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Jude

The book of Jude is a short letter in the New Testament of the Christian Bible, consisting of only one chapter with 25 verses. It is attributed to Jude, who identifies himself as "a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James" in verse 1. Although it is not clear which James he is referring to, many scholars believe he is referring to James the brother of Jesus.

The letter of Jude is a warning against false teachers who have infiltrated the Christian community. Jude urges his readers to "contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people" (verse 3) and to resist the teachings of those who deny Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He gives examples from the Old Testament of those who were punished for their rebellion and warns that these false teachers will suffer a similar fate. Jude also provides a vivid description of the behavior of these false teachers, calling them "blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm--shepherds who feed only themselves" (verse 12). He encourages his readers to stay strong in their faith and to remember the words of the apostles, who predicted the appearance of such false teachers in the last days.

The letter of Jude concludes with a prayer of praise to God, who is able to keep believers from stumbling and to present them blameless before his glorious presence.

In summary, the book of Jude is a warning against false teachers who have infiltrated the Christian community. Jude urges his readers to stay strong in their faith and resist the teachings of those who deny Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He provides examples from the Old Testament of those who were punished for their rebellion and encourages his readers to remember the words of the apostles. The letter concludes with a prayer of praise to God for his power to keep believers from stumbling and to present them blameless before his glorious presence.

All of the verses in the book of Jude are important in their own way, but here are a few that are often highlighted:

1. "Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people." (Verse 3) - This verse sets the tone for the entire letter and emphasizes the importance of defending the faith against false teachings.
2. "For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord." (Verse 4) - This verse identifies the false teachers that Jude is warning against and their harmful teachings.
3. "But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life." (Verses 20-21) - These verses provide encouragement to believers on how to stay strong in their faith and resist false teachings.
4. "To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen." (Verses 24-25) - These verses offer a doxology, a hymn of praise, to God for his power and authority to keep believers from stumbling and present them blameless before him.

Notes:

There are several difficult questions raised in the book of Jude that have no clear answer or resolution. Some of these questions include:

1. Who were the specific false teachers that Jude was referring to? Jude describes these individuals as "ungodly people" who have "crept in unnoticed" among the believers (Jude 1:4). However, he does not provide any specific names or details about these individuals, making it difficult to identify them with certainty.
2. What was the origin and nature of the false teaching that these individuals were promoting? Jude refers to their teachings as "godless" and "perverting the grace of our God into sensuality" (Jude 1:4). However, he does not provide any specific details about the content of these teachings or where they came from.
3. What is the exact meaning and significance of the reference to the story of Michael and the devil disputing over the body of Moses (Jude 1:9)? This reference is somewhat obscure and raises several questions about the nature of the dispute and the role of Michael and the devil in the story.
4. What is the identity of the "disputed about the body of Moses" (Jude 1:9)? There are different interpretations of who this refers to, with some suggesting that it is a symbolic reference to the Jewish religious leaders who rejected Jesus, while others see it as a historical event that is not recorded elsewhere in the Bible.

These are some of the difficult questions raised by the book of Jude that do not have clear answers. Nonetheless, these questions do not undermine the essential message of the book, which emphasizes the importance of holding fast to the faith and guarding against false teachings and ungodly influences.