other as a source, but most think 2 Peter came _____[qq], and Jude used 2 Peter. There are a couple of reasons this seems correct. First, 2 Peter predicts that the false teachers will come in the _____[rr] (2 Pet 2:1-2; 3:3), while Jude describes them as already _____[ss]. This implies Peter came before Jude. Second, the wording of Jude 17-18 is almost identical to 2 Peter 3:3. It appears that Jude is citing Peter's _____[tt] that false teachers would come.

THE PROBLEM OF THE APOCRYPHAL WORKS

One major issue with Jude is that he seems to have quoted from the book of _____[uu] (Jude 14-15). Obviously, that was never considered to be an _____[vv] Old Testament book. So, how can Jude be inspired if he quoted an _____[ww] book? The book of Enoch was very familiar to Jewish people. It was part of their written history and tradition, even though they never considered it to be an inspired book. Since it was so familiar to Jude's readers, he quoted Enoch's statement as a true prophecy. The fact that Jude quoted this statement as a true prophecy means we can rest assured that it is _____[xx]. Of course, that doesn't mean we accept all of 1 Enoch as prophecy; but only the statement Jude quoted while he wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit.

THE CONTENT OF JUDE

Jude had originally intended to write a _____[yy] letter celebrating the wonderful truths of our _____[zz]. But before he got that letter written, he received some alarming news that changed his plans. The news was that _____[aaa] teachers had invaded the congregations to which he wrote. So, instead of dealing with peaceful matters, he wrote a strong _____[bbb] of the false teachers and their godless lifestyle.

The nature of the false teaching his readers are facing seems to be a perversion of _____[ccc]. This was similar to the problem 2 Peter dealt with which was a perversion of _____[ddd]. You can almost hear the false teachers in Jude's crosshairs chanting, "Three cheers for grace! Now we don't have to worry about our behavior. God understands. Isn't His grace just wonderful?" And they were happy to demonstrate how God's people can live ungodly lives without a worry or a second thought thanks to grace. Jude shoots down that notion with great intensity. He reminds his readers that the _____[eee] of God will come upon the _____[fff] as it always has.

LESSONS FROM 2 PETER & JUDE

- Christianity is _____ [ggg] and _____ [hhh] (2 Pet 1:5-11).
- Christian _____ [iii] won't happen by _____ [jjj] (2 Pet 1:5,10).
- Stay ready for the _____ [kkk]; there will be no _____ [lll] (2 Pet 3:10).
- The need to defend the _____ [mmm] "once for all handed down" is an _____ [nnn] need (Jude 3).
- God's truth is _____ [ooo]. It isn't _____ [ppp]. It's in its _____ [qqq] form (Jude 3).
- Grace is not a _____ [rrr] to _____ [sss] (Jude 4).
- There is a difference between _____ [ttt] God's grace and _____ [uuu] upon God's grace.
- God's benevolent love is _____ [vvv], but His approving love is _____ [www] (Jude 21).

KEY PASSAGES FROM 2 PETER & JUDE

- 2 Peter 1:5-7
- 2 Peter 1:19-21
- 2 Peter 3:11-14
- Jude 3
- Jude 20-21
- Jude 24-25

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK ANSWER KEY

[a] Simon	[ss] present
[b] transfiguration	[tt] prophecy
[c] brother	[uu] 1 Enoch
[d] peer	[vv] inspired
[e] persecution	[ww] apocryphal
[f] imminent	[xx] true
[g] martyred	[yy] positive
[h] Asia	[zz] salvation
[i] provinces	[aaa] false
[j] comfort	[bbb] denunciation
[k] external	[ccc] grace
[l] persecution	[ddd] freedom
[m] internal	[eee] judgment
[n] false	[fff] ungodly
[o] immoral	[ggg] active
[p] protect	[hhh] progressive
[q] heretics	[iii] growth
[r] heresies	[jjj] accident
[s] perversion	[kkk] end
[t] freedom	[lll] signs
[u] persuaders	[mmm] truth
[v] sounds	[nnn] ongoing
[w] empty	[ooo] settled
[x] growth	[ppp] evolving
[y] growing	[qqq] final
[z] maturing	[rrr] license
[aa] qualities	[sss] sin
[bb] moral	[ttt] embracing
[cc] knowledge	[uuu] presuming
[dd] self-control	[vvv] unconditional
[ee] persevering	[www] conditional
[ff] second	
[gg] flood	
[hh] neglected	
[ii] Judas	
[jj] Judah	
[kk] apostle	
[ll] Jesus	
[mm] humility	
[nn] dead	
[oo] preach	
[pp] Jewish	
[qq] first	
[rr] future	