

Jude 17-19

“Remember”

Jude 17-18

- Jude’s final text and comment is not an Old Testament text but rather the words of the apostles.
- Jude begins this final section with language similar to the introduction of the body of the letter.
- Like verse 5, Jude is asking his listeners to remember something they already know. This is a common practice in ancient moral instruction. The idea is not to merely call to mind, but exhortation to heed and to act.
- Like verse 3, Jude calls his listeners/readers “beloved.” This contrasts with the opponents in vs. 16 (these are... but you..., beloved...).
- Jude appears to regard these words of the apostles not just as authoritative but also as predictive/prophetic. Jude’s point is to demonstrate that the words of the apostles have come to pass.
- While in other areas “the apostles” can encompass more than the twelve plus Paul, here that group is likely meant. Someone “sent” by Jesus Christ speaks *for* Jesus Christ.
- Jude’s “text” or “word” from the apostles in this section has no direct corollary in the NT save 2 Peter 3:2-3. Similar passages do exist that warn of false teachers in the last days (1 Tim. 4:1-3, 1 John 2:18, 22).
- Like other authors of the NT, Jude interprets “the last time” not as in the future, but at hand in the present.
- Mockers (or scoffers) seek to subject others to shame. The opponents ridicule and seek to shame those who do not follow their false teaching.
- Jude’s language of “following their own ungodly passions (or desires)” mirrors his language in verse 16 about the opponents “following their own sinful desires.” Thus, the opponents are exactly who the apostles predicted.
- The further distinction of the opponents as “ungodly” returns to the thought of verse 4 that the opponents are “ungodly people.”

Jude 19

- Jude’s comment on the “text” of the previous verse notes that the opponents cause divisions; most likely meaning that some within the original audience had been persuaded by their arguments.
- For “worldly people” (ψυχικος) see 1 Corinthians 15:46-49. NT writers use this word to speak of what is opposite of “spiritual” things/people.
- This understanding is confirmed by Jude’s following statement. The opponents are devoid of the Spirit. Being “natural” and “devoid of the Spirit,” means that Jude labels the opponents as outside of the grace of God and thus not Christians at all!