

**RECAP OF SESSION 5: SHOWING MERCY IN A BROKEN WORLD (JUDE 22-23)**

In our last session, we explored Jude's nuanced instructions on how to minister to those affected by false teaching and spiritual compromise. We learned to differentiate our approach based on the individual's spiritual state: showing mercy to those who doubt, urgently snatching others from the fire of destruction, and extending mercy with caution and holy fear to those deeply entangled in sin, hating the defilement while loving the person [1]. This session brings Jude's powerful letter to a close with a magnificent doxology, shifting our focus from human responsibility to God's sovereign power to preserve His people.

EXEGESIS OF JUDE 24-25: KEPT BY GOD

Jude concludes his epistle with a glorious doxology, a hymn of praise to God that serves as both an affirmation of His power and a source of immense comfort and assurance for believers. After the stern warnings and urgent exhortations, this doxology reminds us that our ultimate security rests not in our own strength, but in God's unfailing ability to keep us [2].

JUDE 1:24 - GOD'S POWER TO PRESERVE

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, [3]

This verse begins with a profound declaration of God's capability: "Now to him who is able..."

This phrase emphasizes God's omnipotence and His active role in the believer's preservation [2]. Jude highlights two specific aspects of God's ability:

1. To keep you from stumbling: In a letter filled with warnings about apostasy and the dangers of false teachers, this promise is incredibly reassuring. The word "stumbling" (Greek: *aptaistos*) implies falling into sin or falling away from the faith [2]. God is not merely able to prevent us from a complete and final fall, but also from the lesser stumbles and moral failures that can hinder our walk with Him. This keeping power is a testament to His faithfulness and His commitment to His people [1]. It does not negate human responsibility (as seen in Jude 20-21), but rather underscores that God's power is ultimately what secures our perseverance.

2. And to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy: This looks forward to the culmination of our salvation—the day when believers will stand before God in His glorious presence. The term "blameless" (Greek: *amomos*) signifies being without blemish or fault, perfectly pure and holy [2]. This is not a state we achieve through our own efforts, but a gift of God's grace, made possible through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. The phrase "with great joy" describes both God's joy in presenting His redeemed people and the believer's joy in being brought into His presence [1]. It speaks to the triumphant and glorious nature of our ultimate salvation, a stark contrast to the condemnation awaiting the ungodly.

**JUDE 1:25 - THE SOURCE OF ALL GLORY AND AUTHORITY**

to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. [3]

This concluding verse directs all praise and adoration to God. He is identified as “the only God, our Savior,” emphasizing His unique deity and His singular role as the one who delivers us from sin and its consequences [2]. The phrase “through Jesus Christ our Lord” is crucial, as it clarifies the means by which God accomplishes this salvation and preservation. Jesus is the mediator, the one through whom God’s saving power and grace flow to humanity [1]. The doxology then ascribes four attributes to God:

Glory: His inherent splendor, honor, and perfect character.

Majesty: His supreme greatness and sovereign dignity.

Dominion: His absolute rule and authority over all creation.

Authority: His rightful power and right to command [2].

These attributes are declared to belong to God “before all time and now and forever,” affirming His eternal nature and unchanging sovereignty. The “Amen” seals this declaration, expressing hearty assent and confidence in these truths [3]. This doxology serves as a powerful reminder that despite the challenges posed by false teachers and the struggles of this world, God remains supreme, and His purposes for His people will ultimately prevail.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What is the significance of Jude beginning his doxology with “Now to him who is able” (v.24)? What does this phrase emphasize about God?

2. In the context of Jude’s letter, what does it mean for God to “keep you from stumbling” (v. 24)?

3. How does God’s ability to keep us from stumbling relate to our own responsibility to “keep yourselves in the love of God” (Jude 21)?

4. What is implied by God’s promise “to present you blameless before the presence of his glory” (v. 24)? What does “blameless” signify?

5. What is the “great joy” mentioned in verse 24, and whose joy is it?

6. Why is it important that God is identified as “the only God, our Saviour” (v. 25)?



7. What role does “Jesus Christ our Lord” play in God’s ability to save and preserve us, as indicated in verse 25?

8. Define the four attributes ascribed to God in verse 25: glory, majesty, dominion, and authority.

9. What is the significance of these attributes being declared to God “before all time and now and forever”?

10. How does this concluding doxology provide comfort and assurance to believers who are contending for the faith in a challenging world?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Jude 24-25 offers a profound source of hope and encouragement for every believer. In a world filled with uncertainty, spiritual battles, and personal failings, this doxology reminds us that our salvation and perseverance are ultimately secured by God’s unfailing power. It calls us to rest in His ability to keep us from stumbling and to trust in His promise to present us blameless before His glorious presence. This should cultivate a deep sense of humility, gratitude, and confidence in our walk with Christ. It empowers us to continue contending for the faith, knowing that the outcome is not dependent on our perfect performance, but on the perfect work and keeping power of our sovereign God.

TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Throughout this week, meditate on Jude 24-25 daily. When you face temptations, doubts, or feel overwhelmed by the challenges of contending for the faith, recall these verses and consciously direct your praise to God for His ability to keep you. Write out this doxology and place it somewhere visible as a reminder of God’s power and your secure standing in Him. Allow this truth to fuel your joy and strengthen your resolve.

POINTS OF REFLECTION

How does understanding God’s “keeping power” impact your daily walk and your fight against sin?

What does it mean to you personally that God will present you “blameless”?

How can you more consistently ascribe “glory, majesty, dominion, and authority” to God in your life?

In what ways does this doxology deepen your appreciation for Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?

How does the eternal nature of God’s attributes (before all time and now and forever) provide stability and hope?

References

[1] BibleProject. “Jude.” BibleProject Guides, <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-jude/>. [2] Enduring Word. “Jude – Contending for the Faith.” Enduring Word Bible Commentary, <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/jude-1/>. [3] The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. (Used for direct scripture quotes for accuracy and consistency).