

JAMES AND JUDE

James and Jude is the first commentary to focus exclusively on the two letters written by the “brothers of the Lord.” The letter of James is held to be one of the oldest Christian writings and an early witness to the teachings of Jesus. While each letter is read on its own merit, particular attention is paid to the social worlds of James and Jude and to interpreting the significance of their messages for our day. Of special interest are the focus on the ideological texture of James and the exploration of the ethical implications of James’s teaching on poverty and wealth.

William F. Brosend II is Associate Director of the Louisville Institute, a program of Lilly Endowment, Inc., based at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, where he also serves as Adjunct Professor of New Testament and Preaching.

Cambridge University Press
 0521892015 - James and Jude - William F. Brosend II
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CAMBRIDGE
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Cambridge University Press
 0521892015 - James and Jude - William F. Brosend II
 Frontmatter
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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
 Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa
<http://www.cambridge.org>

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First published 2004

Printed in the United States of America

Typeface Minion 10/12 pt. System L^AT_EX 2_ε [TB]

A catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Brosend, William F. (William Frank), 1954–

James and Jude / William F. Brosend II.

p. cm. – (New Cambridge Bible commentary)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-81482-0 – ISBN 0-521-89201-5 (pbk.)

1. Bible. N.T. James – Commentaries. 2. Bible. N.T. Jude – Commentaries. I. Title. II. Series.

BS2785.53.B76 2004

227/.91077 – dc22

2003060535

ISBN 0 521 81482 0 hardback

ISBN 0 521 89201 5 paperback

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Preface



The invitation to write the present commentary preceded by a few months the trip that proved decisive in determining its shape. In 2001 I was able to fulfill a long postponed commitment to teach and preach in Nicaragua. As the guest of the Rev. Gustavo Parajón, MD, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Managua and founder of CEPAD, the evangelical council of churches, and Providenic, a group of public health clinics, I was privileged to study the letter of James with pastors around the country. The debt I owe to Dr. Parajón and the pastors I met in Nicaragua is evident on every page. A second and more obvious debt is to the work of Vernon Robbins. The exegetical taxonomy found in *Exploring the Texture of Texts* and his encouragement to include the homiletical texture provide the architecture of this commentary.

Ben Witherington III, the editor of this series, and Andrew Beck, humanities editor for Cambridge University Press, have been invaluable and unceasing supporters, as has Dr. Jim Lewis, executive director of the Louisville Institute, and the staff and board of the institute. ¡Muchas gracias!

The commentary is offered to the Church in memory of my parents, the late Rev. Frank Brosend and Lucille Brosend, with loving thanks to “my girls,” Christine and Emily.

Soli deo gloria
Thanksgiving 2003

A Word about Citations



All volumes in the New Cambridge Bible Commentary include footnotes, with full bibliographical citations included in the note when a source text is first mentioned in a chapter. Subsequent, nonconsecutive citations in the same chapter include the author's initial or initials, full last name, abbreviated title for the work, and date of publication. Most readers prefer this citation system to endnotes, which require searching through pages at the back of the book.

The Suggested Reading lists, also included in all NCBC volumes after the introductions, are not a part of this citation apparatus. Annotated and organized by publication type, the self-contained Suggest Reading lists are intended to introduce and briefly review some of the most well-known and helpful literature on the biblical text under discussion.

Abbreviations and Acronyms



<i>ABD</i>	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> (6 vols., D. N. Freedman, ed.; New York: Doubleday, 1992)
<i>CTJ</i>	<i>Calvin Theological Journal</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>HE</i>	<i>Historia Ecclesiastica</i> (Eusebius)
ICC	International Critical Commentary on the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
KJV	King James Version (or Authorized Version)
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LXX	Septuagint
NEB	New English Bible
NIBC	New International Bible Commentary
NIGTC	New International Greek Text Commentary
NIV	New International Version
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NovT Sup</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum Supplement</i>
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NT	New Testament
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
OT	Old Testament
RSV	Revised Standard Version
TDNT	Theological Dictionary of the New Testament
TEV	Today's English Version
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>