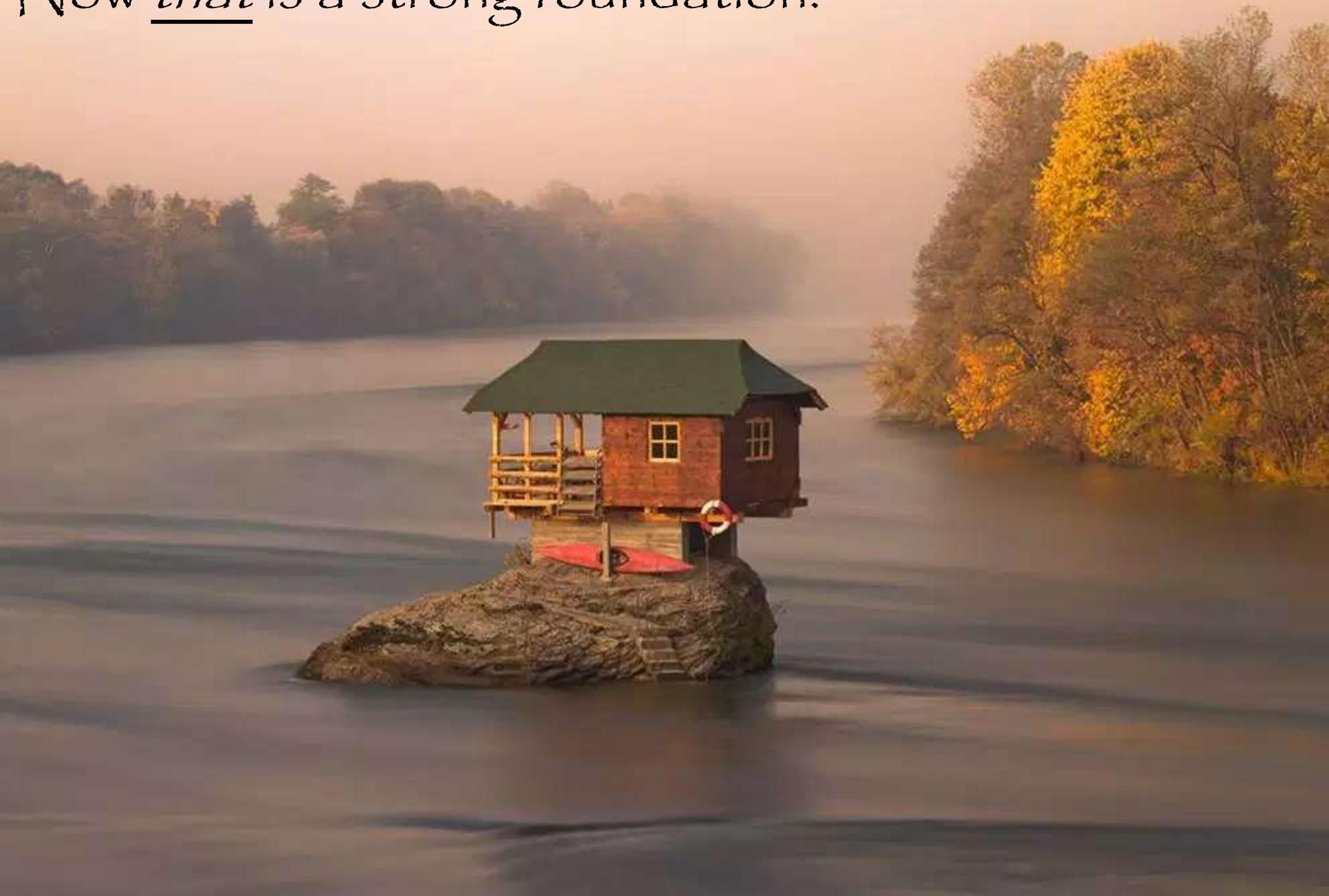


Now that is a strong foundation.



So is that—underneath the walls of Jerusalem's old city.



What is Jude's intent in his short letter?

- That his readers "contend for the faith..."

What help does he give them toward that end?

- The exposure, condemnation, and coming (and certain) judgment of the false teachers who are troubling them.
- His fourfold exhortation in v. 20-21.
- His plea for a wise, discerning mercy in v. 22-23.

And more than anything else in his letter, he gives them one of the most profound and encouraging doxologies in all of Scripture in v. 24-25.

Quick question: What is a *doxology*?

What is a *doxology*?

- The word comes from the Gk *doxa*, (glory, splendor, grandeur) and *logos*, (word, speaking).
- I grew up in the Lutheran church where we sang the *Gloria Patri* – “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”
- You may be more familiar with this:
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

What is a *doxology*?

There are a number of doxologies in the Bible –

Each of the five books of the Psalms, for example, concludes with a doxology, a word of praise to God:

- 41:13, 72:18-19; 89:52; 106:48; 150

New Testament doxologies:

- Luke 2:13-14, 19:37-38; Rom. 11:36, 16:25-27; Eph. 1:3, 3:20-21; Phil. 4:20; 1 Pet. 5:11; 2 Pet. 3:18; Rev. 1:6. Also—1 Chron. 29:10-13.

“Thou that hast given so much to me give one thing more, a grateful heart. Not thankful when it pleases me as if Thy blessings had some spare days, but such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.” – George Herbert

So—why do I say that v. 24-25 are the most important help Jude could give to his readers in their struggle to contend for the faith?

Here's what I think...while they are struggling to follow Jesus in a pagan culture awash in ungodly influences and distractions, and with the enemy of their souls working hard to sway them with false teaching (see John 8:44), and with some doubting God's goodness, some teetering on the edge of giving in to false teaching (characterized by v. 4), and others having plunged in headlong, Jude points them back to the unmatched ability and unfathomable greatness of their God and Savior. And *that* is the strong foundation they need. They will be ok.

Knowing they are kept by the awesome power of God, and knowing that His power is also arrayed in judgment against the ungodly false teachers, they can contend for the faith with confidence.

Here's the outline of Jude's short letter we're using:

v. 1-4—Jude's introduction and purpose: Contend for the faith

v. 5-16—Jude's sober warning and encouragement:
The ungodly will be judged

v. 17-25—Jude's exhortation and exaltation: *Keep yourselves in the love of God—He will keep you*

Theme: Contend for the faith with confidence—God will judge those who are distorting it. Key verse: v. 3.

So here's what I want to call these last two verses:
The exaltation of the only God, our Savior. To help his readers contend for the faith, Jude glorifies and magnifies the greatness of the love, ability and power of God in their eyes. We'll see two things in these verses:

- His unmatched ability—this is God's intent for His beloved children.
- His unfathomable greatness—this is God's capacity to carry out His intent.

What is it that sustains the children of God through every hard circumstance?

- It is the character of God—*His* strength, not ours. Like Psalm 59, for example. And 63.

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25
His unmatched ability: He is “able to keep you from
stumbling.” Meaning what?

Let’s ask this question: What is the purpose of
God in salvation? Notice Rom. 8:28-30.

“The ultimate end of salvation is the glory of the
Son. And the glory of the Son calls for His
preeminence among a whole redeemed humanity who will
see that preeminence and forever and ever glorify
Him. The ultimate objective in bringing us to His
image is that He may be the most glorious among many
who are glorious. God wanted holy, glorified beings
who forever and ever would recognize the majesty and
the wonder and the preeminence of His Son...

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25

“We will have an intimate relationship with Him, but He will be the chief one. He will receive all the praise and all the honor and all the glory. The only glory we will have is that derived from Him. The only righteousness we will have is that granted from Him. The only beauty and magnificence in our bearing will be because we have His image. The central point in the history of redemption is the glory of the Son on display for all eternity before the redeemed saints and angels. He is eternally to be glorified, eternally to be exalted. He stands over and above the multitude of the redeemed as their King, Priest, Prophet and Savior.” – John MacArthur

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25
And then we have to go back to one other thing—to understand this passage in Jude, we need to see something about the character of God back in Exodus 34:4-6.

One of the words God uses to describe Himself is that He possesses “faithfulness” (v. 6).

Faithfulness – fidelity, trustworthiness, honesty, absolute reliability, complete integrity. God is constant in His faithful love and commitment to His people in Exodus...just after they have worshipped the golden calf (Ex. 32). So the Psalm writers say this of His faithfulness: 31:5, 108:4, 117:2.

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25

His unmatched ability: “able to keep you from stumbling”

Whose faithfulness do you rely on to keep you saved, safe and secure? Yours? Or...?

We have to rely on a faithfulness that is not from us (2 Tim. 2:13), just like we rely on a righteousness that is not from us (Rom. 3:21-22, 4:1-5; Gal. 3:1-7).

And this infinitely, relentlessly loving and faithful God is “able to keep you from stumbling...”

- It is His joy to preserve you for your joy.
- Our perseverance—continuing in faith until the end—is the effect of His intent & ability. In other words, He wills the perseverance of His own.

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25

His unmatched ability: “able to keep you from stumbling”

Can we make a case for that from Scripture?

Absolutely. Just a few of many passages:

- John 5:24, 6:37-47, 10:27-30
 - Romans 8:28-39
 - Eph. 1:13-14
 - Phil. 1:6
 - Heb. 7:25, 12:2
 - 1 Pet. 1:3-5
- And my new favorite Bible verse (this week, at least) – Psalm 68:19.

He keeps all of His own—the word means *to guard*.

“It indicates a careful and constant guarding of someone or something of importance.” – Mounce

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25

His unmatched ability: “able to keep you from stumbling”

Kept...*from stumbling*. From falling...from falling completely away. Kept from giving in completely to the false teaching that the grace of God is so big and so great that a life of sensuality in denial of the Lordship of Jesus Christ is ok (v. 4).

But that is not the only thing that Jude points his readers to—in shifting their focus to the unmatched ability of God he tells that that not only is He able to keep them from stumbling, He will do far more than that: He is able to present all of the saved “blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy.”

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25

His unmatched ability: “able...to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy”

First it was the preservation of the saints, and now it is the presentation of the saints. Imagine what this will be like...

This is a breathtaking truth—that in spite of our sin and cold, dull hearts, and lack of zeal, God is actively working in each believer’s heart to present us faultless, blameless, perfect before Him.

- 2 Cor. 11:1-2
- Col. 1:21-22
- Eph. 1:4, 5:27

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25

His unmatched ability: “able...to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy”

God is willing, faithful, and able to preserve us from finally falling away, to keep us in His strong hands in spite of all that is arrayed against us, to purify us completely, and to present us before Him in the perfect likeness of Christ. That is what God does for ruined sinners. Like us.

And Jude intends that to be incredibly encouraging to the saints—the unmatched ability of God, to preserve you and to present you...“with great joy.” All of this is for your—and God’s—“great joy.”

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25
His unfathomable greatness—this is God's capacity
to carry out His intent.

Let's put this another way, so that we can avoid the
danger of getting too academic about all of this...

You are spiritually alive—what does it take to sustain
that day by day, year by year, all the way until the
end? How long have you been a Christian? What
has it taken to keep you that way all these years?
How have you kept believing? Why haven't you
given up long before this? Why—when you have
fallen into sin—haven't you simply given yourself up
completely to it?

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25
His unfathomable greatness—this is God's capacity
to carry out His intent.

The answer to those questions is very short: it has
taken the glory, majesty, dominion, and authority of
God to accomplish all of that. Very simple.

“The giving of this life, and the moment by moment
sustaining and keeping of this life, and the stirring up
of this life so that it treasures holiness and ministry is
a work of God. This is why I said at the beginning:
if the decisive cause of my faithfulness to Christ
must come from me, it will not come, because it is not
there.” ~ John Piper

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25
His unfathomable greatness—this is God's capacity
to carry out His intent.

Both the creation and the preservation of spiritual life
in you took—and takes—the glory, majesty, dominion,
and authority of God.

- Eph. 2:4-7. What is the measure of the riches of
His grace that He showed toward you?
- Eph. 1:3-8. Why give us “every spiritual blessing?”
Why this much grace: “which He *lavished* upon us?”

It took immeasurable grace lavished upon us, along
with every spiritual blessing “to save to the
uttermost” (Heb. 7:25) all who believe.

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25
His unfathomable greatness—this is God's capacity
to carry out His intent.

So—marvel that you are a Christian. Not just that
you became one once several years ago, but that
you are still one today.

- Do you see the effect of His Spirit's work within
you? Are you growing in godliness? 2 Cor. 13:5,
Gal. 5:22-23? If so, then marvel that you are a
Christian. It is not your doing, or your sustaining.
- Marvel at this: it is the New Covenant itself that
God is fulfilling in you—He is keeping His
promises: Jer. 32:40; Ezek. 34:24-27.

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25
His unfathomable greatness—this is God's capacity
to carry out His intent.

God has acted “through Jesus Christ our Lord” to
provide redemption, and it is to the only God—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—that unfathomable
greatness belongs.

- Glory: *doxa*—splendor, the radiance of light, the
splendor and perfection of all of His divine
attributes; the greatest of honor is His. Luke 2:14;
John 17:5; Eph. 1:12.
- Majesty: *megalosyne*—He is greater than all; kingly
majesty; absolute reign. Heb. 1:3, 8:1; 2 Pet. 1:17;
1 Chron. 29:11.

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25
His unfathomable greatness—this is God's capacity
to carry out His intent.

- Dominion: *kratos*—the supreme control of God over His creation; the extent of His might and rule; sovereign reign with no limitation or boundaries. Eph. 1:19-20; 1 Tim. 1:16; 1 Pet. 4:11; Rev. 1:6, 5:13.
- Authority: *exousia*—the supreme right and privilege to do as He wills with His creation; unlimited right and ability to do all that He pleases. Psalm 115:3, 135:6; Dan. 4:35; Rev. 1:8.

The exaltation of the only God, our Savior—Jude 24-25

To his harassed, doubting, wavering, struggling readers—those who are “called...beloved...and kept for Jesus Christ,” Jude reassures them once again with his beautiful doxology pointing them to the unmatched ability and unfathomable greatness of their Savior. And *now* they can contend for the faith with confidence.

“Such is our God, such are His eternal qualities, unveiled in Christ. To Him we must come one day, and must render our account. He Himself will bring us thither...and will present us faultless before His presence.” ~ Michael Green