

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 9- Going the Way of Cain **Jude 11**

107 Going the Way of Cain Part 9

WOSM Thursday 04/03/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing in our Journey through the Epistle of Jude and today I want to see what Jude meant when he pronounced an everlasting and eternal condemnation upon the heretics who bring in false doctrine and ungodly teaching into the House of God. So, let's read verse 11 of Jude again together:

Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Now on the last broadcast, we saw how important it is that our source of credibility is in the Scriptures and not in ourselves. We must remember that Cain had no credibility with God- yet as Cain moved and lived outside of God's Presence- he began to work with other people and eventually it was Cain who helped to establish the group who teamed up with Nimrod, who built the Tower of Babel.

This shows us that when someone tries to operate in God without genuine credibility from God- they end up in *opposition* to the Will of God and fighting *against* God's Will. This is what Cain did and Jude says that this is what all the heretics do.

Those who are genuinely saved and called of God do not need detailed dreams and visions or angelic visitations to have spiritual credibility. Those who are true to Jesus have no need for elaborate rituals and ceremonies. Those who serve the Lord Christ have no use for special revelations that are unique to them. No, genuine born again saints already have something better than all of that. They possess something more lasting than any of that; something more

certain and stable and sure than any of those things. Those who know and love and follow Jesus Christ are not in rebellion to God and they have submitted their will to God, and they have bowed their knees to God and their spiritual credibility; their source of inspiration; and their information about God comes from Scripture and from Scripture alone.

People who desire to impress others with their spirituality- yet who do not have a genuine relationship with Jesus must do something to *manufacture* spiritual credibility. So, these people say that God speaks to them about secrets that no one else knows. They make claims about special insights or special powers that no one else has.

The goal, of course is not to lead anyone to Jesus- but to make themselves *indispensable* to those who follow them. And the people who follow these heretics do not know what God's Word says either- so they become completely *dependent* on these false teachers and false prophets for their own relationship with God and for insight into God's Will.

These false leaders, like Cain, have no real relationship with God- so they make up for that lack of Truth with the other things that make them *appear* to be very holy and very spiritual. And the less genuine spiritual credibility that these people have from God- the more elaborate the ritual becomes; the more detailed the visions become; and the more involved the ceremony becomes. This is all to mask the fact that they cannot, and they will not offer their followers a line upon line; precept upon precept study of that which God has actually said in His Word- which should be the *only* thing that a man of God gives to people.

You see, dear friends, when Scripture is minimized and comes in second to the revelation of the Pastor; or when Scripture comes in second to the ritual of the Church; or when Scripture comes in second to the dreams and the visions of the leaders- then we should know that these people have "gone the way of Cain" and we should not be listening to them nor following them.

When people are recording prophetic utterances and studying them instead of studying the Bible- know that Cain's heresy is alive and well in that Church. When the elaborate garments of the priest or the details of the church rituals are more important than knowing and studying and loving and obeying Scripture- then know that the

leaders of that organization have substituted *their* offering for that which God accepts- just like Cain did.

Cain developed his own special way to approach God. It wasn't what God had ordained- Cain just invented it. His way was filled with details and special things that made what Cain was doing unique and special and so they had to be learned and taught. In other words, Cain developed his *own* religious system that operated outside Scripture which was filled with his own man-made rituals and ceremonies that he had invented.

But God didn't accept Cain's offering and in fact- God rejected it outright. So anytime we are told that in order to serve God we must substitute Bible Truth for man- made rituals and ceremonies then we must understand that this is "going in the way of Cain".

Jesus ran into this when he was confronted with the Pharisees in **Luke 11: 37-54**. Let's look at verse 37.

Now when He had spoken, a Pharisee asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined *at the table*.

Now we can see here that Jesus was invited to eat with this Pharisee and so our Lord went to this man's house to eat. Now look at verse 38:

When the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal.

The Pharisees were a man- made religious organization that had no credibility at all with God. So, in order to make up for their lack of genuine spiritual credibility- they had developed elaborate rituals that were in great detail to make everyone think that they were very holy and very spiritual. These rituals were so numerous and were in such great detail that they had to be taught and learned over a period of years.

And one of their man-made rituals was what was called, "ceremonial washing". This ritual was that before a Pharisee could eat- he had to take a special cup and put so much water in it and then hold his left hand up with the fingers pointing upward and gently pour the water over the tops of the fingers down to the wrist. This ritual was then repeated over the right hand. Then there were special

prayers that were said while the ceremonial washing was being done that had to be memorized and a special way to dry the hands using, of course and special towel.

This ceremonial washing had to be done every time a Pharisee ate. This was done very carefully in full view of everyone present that the Pharisees gained a great reputation as being such religious and pious and holy men.

But we must remember that following special rituals doesn't have the power to make anyone holy. Dripping water over your hands in a certain way has no power to wash away sins or to make you love and obey God. So, this ritual- like all rituals- was a complete farce and was not of God. But this ritual- like all rituals- was hiding and obscuring and altering that which God *did* want these people to do. This is the way with Cain's rituals.

So, when Jesus was invited to come and eat- the Son of God went right into the house, laid down by the table, and began to eat without engaging in this ceremonial washing. Jesus simply was not going to play this man's game. And this amazed this hypocritical Pharisee.

And for the next six verses- Jesus rebuked this man and told him to his face that all of his man- made rituals and all of his ceremonial washing was doing nothing about his own personal sin and did not please God and could not *possibly* bring him into a right relationship with God.

You see, brothers and sisters- according to the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of the living God- during this long six verse rebuke against this man's elaborate ceremonies and man -made religious trinkets- Jesus, the mild Nazarene; Jesus the gentle Carpenter; Jesus, Who was God's Love personified used words like "fool" and "hypocrite" to describe this man personally and the Pharisees in general. No less than three separate times, the Son of God pronounced eternal damnation upon this man and his group for trying to teach people that rituals and ceremonies and trinkets and elaborate religious exercises have any spiritual power at all and that they could ever take the place of the Word of God.

Now just about that time, in verse 45- some lawyer spoke up and so Jesus turned to him and let *him* have it. And over the next seven verses- the sinless Lamb of God pronounced everlasting damnation

upon what the lawyers had done in the Name of God and how they had twisted the Truth to the point that no one could even see God- much less serve Him.

This is what happens when Man has no genuine credibility and when they live and operate in isolation to the Word of God, and they substitute their *own* wisdom and their *own* experiences to take the place of Scripture.

Cain did us all great harm and we must be alert and be vigilant to watch so that the very same thing that Cain did; the very same thing that the Pharisees did; does not happen with us. Please open your eyes and make sure that you are not “going in the way of Cain”.

Now in verse 11 of our study- Jude also compared the heretics with another Old Testament person- a man named Balaam. Let’s read verse 11 again to see just how Jude described this second Old Testament example:

Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Now just who was this Balaam guy and why did Jude compare the heretics with him? Let’s see. We are first introduced to Balaam in **Numbers 22**. And the last thing that we read about Balaam is in **Numbers 31:8** which says:

... they also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword.

Balaam was a man who was hired to curse the children of Israel. In **Joshua 13:22**- Joshua called Balaam a “soothsayer”- which is a fortune teller or a false prophet.

Numbers 22- 24 tells us the fantastic story of this man and of how he was hired to pronounce a curse upon God’s people and of the donkey that spoke to him and of all the things that came about because of this man’s lust for fame and fortune. And in order to get a good picture of this man, let’s read what the Apostle Peter spoke about this man and the heretics in **2Peter 2:10-16**:

10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,

11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you,

14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

16 but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, *for* a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.

Now Jude and Peter are unmasking the fundamental motive behind all of the religious interests of the false teachers. And it is something that we need to always remember. False teachers *always* do what they do for money.

And I tell you that we must realize what Jude is telling us about the heretics here. We must be aware that Jude was inspired by the Holy Ghost to warn us about the profile of these men who will creep into the Church to try to tear it down. I tell you that it is high time that we rise up and open our eyes and smell the coffee and realize that we are living in perilous times when men will be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God and when people in the Church will not be able to endure sound doctrine but will heap to themselves teachers having itching ears and you and I are living in the day when people are being turned away from the Truth and are being turned unto fables and this is why we must be watchful and we must quicken our pace and this is why we must all earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I've got to stop right here. But please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.