

Apostate Terrorists: Balaam & Korah

Lesson #42

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Apostate Terrorists

- have been exposed to the faith, exposed to the truth
- have defected from the truth, have denied the truth, have rejected the truth
- BUT they have kept the name Christian, kept some identification with the person of Jesus and 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.

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."
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, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.
 - They went after strange flesh.

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 1:11 3 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 begins 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.

Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! [apostate terrorists] for they have gone in the way of Cain and ran greedily [rushed] after the error of Balaam for reward and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

The Way Of Cain: Unbelief > Hatred > God Defiance > Apostasy > Fruitless Worldliness

- Cain invented his own worship, his own way, his own Jesus.

Cain is the pioneer who opened the path for all apostates. He is religious, but disobedient.

- If an apostate gets close to the people of the truth, he becomes very angry, hostile, and inevitably has an immoral heart to go along with his bad theology.
- Anybody who stands for the truth becomes his enemy, and he would be most satisfied if he could bring about the "truth speaker's" demise.

The love and favor of God on the one who is obedient is the cause of the first jealousy and the first murder.

John MacArthur: Apostates are spiritual suicide bombers who are trying to collect to themselves a whole lot of lost people who need to be confronted about the wretchedness of their sin and the hell that awaits them. Apostates lie and tell them what they're doing is fine, and God approves of it. They are all going to blow up together and end up in hell.

Question: Why do apostates leaders stay in religion? Money!

- They have their own self-styled religion like Cain.
- They do it for money like Balaam - prophets for hire.

A. Peter warned against "The Way Of Balaam,"

II Pet. 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam..., who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

- Merchandising one's gifts and ministry for the purpose of making money.
- Using the spiritual to gain the material. [I Thess. 2:5-6; I Tim. 6:3-21]
- His readiness to prostitute his high spiritual gifts and privileges for the wages of unrighteousness = being willing to preach something contrary to God's Word for personal gain.

Numbers 22- 25, 31: Balaam was a prophet for hire. He would simply make a prophecy for the highest bidder. You give him the money; you get the prophecy you want.

After 38 years of wandering in the wilderness, Israel was about to enter Canaan. However, they were encountering conflicts from different groups of people. One such group was Moab.

- Balak, king of the Moabites, tried to hire [money & rewards] Balaam to curse Israel.
- Balaam can never pull it off. He ultimately has a strange encounter with his own donkey.
- He was hired by the enemy to curse God's people, but God stood in his way 4 times.

B. Jude warned against "The Error of Balaam."

Jude 1:11 ran greedily [rushed] after the error of Balaam for reward or profit

- Covetousness and an immoderate love of money

I Tim. 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Root of all evil, the bane of religion and the source of heresy
 - It is insatiable and is not stopped in false teachers
 - It is a damnable sin and excludes people from being saved.
 - It dishonors the truth of God's Word.
- Misusing authority and his prophetic gift for personal financial gain.
 - Thinking one can get away with prostituting his gifts.

Balaam had been using the wrong approach. He was trying to get the unchanging God to change His plans and purposes. That would never happen. God would never go back on His Word. Balaam said so in Numbers 23:19. So Balaam now devises a devious plan that seeks to "use" God's faithfulness to His Word for his own personal gain.

- ❖ It was impossible to persuade God to forsake His purpose of blessing Israel, but history had proven that it would be very easy to turn Israel from the right path by rebelling against God's Word, thereby incurring His wrath.
- ❖ All Balaam had to do was to tempt the Israelites to sin in such a way that they would fall under the curse of God as laid out in the law.

It was an ingenious plan, and incredibly simple. The Israelites could be seduced to follow other gods, and this would anger God to the point they would incur the curses God had pronounced on those who practiced such sins!

- Balaam doubled down on his determination to get rich by enticing people to sin!
- He persuades King Balak to have the women of Moab and Midian to seduce the Israelite men to commit sexual sin and to worship idols.
- When the Israelite men yield to the seduction of the women, commit sexual immorality and worship idols, their own God will have to curse them. He will punish them.

Balaam, being a prophet, knew how to seduce Israel, so she would temporarily fall under God's judgment. His tactics cost the lives of 24, 000 Israelites

C. John warned against "The Doctrine of Balaam."

Rev. 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock [snare, trap] before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication [sexual immorality].

- Use his own teaching authority to persuade God's people that it was all right for them to compromise these standards > to commit fornication with their idol-worshipping enemies.
- You can violate your separated position and get away with it.

Balaam told King Balak the fastest way to destroy Israel would be to corrupt the nation by having the people defile themselves with the heathen nations around them.

- His argument: You are God's chosen people.

➤ He turned the grace of God into lasciviousness. [Jude 1:4]

When Balaam could not successfully curse the people of God, he seduced them into unbridled, sensual living by dangling the prostitutes of Moab before the men of Israel.

Numbers 25:1-3 Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

This marked the last camping-ground of Israel before they crossed the Jordan to begin the conquest of Canaan. Here the people fell into the snare set for them by the satanic counsel of Balaam, who brought upon them greater evil than all his prohibited curses could have done. God judged both Israel and Balaam.

Micah, a faithful prophet, urged God's people to "remember" Balaam and his tragic end.

Num. 31:8 Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.

Balaam represents two things:

- the covetousness of the false teacher who loves money
- the apostate who influences others to sin.

He is a step beyond Cain who sinned. Balaam caused the crowd to sin.

Balaam was so despicable to God that he is mentioned in 8 books of the Bible.

Numbers 22, Deut. 23:4-5, Josh. 24:9-10, Neh. 13:2, Mic. 6:5, 2 Pet. 2:15, Jude 1:11, Rev. 2:14

Balaam represents deceptive pastors, evangelists, and ministers who use their positions of authority to manipulate their congregations to gain personal wealth. They subjugate the people to Satan's authority by teaching compromise with the world which always neutralizes the church and results in a weakened and powerless form of Christianity. The church loses its pilgrim perspective and adopts the viewpoint, values, priorities, and pursuits of the world.

God will expose their motives on the Day of Judgment.

Apostate Terrorists: Note: There is a progression.

- ❖ It begins with Cain A model of one who disobeyed God.
 - Fleshly way for salvation
- ❖ Proceeds to Balaam A model of one who tries to influence others to disobey God.
 - Fleshly way for rewards
- ❖ Ends with Korah A model of one who led a full rebellion.
 - Fleshly way for leadership

Jude 1:11c Perished In The Rebellion of Korah

"Rebellion" = antilogia = against the word

- Cain disobeyed God's Word. Balaam opposed God's Word.
- Korah led an open rebellion against God's Word.

They each had religious responsibility and engaged themselves in religious activity.

- Cain had been instructed by God, along with his brother, as to the proper sacrifice.
- Balaam, a prophet, should have known better.

- Korah, a Levite and cousin of Moses, had been excluded from the priesthood.
 - He greatly resented this; it infuriated him.

The Rebellion of Korah = Usurping Godly Authority

During Israel's wilderness journey, Korah, a Levite, Dathan and Abiram, from Reuben's tribe, and 250 other leaders from Israel rebelled against Moses' authority.

As a Kohathite, Korah was one responsible for transporting the items within the tabernacle, including the ark of the covenant, from place to place [Num. 3:27-32].

The Kohathites reported to Aaron's son Eleazar, who oversaw the items in the tabernacle.

But Korah was not satisfied with his assigned service. He wanted to be a priest.

Jealous and resentful of his lower position, he questioned the claim of Aaron and his sons to be God's only ordained mediators for the people.

Korah argued: The entire community had an equal right to the priesthood. Aren't all the Israelites God's holy, chosen people?

- Moses reprimanded Korah for his ingratitude and grasping for power.
- God separated you to do the work at the Lord's tabernacle and minister to Israel.
- Now, you are trying to grab the priesthood also. [Num. 16:9-10]
- His power play not only challenged Moses and Aaron but God Himself, affronting the Lord's divine authority to anoint whomever He chooses.

Moses challenged Korah to a test to prove the source of his authority.

- Korah and his followers were to go to the sanctuary the next morning to offer incense before the Lord: "The man the LORD chooses will be the one who is holy."

The next morning, the moment of truth arrived.

- The 250 Israelite leaders each had a censer.
- They put coals and incense in them to offer before the Lord [Num. 16:18].

Num. 16:19 And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

- God spoke, telling Moses He would destroy the whole congregation [v. 20].
- Moses and Aaron interceded, preventing the destruction of the entire camp [v. 22].

God commanded the rest of the assembly move away from Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and their tents. Moses pronounced a curse upon the rebels.

Immediately "the ground under them split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possessions. They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community" [Num. 16:31-33].

A fire then came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 leaders who had offered incense before the Lord [v.35].

Num. 16:41 But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.

Note: Their rebellion was extremely effective. 14,700 were killed in the plague that followed.

In Jewish history, these three are called "the triumvirate," the trinity of apostates.

- Cain, the prototype pioneer apostate, who rebelled against God's authority in salvation.
- Balaam, who extended apostasy from one person to many, rebelled against God's authority in separation.
He prostituted his gifts for money and led Israel to MIX with other nations.
- Korah, who took apostasy to the largest level, rebelled against God's authority in service.
His rebellion engulfed the most people and brought about a rebellion that attempted to overthrow all that God had established by way of authority among His people.

Truth: All three are immoral, insubordinate to the truth of God, and irreverent.

Jude 1:11 "Woe to them!" Woe to who? Jude 1:10 "These men" - brute beasts

Jude 1:8 "These men" - filthy dreamers Jude 1:4 "Certain persons" - these apostates

A curse is pronounced on them by the Lord. A declaration of damnation.

John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

- ❖ They exchanged the way of Christ for the way of Cain.
- ❖ They exchanged the truth of Christ for the error of Balaam.
- ❖ They exchanged the life of Christ for the destruction of Korah.

No wonder woe is pronounced upon them throughout the text.

Jude 1:4 They were long beforehand marked out for condemnation.

Jude 1:5 The apostates in Israel were destroyed.

Jude 1:6 The angels who sinned kept in eternal bonds under darkness.

Jude 1:7 Those in Sodom and Gomorrah, undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

Jude 1:10 "by these things they are destroyed."

Jude 1:13 "the black darkness has been reserved for them forever."

Jude 1:14-15 the horrific judgment that will come upon them at Christ's 2nd coming

Five comparisons to natural phenomena.

Jude 1:12-13 "These men are those who are hidden reefs in our love feasts, when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves. They are clouds without water, carried along by winds; they are autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted.

They are wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam.

They are wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever."

Jude 1:12 "These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves."

- "hidden reefs" = hidden rocks which speaks of their unseen danger.

I Cor. 11 describes love feasts dinners [like a potluck] that were held in the early Church.

In I Cor. 11:17-22, Paul describes how the love feast was being corrupted.

- Typically, this was on the Lord's Day. They would have the Lord's Table; hear the teaching of the Word of God and worship together. The potluck dinner followed.
- These were meals for conversing, sharing and talking of the matters of the faith.

- During this time, these embedded apostates began to speak their lies and to cultivate their iniquity, their immorality, their insubordination, and their irreverence. They undermine the truth and the faith.
- They are reefs - spilades. Rocks in the sea close to the shore, under the water's surface, dangerous to the ships.
- The apostate terrorists participated in these meals, espoused their lives, and flaunted their immorality in subtle ways.

Note: Paul had to practically call a judgment down on the heads of the Corinthians for the corruption and divisions. It turned into a drunken orgy in Corinth.

- Apostate terrorists are like sunken rocks on which the ship is easily destroyed. "Those who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear." They have no sense of conviction. Peter says, "Their conscience is seared as with a hot iron." They are like terrorists who don't mind blowing people to bits. Their conduct does terrible, moral damage to others. It was due to this kind of abuse that these love feasts passed away.

"caring for themselves" The love feast was designed for people to care for each other. Poimainō = to shepherd.

This was a time for mutual instruction, sharing, caring, application of the Word, calling to holiness, confronting sin, using your spiritual gift. Among them were false teachers who lived and desired only to gratify their own sensual lusts. They have no fear of God's judgment.

2. Jude 1:12 "Clouds without water, carried along by winds."

- "clouds without water" = their false promises. It looks like rain, but none ever falls.

Clouds bring the promise of rain to a thirsty land, but never a drop of water.

They have nothing to offer. They give no satisfaction.

Proverbs 25:14 "Whoever boasts himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain."

They promise to lead you in the path of God, bring you spiritual blessing and spiritual refreshment. They promise, but they can't deliver.

Without water is the same word use in Matthew 12:43 to speak of the dry places in which evil spirits wander. They are really motivated by the unseen evil spirits who control them.

They are blown around by demon winds, and they deliver nothing.

3. "like autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, and uprooted." Barren profession of their lives. Autumn is last time for harvest, and still no fruit. You wait and you wait and you wait, the fruit never comes. It is dry; it is leafless; it is barren.

These apostates are absolutely void of spiritual life. They are doubly dead. They produce no fruit because there's no life in them.

Matthew 15:13 "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up."

How many people sit in "Christian churches" being led by

- ❖ hidden rocks that are causing destruction;
- ❖ clouds without water who can provide no rain
- ❖ barren, fruitless, twice dead, plucked up trees

4. Jude 1:13a "wild [raging] waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam." wild waves of the sea" = for all their sound and fury, all their action, and all their effort, all they do is stir up dirt, mire, muck and filth to deposit on the shore.

Isa. 57:20-21 The wicked are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

What is left on the shore? Immorality, insubordination, and irreverence. False preaching, lies, deception, shameful deeds, seductions, all forms of religious prostitution and harlotry.

5. Jude 1:13b They are like "wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever."

- "wandering stars" = have an aimless course coming from and going to nowhere.

Stars don't wander. A star is a body in heaven that's in a fixed orbit and shines every night. Shooting stars flash across the sky, in a brilliant moment, and then disappear into eternal blackness, never to be seen again.

MacArthur: False teachers appear for a little time - a little, bright movement across the sky of Christianity; flashy, erratic, streaking in their rebellious ways with no orbit, no rhyme or reason, no direction - across the sky. The black darkness, the eternal fire of verse 7, has been reserved for them forever. Forever.

Apostate false teachers are dangerous hypocrites who make promises of spiritual provision but give none. They are spiritually dead and barren. And with all their activity and all their effort, they only clutter the shore with useless debris. They are here for a flash, and they are gone without any benefit, without any rhyme or reason, without any purpose, disappearing forever into eternal blackness. They literally blow themselves up and all the people who follow them. Their end is eternal punishment.

Father, I am exhorted to earnestly contend for the faith and participate in the war for the truth. I need to be armed, ready with discernment, perception, understanding, and wisdom. I must keep my eyes fixed on the portrait that Jude has given to me so I can recognize apostates.

Father, I thank You for the true shepherds, true teachers, true preachers, and true believers. Thank you for all those who even today are faithful in fighting the battle, contending for the truth of the faith. Nothing is more important than Your Divine Truth.

I must understand: it is by faith I am saved, sanctified and given the hope of glory.

Father, I ask that You use me greatly in this battle to rescue the deceived, to rescue those who are in the path of destruction because they are under the influence of these spiritual terrorists. Give me boldness, courage, and understanding about what is at stake.