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Structural Analysis of the Epistle of Jude via Outline

I. INTRODUCTION 1:1-2

A. Jude

1. Bondservant of Jesus Christ
2. Brother of James

B. To those who are called

1. Sanctified by God the Father
2. Preserved in Christ

C. Mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you

It is interesting to note that Jude does not identify himself as a brother of Jesus, but as a slave or servant instead. His brotherhood is linked to James here. He acknowledges the calling of believers and speaks of their sanctification by God, their Father, as well as their preservation in Christ. There is a lot to unpack in this brief introduction.

II. FALSE TEACHERS 1:3-16

A. Necessary to write

1. Exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith
 - i. Which was delivered to the saints
2. Because certain men
 - i. False teachers
 - ii. Have crept in unnoticed (to the church)
 - iii. Condemned (long ago)
 - iv. Ungodly, deny the Lord God, deny Christ, turn the grace of God to lewdness

3. I want to remind you of God's past faithfulness

- i. Delivering His people out of Egypt
- ii. Also destroyed those who did not believe.
- iii. Punishing even angels who disobeyed for judgement day
- iv. Sodom and Gomorrah also serve as examples

Jude shares that his desire was to write a word of encouragement but that he found it necessary to write a warning due to these false teachers among the church. They had crept in or even been raised up from within (something that can be related to in the modern age). Whether from a watered-down message, or from those who slid in with ill-intent from the start, the damage was being done. In either case, Jude referenced the prophets of old who had warned of such incursions. Not only were they sinful but they dared to deny Christ from within the church itself. Jude pointed out God's past faithfulness briefly in regards to delivering His people from Egypt, but the remainder of the reminder focused on God's punishment and wrath for those who were His enemies. This speaks directly to these false teachers. Jude is sharing with the true believers that God will not stand idly by while these sons of the devil infiltrate His church. If not now, they will absolutely share the same fate as even the fallen angels in the last days.

B. These false prophets/teachers will meet the same fate (here is there mark)

1. Dreamers who defile the flesh
2. They reject authority
3. The speak evil of dignitaries
 - i. Even Michael – an angel didn't speak evil of the devil (who deserved it)
4. They speak evil of things they do not know
5. Things they do know, like beasts, they corrupt
6. They have gone the way of Cain

7. Like Balaam, they seek profit
8. They perish like in Korah's rebellion
9. They serve only themselves
10. They are clouds without water
11. They are trees without fruit
12. Shameful
13. For whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever
14. Grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts
15. Mouthing boastful words, flatters for their own advantage

Jude provides a road map for identifying the fruit of these false teachers (or lack thereof). You shall know them by their works. If they have characteristics consistent with this provided list, it is a clear indication that they are not from among God's chosen people.

III. BUT YOU (are not like them) 1:17-23

- A. Remember the words of the Apostles of Christ
 1. Who told you there would be mockers who would walk according to their own lusts
 2. They are sensual people, they cause divisions, not having the spirit
- B. You are beloved
- C. You are to build yourselves up on your faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.
- D. Keep yourselves in the love of God.
- E. Looking (actively) for the mercy of Jesus our Lord, eternal life
- F. Show compassion, and haste in saving those set for destruction (sharing the Gospel)

Jude has a great shift of focus starting in verse 17 and again in verse 20 for added emphasis. There is a clear designation and change of focus here. He now briefly begins to list the characteristics and responsibilities of true believers. Instead of punished, they are beloved. Instead of self-seeking they are to build up their faith, praying to the Holy Spirit (for help) – not pridefully doing things on their own. Pointing their eyes back to Jesus and His mercy. Shifting their focus on eternal life, not worldly carnality (the lusts these false teachers taught). More than this, they were to show compassion and mercy for the lost, and a sense of urgency for others, not just recognizing their need for salvation but urgently laying hold of them and desperately desiring to share their faith (for some casually for others intently).

IV. CONCLUSION 1:24-25

- A. Christ is able to keep you from stumbling.
- B. Christ presents you faultless to God in joy.
- C. God our Savior is wise, to Him be glory, majesty, dominion, power now and forever. Amen

Jude ends by pointing believers back to Christ. He is able to keep them, He is the means of righteousness before God – a covering, He alone is wise, He deserves all glory and honor. He alone holds the power now and forever. Amen.