

false teachers true believers or not (2:20-22; 3:17)? Who was Jude? How does Jude's use of apocryphal and pseudigraphical works affect our understanding of their canonicity and spiritual value? Which writer borrowed from the other? Did both use a common source?

Study Tips:

Read through II Peter several times, alternating your favorite version with a less commonly used one. What is the flow of the Apostle's thought? Read about Peter and II Peter in the New Bible Dictionary or an encyclopaedia. Trace his spiritual growth through the New Testament...use the Gospels, Acts and I Peter. What relationships are there between Peter's sermons in Acts and this letter? Between I and II Peter? Study the Old Testament passages to which Peter refers in chapter 3. What new information does Peter add to these accounts. Why does he add it to them?

Read through Jude half a dozen times. Look up all the references in the New Testament to Jesus' family--especially his siblings. Read about Jude in a Bible dictionary or encyclopaedia. How does this information add to your understanding of Jude? Find a copy of the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha. Read I Enoch (early Christians used this much as modern Christians use fiction and biographies). What additional insight does this give into Jude's teachings?

Compare II Peter and Jude, Trace the parallels in topic(s), vocabulary, and flow of thought. How do they evidence influence? How do they reinforce each other's teachings? How ought II Peter 3:11-14 to affect the church? your life? Are you now contending earnestly for the faith? Why or why not? What changes would result in your conduct if you did so?

Keys:

II Peter 1:3-4 gives the ground of the Christian's assurance and life, amplified in the rest of the chapter. In 2:1-3 Peter warns both of false teachers and of their certain and coming judgment. Peter tells the believers that delay is no reason to lose hope in the Second Coming (3:8-9)

Jude 3-4 explains his purpose in writing: to urge them "to contend for the faith entrusted to the saints," warning them about false teachers who slipped into and were already affecting the church. The doxology shows Jude's assurance that, as surely as the false teachers would be judged by God, so would believers be kept by him forever (24-25).

For further study:

II PETER AND JUDE by Michael Green is part of the helpful Tyndale series. I AND II PETER by Gordon H. Clark is a careful study of these epistles. BORN ANEW TO A LIVING HOPE by Robert H. Mounce is a devotional commentary on both I and II Peter. PETER AND JUDE by JND Kelly may be the best commentary on these letters.