

## **“Loved and Kept”**

### **Jude 1:1-4**

**Context:** Jude, the writer of this book, is most probably the brother of James the Just, who was bishop of Jerusalem. They were likely the half-brothers of Jesus, but their exact relationship to Him is disputed, as seen in [four different hypotheses](#). Jude’s message, like that of Peter’s last epistle, warns the Christian community about the danger of false teachers. Jude’s warning focuses on the intent of the false teachers desiring to promote rejection of Jesus as Messiah as well as rebellion against God’s holy created order. Their ultimate goal is personal gain, power, and sensual self-indulgence.

**Pivotal verse:** Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life (cf. Jude 1:21).

### **1. Loved and kept – Jude 1:1-2**

Jude begins his letter to the elect of God with a reminder of God’s mercy to them. By God’s election they have been brought into and remain in the sphere of God the Father’s unmerited loving saving presence. This sphere is co-extensive with the elect’s eternal preservation through Jesus’ work of salvation. Reflection upon our calling should arouse (1) an awareness of deliverance from our eternal affliction, (2) a sense of growing fulfillment in that which God created us to be, and (3) a sense of God’s transformation of each of us from glory to glory.

### **2. Exhorted – Jude 1:3-4**

In light of our common salvation, Jude calls us to the struggle of living an orthodox faith. It is a faith that the saints that have come before us taught us by their lifestyle and by their writings. The sense of urgency in Jude’s letter arises from a community imperiled by con artists that have covertly entered the community with hopes of exploitation for pleasure, power, and gain.

## For Further Study:

- Jude 1:1 speaks of two assuring eternal truths for those called elect: (1) we are loved by the father and (2) we are “preserved for Jesus” (i.e. Jude 1:24-25; John 17:15 see also TDNT-8:140). Why are the tenses and voices of “loved” and “kept” very important? Look up an example of God the Father’s love or preservation (i.e. Genesis 22:9-14; Daniel 3:21-26). Ask the Lord to bring to your remembrance one time that God the Father revealed His love toward you or one time God preserved you for Jesus.
  
- As a **Theological study method**, study and describe the primary views of Jude’s relationship to James and their [relationship to Jesus Christ](#) (cf. Mark 6:3; Matthew 13:55). Why is the [perpetual virginity of Mary](#) important to some denominations of Christians and irrelevant to others (cf. Matthew 1:25)? What do you think about [Mary as the mother of God](#) (the *Theotokos*; cf. John 19:26-27)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Jude writes to the chosen about “the common salvation we share” (cf. Jude 1:3). List and describe four words associated with the concept of our common salvation (cf. Isaiah 30:15; Titus 3:5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

## Transformation reflection:

Pray for a clear remembrance of God’s preserving help for you or for another when temptations have arisen calling you to walk away from Christ or walk into a wanton, debauched relationship.