JUDAH
(JUDE)

1. **Judah, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of Jacob** (= James), **to those having been, and yet being, loved** [other MSS: set-apart and made holy] **within God [the] Father, even** (or: and) **Jesus Christ; to kept and maintained folks, to called ones** (or: for the people being loved in union with and within the midst of Father God, and being watched over and guarded in and by Jesus Christ – to invited ones),
2. **may mercy, peace and love be multiplied to the full to you** (or: be increased to fill you; be multiplied to fullness in, for and by you folks).

3. **Dearly loved friends, while progressively making all haste and performing every diligent effort to proceed in writing to you concerning our common deliverance** (or: the rescue, salvation, health and wholeness belonging equally to us, and in which we share and participate as partners) [Aleph & others add: and life], **I possessed a compressed and constraining necessity to write to you, progressively urging and encouraging [you] to be in the habit of strenuously contending** (or: to continue adding to the contest; to be repeatedly on top, in combat of the public games; to repeatedly fully participate in the race course) **by the faith, in the trust and with the loyalty and confidence having been once for all given over to, for and in the set-apart folks**.

4. **For some men came in unobserved, from the side, those of old** (or: folks from long ago), **folks previously written into this judgment** (or: the effects and result of this decision)**: [to exist being] impious ones, ones continuously changing the grace and favor of God into licentiousness and repeatedly denying our only Sovereign and Lord** (or: Supreme Ruler and Owner), **Jesus Christ**.

5. **But I am purposing and intending to remind you** [*p*78 adds: brothers] **– you folks having once seen and thus being aware of all this – that the Lord** [= Yahweh; other MSS: Jesus (= Joshua); some read: God] **after delivering** (rescuing; saving) **a people out of Egypt's land, [in] the second [phase] brought to ruin and loss the folks not trusting, believing or being loyal**.
6. **Besides that, those agents** (or: folks having or bringing a message) **not guarding** (keeping watch over; maintaining) **the beginning of themselves** (or: the rule of themselves), **but to the contrary, after leaving away from** (= abandoning) **the personal dwelling place** (one's own abode or habitation), **He has guarded, kept watch over and maintained under gloom** (or: thick darkness) **by imperceptible** (or: in unseen) **bonds, with a view to a judging** (a sifting and a separation; a making of a distinction; a deciding) **of a great Day** (or: pertaining to or whose source is a great day; or: which is [the] great Day).

7. **As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities round about them** [= Admah and Zeboyim – *cf* Deut. 29:23], **in like manner** (or: turn) **to them, being given to fornication and outlandish prostitution, and then going away after different flesh** (= unnatural vice; or: = a different expression of alienation that was formed by the existing System), **are continuously lying before [us as] – an example** (a specimen; a thing pointed out or presented to sight) **– continuing in undergoing an experience of justice** (the Way pointed out; fairness and equity; what is right) **from fire pertaining to the ages** (or: of eonian, or age-lasting, fire; of a fire of undetermined duration whose quality and character are the Age).

8. **In like manner, indeed, these dreaming ones** (folks continuing in sleep) **also pollute flesh** (= their or others' bodies; or: = the estranged human nature). **They are continuously setting aside lordship** (or: ownership) **and are repeatedly blaspheming** (speaking injuriously of and slandering) **reputations** (or: opinions; notions; glories; manifestations which call forth praise).
9. **Yet Michael** (The One Who is like God), **the ruling agent** (the first, chief, or original messenger), **when making a distinction** (a discernment; a thorough separation) **to the adversary** (or: the slanderer; the one who thrusts things through folks or situations, and thus causes divisions; the "devil"), **reasoned** (deliberated; spoke thoroughly; discoursed [as in using the Socratic dialectic method]) **concerning the body of Moses. He did not assume to bring a blasphemous judging upon [him]** (or: to bring in addition a judging characterized by an abusive distinction or a slanderous decision), **but rather, He said, "The Lord** [=Yahweh] **might hold you in added honor** (or: set a value upon you; put respect upon you; award you).**"**

> [note: this word is from *epi*, upon, and *timao*, to hold in respect, to honor, to value, to award. It is also used in negative connotations, and thus can mean, to assess a penalty upon, to chide, to respectfully reprove or admonish. As this passage is contrasting Michael's actions to the negative actions of those who "came in unobserved," I chose the positive translation of *epitimao*. In his *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, A.T. Robertson notes that both Clement of Alexandria and Origen said that Judah here quoted the *Assumption of Moses*. (This latter is an early first century Jewish work of apocalyptic literature. Recall that Paul cites Hellenistic literature in Acts 17:28)]

10. **Yet these folk constantly blaspheme** (slander; speak injuriously of) **what indeed they have neither seen nor understand** (or: know), **but what they naturally** (instinctively; by generation; by sprouting and growing) **are continuously acquainted with** (or: are versed in; became masters of), **in these things they are progressively being corrupted** (spoiled, ruined).
11. **Alas** (or: Tragic is the fate) **for them, because they pass along by the way of Cain, and they are** (or: were) **poured out to the wandering** (or: deception) **of Balaam's wages, and they lose and destroy themselves in Korah's contradiction** (opposing idea; anti-word; message in place of the Logos).

12. **These folks are sharply-cleft portions of rocks** (or: reefs; = menaces) **in your love [relationship]s** (or: love-feasts), **repeatedly feasting well together, by habit fearlessly shepherding themselves. [They are] clouds without water, being swept along by winds; wasted autumnal trees – unfruitful, twice-died, uprooted**;
13. **wild waves of the sea, continuously foaming out** (or: vomiting forth) **their shames** (or: disgraces). **Wandering and deceived stars, for whom the gloom of darkness has been maintained** (guarded; kept and watched-over) **unto an indefinite time period** (or: an age).

14. **But Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied to these folks, saying, "Behold, the Lord** [=Yahweh] **came within His set-apart myriads** (or: in union with innumerable holy multitudes which are Him),
15. **to form a separation** (or: make a decision; construct a distinction; perform a judging) **concerning all, and to test** (or: search thoroughly) **the irreverent folks concerning all their irreverent works** (activities; deeds) **which they irreverently did, and concerning all the hard things which irreverent outcasts** (sinners; failures; folks who make mistakes and miss the target) **spoke against Him."**
16. **These are, and continue to be, murmurers** (or: those who speak privately and in a low voice, making a grumbling buzz of under-toned mutterings of critical and discontented comments), **complainers** (or: those who find fault with their lot; discontented ones), **continuously passing from one place to another according to their strong desires** (or: lusts; full passions), **and their mouth continually uttering** (or: speaking) **over-swollen** (hyper-weighty; pompous; boastful) **things, continually admiring** (or: wondering at) **faces** (= personal presences; = individuals; = personalities) **for the sake and benefit of advantage and furtherance**.

17. **But you, dearly loved ones, remember the things spoken by the sent-forth folks** (representatives; emissaries) **in regard to those things having been told beforehand** (or: foretold) **of our Lord, Jesus Christ**,
18. **that they said to you, "Upon** [other MSS: Within (or: During; In union with)] **[the] last of the time folks will be** (or: there will exist) **mockers** (those acting or playing in the manner of children; sporting, using childish gestures), **continuously passing from one place to another according to** (or: in correspondence with) **their irreverent strong passions** (or: their full desires and lusts of things not having the qualities of things approved by God)**."**
19. **These folks are those who are separating by setting boundaries, soulish ones** (folks dominated by, or living focused on, those things which characterize the soul [= emotions; will; intellect] or this present, transient life) **not having [the] Spirit** (or: not habitually holding a [proper] attitude; or: not continually in possession of spirit or Breath-effect).

20. **But you, dear loved ones, while constantly and progressively building yourselves up by your most holy trust and conviction** (or: in your most set-

apart faith), **[and] continuously thinking and speaking toward well-being and things going well** (or: praying) **within the midst of a set-apart Breath-effect** (or: in union with [the] Holy Spirit; in a separated and consecrated attitude and life-force),
21. **maintain** (guard; keep watch over) **yourselves in God's love** (or: in union with [the] love which is God), **being folks in the habit of welcomingly receiving, embracing and entertaining the mercy of our Lord, Jesus Christ, on into a life having the qualities and characteristics of the Age** (or: a life pertaining to the ages; eonian life; life for the ages; life whose source is the Age).

22. **And so, on the one hand, on some folks be continually showing mercy** [other MSS read: put to the proof; expose; convict; reprove], **while continuously discerning and thoroughly separating**;
23. **yet on the other hand, be continuously delivering** (or: repeatedly rescuing and saving, restoring to health and wholeness) **others, in fear and reverence snatching them from out of the midst of the Fire, while hating even the garment having been stained** (or: spotted) **from the flesh** (= the alienated human nature; = the self that was formed and controlled by the System).

24. **Now in** (or: by; to) **Him being powerful and able to keep and guard you folks from stumbling** (or: tripping) **and from harm, and then to stand you blameless** (or: without stain) **in the presence of His glory** (or: a manifestation of Him which calls forth praise and yields a good reputation) **in extreme joy** (or: praise, celebration); **by the only God** (or: to God alone; in God alone), **our Deliverer** (Rescuer; Savior; Restorer) **– through Jesus Christ our Lord – [is] glory** (or: a manifestation of that which calls forth praise; a good reputation), **greatness, strength, and authority** (the right and privilege out of Being) **both now and on into all the ages** (eons; indefinite periods of time)**! Amen** (It is so; Count on it).

[written circa A.D. 60-62 – Based on the critical analysis of John A.T. Robinson]