

John MacArthur: "There is a spiritual war going on inside the church, being waged in terrorist fashion, because the enemy is disguised as an angel of light; because he clothes himself in sheep's clothing. What makes him so dangerous to the church is the same thing that makes terrorists dangerous to our nation: one, we don't know who they are; and two, they don't mind blowing themselves right into hell forever with their lies. They're willing to be destroyed by their own bombs."

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. [entrusted to God's holy people]

Jude: Exhort you to contend earnestly for the faith

- There is a truth war. We are engaged in this battle for the protection, the preservation and proclamation of the TRUTH.

Question: Why is there a war for Truth? Jude 1:4 Certain persons have crept in unnoticed.

- They were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation.
- Ungodly people who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness.
- They actually deny our only Master and Lord Jesus Christ - even if they don't say it.

Spiritual terrorists are Dangerous:

- Hidden among us; we don't know who they are
- They profess to belong to Jesus Christ; represent Him; have insight on the TRUTH
- They don't mind their own self-destruction in the propagation of their lies.

Jude 1:12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you

- They are hidden reefs or hidden rocks in your love feasts.
- Embedded in the very life of the church > Dangerous

Jude's Appeal: Engage in the war on spiritual terrorism! Be vigilant; alert; be discerning

I Tim. 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

- They have NO conscience about what they do.

II Pet. 2:1 "False prophets also arose among the people just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies."

- They will even deny the Lord who bought them and bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

II Peter 2:2-3 And many shall follow their pernicious ways [sensuality; driven by the fleshly].

- "and because of them the way of truth will be maligned; and in their greed [covetousness] they will exploit you with false [feigned = twisted] words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep." [God's appointed time]

Apostate Terrorists

- have been exposed to the faith, exposed to the truth
- have defected from the truth, who have denied the truth, who have rejected the truth
- BUT they have kept the name Christian, kept some identification with the person of Jesus and with God.
- Therefore, remaining within the framework of Christendom, become subtle, hidden deceivers.

John MacArthur: Unless the church has acute powers of discernment, unless the church is willing to pay the price of exposure, unless the church can get over its sappy sentimentalism about not wanting to say anything that offends anybody, it's going to allow itself to be devastated by these embedded, satanic Al Qaida.

Mohler: Today's church cannot remain faithful if it tolerates false teachers and leaves their teachings uncorrected and unopposed.

Jude 1:5-11 A series of 3 threes describe apostates who misrepresent the Lord and the Church.

Jude 1: 5-7 3 Cases Of Past Apostates Who Were Judged

1. God judged apostate Israel "after saving them out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed them who did not believe."

Heb. 3:18-19 And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

So we see that they [Israelites out of Egypt] could not enter in because of unbelief.

2. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

These angels are connected with the creation of Nephilim in Genesis 6 - result - Flood.

3. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

- Obliterated in a holocaust of fire and brimstone because they indulged in gross immorality [namely homosexuality]. They went after strange flesh.

Note: You have judgment of Jews in verse 5, angels in v. 6 and Gentiles in v. 7.

Jude 1:8-10 3 Characteristics of Apostate Nature

1. Immoral They defile the flesh.
2. Insubordinate They reject authority. Set themselves up as the authority
3. Irreverent They revile angelic majesties

Jude 1:8 Cause of their rebellion: Likewise [in the same manner as the 3 examples] also these filthy dreamers [apostates] defile the flesh, despise dominion [authority], and speak evil of dignities.

II Pet. 2:10 They are daring, self-willed and do not even tremble when they revile angelic majesties.

- 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 ego and encourages their rebellion.

Jude 1:10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

Peter called them "brute beasts." II Pet. 2:12, 22

But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken [caught] and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

- ❖ When men rebel against God, they sink to the level of beasts and live 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.

Ps. 12:4 "With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?"

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

Ps. 73:9,11 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the Most High?

Consequence of Rebellion: They defile and corrupt or destroy themselves, yet they think they are promoting themselves.

Eccl. 8:11 Because 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.

Jude 1:9 Despising the authority God has established is dangerous. Even the archangel Michael did not dare to rebuke Satan, but respected the authority given to him by God.

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 [I Peter 5:8-9].

1:11a Jude begins his indictment of the false teachers by pronouncing, "Woe to them!"

He anticipates the terrible fate of the false teachers under God's judgment. Isaiah also pronounced woe upon those who had turned away from the Lord and His truth. He declared, Isa. 5:20-21 "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and shrewd in their own sight."

Jude 1:11 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 [rebellion] of Korah.

Three historic apostate judgments: Israel, angels, and Sodom and Gomorrah

Three characteristics of apostate nature: immorality, insubordination, and irreverence

Jude 1:11 3 Connections To Apostate Examples

Show that the current apostates have followed the path of past apostates

Three connections to apostate examples: Cain, Balaam, and Korah.

- The current apostates have gone the way of Cain.
- They have rushed into the error of Balaam.
- They have perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Note: There is a progression.

1. There is a path they take. They start IN THE WAY.
2. Then there is an escalation of their speed. They go INTO THE ERROR.
3. Ultimately is their disastrous end They perish in the rebellion.

- ❖ It starts out with Cain A model of one who disobeyed God.
- ❖ Proceeds to Balaam A model of one who tries to influence others to disobey God.
- ❖ Ends with Korah A model of one who led a full rebellion.

Consider: Apostates are the spiritual children of Cain and Balaam and Korah.

Cain's Background: He is the first child of the fall and the offspring of the fallen.

- ❖ He was exposed to no outward temptation; he had no companion in sin; he walked the broad way alone. He was warned, no doubt, against the serpent and his seed.
- ❖ God spoke to him directly more than once. [Gen. 4:6-15]
- ❖ Much might have been expected from him; yet he turned his back on God, on the altar, on the sacrifice, on all that is good and blessed.

Gen. 4 Eve conceived and gave birth to Cain. Tiller of the ground
Again, she gave birth to his brother, Abel. Keeper of sheep

The brothers' sacrifices: Gen. 4:3-4a

- ❖ Cain Brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground
- ❖ Abel Brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions > animal sacrifice

Hebrews 11:4 states that By Faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.

Faith come by hearing and hearing by the word of God. [Rom. 10:17]

Abel was taught the proper way of approach. If Abel was taught the proper way of approach, it is a fair inference to assume that Cain was also taught the proper way of approach.

Since he did not come by faith, it is obvious that he came in the disobedience of unbelief.

I. Cain's Way of UNBELIEF

- ❖ Cain is not an atheist, nor an altogether irreligious man. He recognizes the existence of God. He brings his fruits [sacrifice] to the altar.
- ❖ But he brings no lamb, no blood, nothing that speaks of death.
- ❖ God shed the blood of slain animals for covering Adam and Eve. [Gen. 3:21]
- ❖ God had prescribed the way to Him is through the shedding of blood. The Way of Faith
- ❖ Cain tried to substitute his works for faith. Cain's way to God exalts the flesh.

Titus 3:5a Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,

A.C. Gaebelien: "Instead of bringing a sacrifice, he presented the labor of his hands, the fruit of his toil. He tried to please God by his works; by what he had done in the cultivation of the ground. He did not remember the ground was cursed.

Man was to toil was part of God's curse as a result of original sin." [Gen. 3:17-19]

J.Vernon McGee: "The way of Cain is the way of a man who refused to bring a little lamb which pointed to Christ."

- ❖ He comes with no confession, no cry for mercy.
- ❖ He sees no need of the woman's seed, no danger from the serpent.
- ❖ He has a religion, but it is self-made, a human religion, something of his own; without Christ, or blood, or pardon. The love of God is to him mere indifference to sin.
- ❖ Rejection of God's way, and of His Messiah- this is "the way of Cain."

God's Response: Gen. 4:4b-5

❖ Abel's offering The Lord had respect for Abel and his offering. Acceptable
Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: [blood sacrifice]

➤ He demonstrated his righteousness by being obedient.

❖ Cain's offering The Lord had no respect for Cain or his offering. Unacceptable
His heart was not right before God.

Cain, the prototype apostate, opened the path for all apostates. He is religious, but disobedient. The apostate purports to be religious, offers an offering, comes before God in a self-styled fashion. If he gets close to the people of the truth, he becomes very angry, very hostile, and inevitably has an immoral heart to go along with his bad theology.

Cain's response: Gen. 4:5b Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

God's Response: Gen. 4:6-7

Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?

If you do well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching [lieth] at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

➤ 1st mention of sin in the Bible

➤ The Lord warned Cain: Temptation was like a fierce beast crouching at the door of his life. Do not open the door.

He need not succumb to sin, just as we should not, because God always gives sufficient grace to resist temptation [I Corinthians 10:13].

Cain's Choice: Obey God, His Word, do well

Be accepted

Disobey God, Rebel

Do not well > Sin

Note: There is a definite parallel between God's dealings with Cain in Gen. 4 and His dealings with Adam and Eve in Gen. 3. In both instances, the Lord asked questions, not to get information, but to give the culprits opportunity to tell the truth and confess their sins.

In both instances, the sinners were evasive and tried to cover up what they had done.

❖ But both times God brought their sins out into the light and they had to admit their guilt.

Prov. 14:30 A sound heart [at peace] is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Socrates: "Envy is the daughter of pride, the author of murder and revenge...the perpetual tormenter of virtue. Envy is the filthy slime of the soul; a venom, a poison, which consumeth the flesh and drieth up the bones."

Envy's Best Friend = The Comparison Game

I Sam. 18:8-9 Saul was very angry...'They have credited David with tens of thousands...but me with only thousands...' And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

Celebrate God's Goodness To Others

Rom. 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

Embrace God's Goodness To You.

Eccl. 6:9a Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have.

I Thess. 5:16-18 Rejoice evermore.¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

¹⁸ In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Our Lives Were Full Of Envy And Evil.

Titus 3:3-7 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

⁴ But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; ⁷ That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

James 3:14-16 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

¹⁶ For where envying and strife is, there is confusion [disorder] and every evil work.

James 3:17-18 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

James 3:14-18: Two Wisdoms: Heavenly Or Earthly, Sensual & Demonic
Wisdom is proven by its fruit. Which do you exhibit?

Earthly, Sensual, Demonic	Wisdom From Above
Envy	Pure; Peaceable
Self-seeking	Gentle; Willing To Yield
Confusion	Merciful; Good Fruits
Every Evil Thing	Impartiality; Not Hypocritical
	Peace

III. Cain's Way of GOD-DEFIANCE

Gen. 4:9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

- Answer > lie; brazen-faced piece of impiety [Dispensation of Conscience]
- Cain challenges God's right to question him.
- Thus he mocks God; utters the language of irreverence and defiance.
- Here mingled fear, shame, audacity, defiance are manifested.

Gen. 4:10-12 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.

Cain had been blessed with a 'green thumb.' He had attempted to approach God through the fruits of his labor. Now God cursed him in the area of his strength and sin. Never again will Cain be able to sustain himself by tilling the soil. While Adam had to earn his living by the sweat of his brow (3:19), Cain could not survive by farming. The curse of Gen. 3 had been intensified. For Adam farming was difficult; for Cain it was impossible.

All he could do was wander from place to place and eke out a living.

Gen. 4:13-15 And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me. And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.

And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

- Cain DID NOT REPENT of his murder but rather complained about his punishment.
- He showed no remorse for the wicked crime he committed.
- He was afraid of what people would do to him.

IV. Cain's Way of APOSTASY

Gen. 4:16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. [Nod = Land of wandering > a continuous movement away from God]

Cain is the prototype apostate. There are "spiritual terrorists" in the church who teach lies.

Ex.: Religious leaders met to discuss how God feels about homosexuality, transgender, etc.

- This is the way of Cain > Immoral and ungodly conclusions

MacArthur: "They are not only blowing themselves into eternity with their lies but attempting to take other people with them. They are spiritual suicide bombers who are trying to collect to themselves a whole lot of homosexual people who need to be confronted about the wretchedness of their sin and the hell that awaits them. Yet they tell them what they're doing is fine, and God approves of it. They're all going to blow up together and end up in hell.

They have their own self-styled, self-invented religion They are inevitably angry and hostile against those who hold fast to the truth. If they had the opportunity, they would be seriously destructive, even to the taking of a life."

V. Cain's Way of FRUITLESS WORLDLINESS

Cain became a fugitive and tried to overcome his wretchedness by building a city and developing a civilization. He is the heir of a barren world. He is possessor of a soil made unfruitful by a brother's blood; tilling and sowing, yet not reaping.

A weary man, toiling for that which is not bread; trying to wring water out of the world's dry sands and broken cisterns. Such is the career of thousands. Fruitless worldliness.

A life of vanity; a soul utterly void; a being wholly wasted.

The Way Of Cain

- Refers to any individual who attempts to approach God on his or her own terms rather than on God's terms.
- Describes any religious system that attempts to earn God's favor by works and rituals rather than by our reliance on God's grace.
- Describes any religious system that appeals to our pride rather than our desperate condition before God.
- Emphasizes humanity's goodness rather than humanity's sinfulness.
- Says there are many paths that lead to God rather than one path.
- Leads to eternal death rather than eternal life.

Prov. 14:12 "There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Heb. 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

The blood of Jesus speaks for me, Be still my soul, redeeming love
Out of the dust of Calvary, Is rising to the throne above
There is no vengeance in His cry
While "It is finished" fills the sky
Forgiveness is the final plea
The blood of Jesus speaks for me.
My heart can barely take it in, He pardons all my guilty stains
Surrender all my shame to Him
He breaks the curse of every chain
My sin is great, but greater still the boundless grace His heart reveals
A mercy deeper than the sea
The blood of Jesus speaks for me
When my accuser makes the claim that I should die for my offense
I point him too that rugged frame
Where I found life at Christ expense
See from His hands, His feet, His side
The fountain flowing deep and wide
Oh, He did shout the victory
The blood of Jesus speaks for me
Worthy is the lamb, Lamb for sinners slain
Jesus, Lord of all, Glory to His name
Heaven crying out, let the earth proclaim
Power in the blood, glory to His name
Worthy is the Lamb, Lamb for sinners slain
Jesus, Lord of all
Glory to His name (Glory to His name)
Power in the blood, glory to His name
Jesus!
Oh let my soul arise and sing, My confidence is not in vain
The one who fights for me is King
His hope, His covenant remain
No condemnation now I dread
Eternal hope is mine instead
His word will stand, I stand redeemed
The blood of Jesus speaks for me
Amazing love, how can it be
The blood of Jesus speaks for me
(For me) Oh, precious is the flow
Thank You, Jesus.
For me