

Meet The Apostates!

Jude 8–11 (NKJV)

8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

- Jude was not content simply to remind his readers to pay attention to what Peter had written.
- He wanted to add his own words of warning by describing what the false teachers were like and what they would do to the church.
- The Spirit of God led Jude to describe the characteristics of the apostates, reinforcing Peter's words and, at the same time, adding information.
- Jude 8–16 and 2 Peter 2 parallel and supplement each other.

- But why this seemingly needless repetition?
- The Apostle Paul gave the answer:
 - “To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe”
(Phil. 3:1).

- Parents repeat warnings and instructions to their children, and sometimes the children reply, “I know that! You’ve already told me a million times!” But wise parents know that some things *must* be said again and again for the safety and welfare of their children—whether the children want to hear them or not!
- All that Jude wrote about the apostates in these verses may be summarized in three statements.

They Reject Divine Authority

Jude 8–11

- All authority comes from the throne of God, whether it is authority in the home, the church, or the state.
- Those who exercise authority must first be *under* authority, accountable to God.
- But the false teachers reject divine authority and set themselves up as their own authority.

- The *cause* of their rebellion is found in the word *dreamers* (*Jude 8*). These people live in a dream world of unreality and delusion.
- They believe Satan's lie, "Ye shall be as gods" (*Gen. 3:5*).
- Having turned away from God's truth, they feed their minds on false doctrine that inflates their egos and encourages their rebellion.
- Jude 10 informs us that the apostates are ignorant people who do not know what they are talking about!

- Jude echoed Peter's description of these men as "brute beasts" (*2 Peter 2:12, 22*). Animals live by natural instinct, and so do the apostates.
- When men rebel against God, they sink to the level of beasts.

2 Peter 2:12 (NKJV)

But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,

2 Peter 2:22 (NKJV)

But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

- The *course* of their rebellion was clearly described by Jude.
- As a result of their rebellion and pride, they “defile the flesh,” living to satisfy their animal lusts.
- When a person despises God’s authority, he feels free to disobey God’s Laws and live as he pleases.
- What he forgets is that those laws have penalties attached to them so that he cannot disobey and escape the consequences.

- They also use their tongues to express their rebellion against God.
- “With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?” (Ps. 12:4)
- The phrase *speak evil* in Jude 8 and 10 simply means “to blaspheme.”
- Blasphemy involves much more than taking God’s name in vain, though that is at the heart of it.

- A person blasphemes God when he takes His Word lightly and even jests about it, or when he deliberately defies God to judge him.

Psalm 73:9–11 (NKJV)

9 They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth.

10 Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them.

11 And they say, “How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?”

- The *consequence* of their rebellion is seen in their own ruin: “they corrupt [destroy] themselves” (*Jude 10*).
- They defile themselves (*Jude 8*) and they destroy themselves, yet they have the idea they are promoting themselves!

Ecclesiastes 8:11 (NKJV)

Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

- The way of rebellion is but the way to ruin.

Arrogant speech is a dangerous thing, and so is despising the authority that God has established.

- Even the Archangel Michael (*Dan. 10:13*) did not dare to rebuke Satan, but respected the authority given to him by God.

Daniel 10:13 (NKJV)

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

- The name *Michael* means “Who is like God?”
- Ironically, Satan had said in his rebellion, “I will be like the Most High!” (*Isa. 14:14*)
- and his offer to men is, “Ye shall be as gods” (*Gen. 3:5*).
- We have no information about the conflict between Satan and Michael over the body of Moses.

- When Moses died, the Lord buried him and no one knew where the tomb was located (*Deut. 34:5–6*).
- No doubt the Jewish people would have made a shrine out of the burial chamber and fallen into idolatry, so God kept the information to Himself.
- The text tells us that “not any man” knew the place, so perhaps Satan did know the place and tried to claim Moses’ body for himself.

- Inasmuch as Satan does have a certain amount of authority in the realm of death he may have felt he had a right to interfere.

Hebrews 2:14–15 (NKJV)

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

- The point is that Michael did not rebuke Satan, but left that to the Lord.
- It is a dangerous thing for God's people to confront Satan directly and to argue with him, because he is much stronger than we are.
- If an archangel is careful about the way he deals with the devil, how much more cautious ought we to be!
- While it is true that we share in the victory of Christ, it is also true that we must not be presumptuous.

**Satan is a
dangerous enemy,
and when we resist
him, we must be
sober and vigilant.**

1 Peter 5:8–9 (NKJV)

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

- “The Lord rebuke thee!” has a parallel in Zechariah 3:1–5.
- The prophet had a vision of the high priest standing before God’s throne in defiled garments, symbolizing the sinful condition of the nation Israel after the Babylonian Captivity.
- Satan had every right to accuse the people, except for one thing: they were the chosen ones of God, His covenant people, and He would not go back on His Word.

Revelation 12:9–11 (NKJV)

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

God forgave His people, gave them clean garments, and warned them to walk in His ways.

This Is An Old Testament Illustration Of 1 John 1:5–2:2

1 John 1:5–2:2 (NKJV)

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

The *Condemnation* Of The False Teachers Is Given In Jude 11: “Woe Unto Them!”

Jude 11 (NKJV)

Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

- Jude cited three examples from the Old Testament to illustrate the enormity of their sins, three men who rebelled against God’s authority and who suffered for it.

Cain Rebelled Against God's Way Of Salvation

Read Gen. 4

1 John 3:11–12 (NKJV)

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, **12** not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

- By clothing Adam and Eve with the skins of slain animals (*Gen. 3:21*), God made it clear that the only way of forgiveness is through the shedding of blood.

- This is the way of faith, not the way of good works.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- But Cain rejected this divinely authorized way and came to the altar with the fruits of his own labor.
- God rejected Cain's offering because God rejected Cain: his heart was not right before God.

Hebrews 11:4 (NKJV)

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

**The “Way Of Cain” Is
The Way Of Religion
Without Faith,
Righteousness Based
On Character And
Good Works.**

- The “way of Cain” is the way of pride, a man establishing his own righteousness and rejecting the righteousness of God that comes through faith in Christ.

Romans 10:1–4 (NKJV)

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Philippians 3:3–12 (NKJV)

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

- Cain became a fugitive and tried to overcome his wretchedness by building a city and developing a civilization.

Genesis 4:9 (NKJV)

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

- He ended up with everything a man could desire everything except God, that is.

**The “Way Of Balaam”
Is Merchandising One’s
Gifts And Ministry Just
For The Purpose Of
Making Money.**

- It is using the spiritual to gain the material (*Read 1 Tim. 6:3–21*).

1 Thessalonians 2:5–6 (NKJV)

5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness.

6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

- The false teachers were greedy for material gain and, like Balaam, would do anything for money.
- The “error of Balaam” is thinking that they can get away with this kind of rebellion.
- Balaam was a true prophet of God, but he prostituted his gifts and sought to destroy God’s people.

- God turned Balaam's curses into blessings.

Deuteronomy 23:4–5 (NKJV)

4 because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

5 Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.

- Balaam, we might note the “doctrine of Balaam” (*Rev. 2:14*) which is, “You can violate your separated position and get away with it!”
- He told King Balak that the fastest way to destroy Israel would be to corrupt the nation by having the people defile themselves with the heathen nations around them.
- “You are God’s chosen people,” was the argument. “Certainly a little friendship with your neighbors will not hurt you!”
- It was “turning the grace of ... God into lasciviousness” (*Jude 4*), and God judged both Israel and Balaam.

The Story Of Core (Korah) Is Found In Numbers 16, And It Too Centers On Rebellion Against Authority.

- Korah and his followers resented the leadership of Moses and dared God to do anything about their rebellion.
- In speaking against (*“gainsaying”*) Moses, they were speaking against the Lord who had given Moses his authority.

- This is a warning to us today, for it is so easy to speak against spiritual or governmental leaders in a careless way.

Titus 3:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

- God judged Korah and his followers and established clearly the authority of His servant, Moses.

- Cain rebelled against God's authority in *salvation*, for he refused to bring a blood sacrifice as God had commanded.
- Balaam rebelled against God's authority in *separation*, for he prostituted his gifts for money and led Israel to mix with the other nations.
- Korah rebelled against God's authority in *service*, denying that Moses was God's appointed servant and attempting to usurp his authority.

- It is interesting to note the verbs that Jude used in this verse.
- The apostates “traveled on the road” of Cain, “gave themselves over to” the error of Balaam, and “perished” in the rebellion of Korah.
- The tragedy of rejecting authority!