**The Rebellion of Cain, Balaam and Korah**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Jude 9-13**

**Wednesday Evening**

**April 27, 2022**

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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. 12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

**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!"**

Saints, Michael is one of the mightiest of the angels, sometimes called an archangel, reflecting the ranking of angels that was part of Jewish tradition. In the Book of Daniel Michael is also referred to as a mighty angel.

**Daniel 10:13**

“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.”

**Daniel 10:21**

“But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.”

**Daniel 12:1**

"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.

The incident of Moses is not recorded in Scripture. The Bible merely states that Moses died and no one knows where his grave is.

**Deuteronomy 34:5-6**

5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. 6 And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.

Saints, the background for this dispute over Moses’ body can be found in an ancient book titled, “The Assumption of Moses.” The story, obviously known to the early believers, explains that Michael had been sent to bury Moses’ body.

According to “The Assumption of Moses,” when Michael prepared to do his task, he began arguing with Satan about Moses’ body. Satan is a fallen angel. He is real, not symbolic, and is constantly fighting against those who follow and obey God.

The story explains that Satan said Moses’ body rightfully belonged to him because Moses had committed murder (see Exodus 2:12). While Michael had every reason to expose Satan’s lies, he did not dare accuse Satan of blasphemy.

**Exodus 2:12**

“So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.”

Saints, Michael, instead of using his own authority, left the matter in his Master’s hands, saying simply, “The Lord rebuke you.” He did not rely on his own power and authority.

Jude wanted the believers to understand that if even the mightiest angels are careful about how they address other powers, even evil ones, how much more should mere people watch their words when speaking of celestial powers, good or evil.

If even a powerful angel of God did not dare to speak a judgment on God’s behalf, then neither should the false teachers claim to speak for God when they knew nothing about him.

**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.**

Saints, in contrast to Michael’s refusal to slander even Satan himself, the false teachers scoffed at celestial power and mocked and cursed the things they do not understand.

Many of these false teachers claimed to possess a superior, secret knowledge that gave them authority. They considered themselves to be the only ones to truly “understand” God. Yet by their slander, they revealed not superior knowledge, but profound ignorance.

In fact Saints of God, for all their pride, they were no better than animals. They could really do no more than whatever their instincts tell them—that is, how to fulfill their sexual desires.

While claiming superior knowledge and status, these false teachers had only the most basic knowledge—how to fulfill their lust. They had no understanding beyond that of the animals; their status was not above the rest of humanity, but was, in reality, below it.

Their refusal to heed God’s voice left them enslaved to sin and their sinful passions. The only things these men truly understood were the passions and lusts that enslaved them. Even though they claimed to be able to indulge themselves without retribution, eventually they would bring about their own destruction.

**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.**

That the Book of Jude reminded his readers of three classic examples of men who had lived as they pleased and had been punished for doing so. These stories illustrate attitudes that are typical of false teachers—pride, selfishness, jealousy, greed, lust for power, and disregard of God’s will.

**1. Cain murdered his brother out of Vengeful Jealousy**

**Genesis 4:8**

“Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him”

Saints, there are various interpretations of Cain’s example—that he killed his brother.

Jude may have been referring to Cain’s desire to devise another way of worship rather than the way God intended, to Cain’s intense envy of his brother, or to Cain’s selfish, evil heart that led him to murder.

**Hebrews 11:4**

“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”

**1 John 3:12**

“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”

Saints, just as Cain murdered his brother, so the false teachers “murder” people’s souls. Just as Cain did not care about his brother, murdering him out of envy, so the false teachers did not care about their followers, willingly leading them along the pathway to destruction.

Like Cain, the false teachers were defying God’s authority and acting out of sinful passion.

**2. Balaam prophesied out of greed, not out of obedience to God’s Command**

**2 Peter 2:15-16**

15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

Saints, the false teachers were following in the steps of Balaam, a man who had led many astray. A pagan king had hired Balaam, a prophet, to curse Israel.

At first, Balaam obeyed God; eventually, however, his evil motives and desire for money won out. Like Balaam, the false teachers were not interested in serving God; they will do anything for money, using religion only for financial gain and personal advancement.

**3. Korah rebelled against God’s divinely appointed leaders, wanting the power for himself**

**Numbers 16:31-35**

31 Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, 32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. 33 So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the congregation.

34 Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up also!" 35 And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.

Saints, by leading a revolt against God’s divinely appointed leaders, Korah was actually revolting against God. The punishment was literally earthshaking when the earth split apart and swallowed those who rebelled with their households and possessions.

Like Korah, the false teachers had revolted against the divinely appointed leadership of the apostles and church leaders, setting themselves up in opposition.

Through these three Old Testament pictures, Jude painted these false teachers. They were without love (like Cain), greedy for money (like Balaam), and insubordinate to God-appointed authorities (like Korah). God’s punishment on them is certain.

**12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

Saints, When the Lord’s Supper was celebrated in the early church, believers would eat a full meal before sharing the bread and wine of communion. The meal was called a fellowship meal (or love feast); it was designed to be a sacred time of fellowship to prepare one’s heart for the Lord’s Supper.

However, the false teachers were joining these meals and ruining the Christians’ gatherings by their very presence. The false teachers were like dangerous reefs along a shoreline, ready to shipwreck the believers.

Jude spared no words in describing the danger of these false teachers’ involvement with the believers. In the worst sort of hypocrisy, these intruders who had stolen in among the believers were participating in the love feast while at the same time living and speaking in opposition to Christ.

They were shameless in their selfishness. They cared nothing for the believers, their celebration, or the God the believers worshiped. Instead of looking after others’ needs, the false teachers’ only concern was their own needs. In four vivid word pictures taken from nature, Jude further described the false teachers.

First, they are like clouds blowing over dry land without giving rain—all show but no substance. Like waterless clouds, they were promising rain but floated on by, producing nothing. While they might claim superior knowledge, the false teachers had nothing of substance to assuage anyone’s spiritual thirst.

Second, the false teachers are like trees without fruit at harvesttime. A fruitless tree in autumn may refer to a sterile tree, which was as good as dead because it produced no fruit. A tree pulled out by the roots was completely dead.

Jude compared the false teachers to trees promising fruit but giving none. They were “once dead” because they had never taken root (they were never believers), and they had never borne spiritual fruit in their lives. They were doubly dead because just as fruitless trees are uprooted and burned, so the false teachers would face eternal punishment.

Third, the false teachers are like wild waves of the sea, churning up the dirty foam of their shameful deeds. Like the wild waves that make lots of noise as they restlessly thrash about, the false teachers restlessly and loudly were spewing their teaching. Jude used the image recorded in Isaiah 57:20

**Isaiah 57:20**

“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt”

Saints, as debris and filth caught in the foam are cast up on the shore, so the false teachers’ shameful actions would be cast up for all to see.

Fourth, the false teachers were wandering stars, heading for everlasting gloom and darkness. For centuries, the fixed stars in the heavens have guided seafarers and navigators in travels around the earth. But wandering (or shooting) stars offer no guidance and no light.

They appear bright for a few moments but shoot across the sky and disappear into darkness. The false teachers were as useless as wandering stars because they offered no direction and no light. Their teachings might seem “bright” for a while, but these teachers would find that their eternal judgment and punishment are certain; they have reservations that cannot be changed or canceled.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**