

JUDE: Lesson 8

Verse 11: Stay Away from People Like Cain, Balaam, and Korah

4 August 2023

Christians are warned in verse 11 to stay clear of anyone who professes to be a Christian but manifests the characteristics of these three notorious Old Testament characters: Cain, Balaam, and Korah.

“Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.”

CAIN: Genesis 4:1-8

Cain was on equal ground with his brother, as far as worshipping and having a relationship with God.

The difference between the two brothers:

- Abel responded to instructions from the word of God and made necessary corrections in his life to maintain his fellowship with God.
- Cain received correction from the word of God and *refused to respond* and make necessary changes in his life so that he could continue to enjoy fellowship with God and with his brother.

Correlation to New Testament Christians:

- Those with a heart for God will respond to God’s instructions and correction found in the Bible.
- Those who have a heart like Cain will bow up and refuse to obey the word of the Lord.
 - Their presence in the church congregation is going to cause conflicts and disagreements.
 - Eventually, they will rise up against their brethren in bitterness.
 - They will resent your desire to live a clean life for the Lord.
 - They will criticize (behind their back) anyone who is living a better life than they themselves are willing to live.
 - They are involved in sins that they are unwilling to give up, though they know God forbids it.
 - They will criticize and resent you if you refuse to join in sinful activities with them.
- If you love the brethren (1 Jn. 3:14, 4:20-21), you will never be like Cain (Prov. 10:12; 1 Pet. 4:8).
 - Brotherly love keeps sins of the flesh under control (envy, jealousy, strife, contention, bitterness, etc.).
- Those with a heart like Cain who don’t want to live for God will attempt to drag other church members or family members down to their level of carnality and make them stagnant and indifferent toward the things of God.
 - The book of Jude warns you about men like Cain who creep into the church. Avoid them.

BALAAM: Numbers 22:6-12, 25:1-9, Revelation 2:14

Balaam was a prophet who had no real convictions or conscience toward the things of God.

- Balaam could be bought. He was hired by Balak to curse the children of Israel.
 - He tried, but God wouldn’t allow him to curse those whom He had blessed.
 - God won’t allow anyone to curse you if you don’t deserve it.
- Israel didn’t suffer God’s judgment until they fell prey to Balaam’s strategy to entice them to sin against God (Numbers 26:1-9, Revelation 2:14).
 - Balaam taught Balak how to infiltrate God’s people by introducing worldly carnal activities.
 - Watch out for anyone who tries to get you to compromise proper biblical worship by bringing in worldly methods and by relaxing holy standards to appeal to a worldly crowd.
- Balaam wants you to become like the world so God can judge you along with the world.

KORAH: Numbers 16:1-4

Korah's mode of operation consists of attempts to tear down the leadership in the congregation and to undermine the authority and weaken the people's confidence in God's authority structure.

- If your heart is right with God, whenever you have a disagreement with the leadership, you'll go straight to the person you disagree with. You won't complain to others about that leader in his absence.
 - This applies to the church and to the family. Take your complaints to God or directly to the leader (Mom, Dad, Pastor, Deacon, etc.) that you have a problem with.
- **Gainsaying:** an attempt to use your speech to gain an advantage over the leadership or the authority that God has put in place.
 - **Titus 1:9-11**
 - Gainsayers must be continually reminded and convinced why God's authority structure must be adhered to.
 - The mouth of the gainsayer must be stopped. If not, they will subvert (undermine) whole houses by **"teaching things which they out not."**
 - They will cause church splits and great damage to families in the church.
 - Families that join him will perish with him.
 - In the home: gainsaying must be stopped.
 - Children must not be allowed to murmur against their parents. Parents need to be in agreement at all times, unified in their child rearing decisions.
 - **"Every city or house divided against itself shall not stand"** (Mt. 12:25).
 - God has an order for the leadership in the home. If you stray from that order, your home is in trouble.

CAIN: Devoid of love
False worshipper
The way of unbelief (Like Israel in Jude 5)

BALAAM: Willing to turn God's people over to the world
False Prophet
Matches the sin of Sodom, he corrupted Israel (Jude 7)

KORAH: Rebellious against the leaders of the congregation
False Priest
The gainsaying of Korah matches the angels who wanted to overthrow God (Jude 6)

The progression of going the wrong way (vs 11):

"They have gone." If you don't repent and get right, you'll go to stage 2:

"And ran." Now it's difficult to stop and hard to control without causing damage.

"Perished." The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death (Jas 1:15).

If you spot a Cain or Balaam or Korah type in the church, stay far from them or you'll be judged with them.