

## ***Introduction to 2 Peter and Jude***

There has never been any significant question about the authorship of Jude.

However 2 Peter has had less attestation in early church fathers than any other New Testament book—though it is much better attested than any of the books that were excluded from the canon (e.g., *1 Clement* and *Epistle of Barnabas*).

Though no one ever included it among the “spurious” books (as were *The Apocalypse of Peter*, *The Gospel of Peter*, *the Acts of Peter*, etc.), it was listed with the “contested” books by Eusebius (along with *James, Jude, 2 & 3 John*).

It was first quoted by name by Origen, who cites it 6 times as scripture.

### ***Which came first?***

The two books exhibit some literary dependence—either upon each other or on some common source. Of the 25 verses in Jude, 15 have close parallels in 2 Peter.

Some scholars use this as an argument about Peter’s authorship, because (they say) a man of Peter’s stature in the church would not depend so heavily on the work of a lesser writer, like Jude.

However, the evidence is that it was Jude who depended upon 2 Peter, rather than the reverse:

1. They both describe the same false teachers. Peter, however, predicts that such teacher would come in the future (2:1), whereas Jude says that they have arrived and are in the church (v.4).
2. Jude may be deliberately reminding his readers of 2 Peter when he says, “remember the words that were spoken before by the apostles...how they told you that there would be mockers...” (vv.17-18).
3. Peter does not seem to depend on any other writings (other than the Old Testament scriptures), whereas, Jude, additionally, depends on other writings, including *The Assumption of Moses* (v.9), and *First Enoch* (vv.14-15). It would not be strange if he also depended on a previous epistle written by Peter.

### ***Disputed authorship of 2 Peter***

The main cause for suspicion of the genuineness of 2 Peter was upon linguistic grounds. The Greek of 1 Peter is among the best in the New Testament. That of 2 Peter is said to be grandiose, pretentious and affected. C.F. Chase observes: “The author appears to be ambitious of writing in a style which is beyond his literary power.”

Jerome explained this as, possibly, being due to the use of a different amanuenses.

The linguistic differences between 1 & 2 Peter are not as great, however, as was once thought. Linguistic analysis has shown that the language of the two epistles differs less than does that of 1 & 2 Corinthians, and of 1 Timothy and Titus. On linguistic grounds, 2 Peter is closer to 1 Peter than it is to any other NT book.

Some scholars believe there are evidences of being written later than the apostles’ generation:

1. Hellenistic cast: emphasis on “knowledge” and reference to “the divine nature”
2. Suggestion that apostles (and perhaps additional generations) had died (3:2, 4)
3. Paul’s letters collected (3:15-16)

These objections, however, are easily answered.

Jude’s inclusion in the canon was questioned because of his citation of non-canonical writers. However, Paul quoted Greek writers (Acts 17:28 [Epimenides; Aratus]; 1 Corinthians 15:33 [Menander]; Titus 1:12-13 [Epimenides]), but we do not challenge his authorship on these grounds.

## The False Teachers of 2 Peter and Jude

<i>Description</i>	<i>2 Peter 2</i>	<i>Jude</i>
Denied the Lord	1	4
Blemishes at Love Feasts	13	12
Emphasize liberty at the expense of morality	18-19	4
Bombastic in speech	18	16
Make false promises	17, 19	12
Seek personal gain	3, 14-15	11-12
Driven by sexual lust	14	4
Disrespectful of authority (human and angelic)	10-12	8-9

### Metaphors and Similes

<i>2 Peter 2</i>	<i>Jude</i>
Like beasts — 2	Like beasts —10
Waterless wells — 17	Waterless clouds —12
Clouds carried by wind — 17	Carried by tempest —12
	Fruitless trees, uprooted — 12
	Waves of the sea, foaming shame — 13
	Wandering stars, doomed — 13
Like Balaam —15	Like Cain, Balaam and Korah — 11

### Examples of Judgment Precedents

<i>2 Peter 2</i>	<i>Jude</i>
	Israel in the wilderness — 5
Fallen Angels — 4	Fallen Angels — 6
Noah's world — 5	
Sodom, et al. — 6	Sodom, et al. — 7
(deliverance of Noah & Lot — 5, 7)	

#### *Outline of 2 Peter*

Greetings	1:1-2	Greetings	1-2
Christians' privileges	1:3-4	Reason for writing	3-4
Confirm election by progress	1:5-11	Precedents of judgment	5-7
Repetition is good and safe	1:12-15	Character of false teachers	8-10
Eye-witness testimony	1:16-18	Three examples of doom	11-13
Reliability of scriptures	1:19-21	Enoch spoke of these	14-16
False teachers coming	2:1-3	Apostles warned about them	17-19
Precedents of God's judgment	2:4-9	Be faithful and rescue others	20-23
Character of false teachers	2:10-16	Doxology	24-25
Emptiness of their promises	2:17-22		
Remember, you were told	3:1-2		
Those who scoff	3:3-7		
God is being patient	3:8-9		
The world will be purged	3:10-13		
The opportunity of God's delay	3:14-15a		
Paul agrees on these things	3:15b-16		
Keep growing!	3:17-18		

#### *Outline of Jude*