

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

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

Chapter 10- The Error of Balaam **Jude 11**

118 The Error of Balaam- Part 11

WOSM Friday 04/18/08

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 were looking at the terrible consequences of going into discontentment and of being unthankful for what God has already provided for you. We saw that the Error of Balaam is behind this discontentment.

The children of Israel had witnessed God delivering them out of 400 years of being beaten and made to make bricks and of starving and of being treated cruelly. They had witnessed God publicly humiliated the mightiest nation on earth with frogs and plagues and blood and lice and flies and finally the annihilation of all the first born in the entire nation of Egypt.

The children of Israel had witnessed God allowing the former slaves to spoil the former slave owners. They witnessed God sending down a pillar of fire to protect them from the army of Egypt so God could part the Red Sea and they could walk over on dry ground.

The children of Israel witnessed God destroying the Egyptian army by drowning them in the Sea.

They witnessed water coming out of the rock. They witnessed

God raining down angel's food for them to eat every morning. They witnessed that their shoes didn't grow old, and their clothes didn't dry rot and they witnessed that there was not one feeble one among them.

They saw Moses go up into the mountain and they saw the mountain burn with fire and they saw the mountain shake and quake as God wrote down His Law on tables of stone with His very Finger. They saw Moses fast 80 days and 80 nights and they saw his face shine like the sun.

But we also saw last time that all of this wasn't enough. We saw on the last broadcast how that they lusted after more and they lusted after something else, and that which God had already provided for them was no longer good enough.

So, they griped and they complained and they belly ached and they murmured and they said, "Would to God that we were back in Egypt".

And God heard it. And God saw that they were no longer thankful, and God saw that they had run after the error of Balaam and God saw that they had become discontented with what God had given to them. So, they began to despise the manna that God gave to them and they lusted after flesh to eat.

Let's see what happened when God's people ran after the error of Balaam and were no longer thankful and began to lust after more than what God had given to them in **Numbers 11:4-34**:

4 The rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, "Who will give us meat to eat?"

5 "We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic,

6 but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna."

7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium.

8 The people would go about and gather *it* and grind *it* between two millstones or beat *it* in the mortar, and boil *it* in the pot and make cakes with it; and its taste was as the taste of cakes baked with oil.

9 When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna would fall with it.

10 Now Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, each man at the doorway of his tent; and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly, and Moses was displeased.

11 So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have You been so hard on Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all this people on me?"

12 "Was it I who conceived all this people? Was it I who brought them forth, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom as a nurse carries a nursing infant, to the land which You swore to their fathers'?"

13 "Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me, saying, 'Give us meat that we may eat!'"

14 "I alone am not able to carry all this people, because it is too burdensome for me.

15 "So if You are going to deal thus with me, please kill me at once, if I have found favor in Your sight, and do not let me see my wretchedness."

16 The LORD therefore said to Moses, "Gather for Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and their officers and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you.

17 "Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put *Him* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear *it* all alone.

18 "Say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, "Oh that someone would give us meat to eat! For we were well-off in Egypt.'" Therefore the LORD will give you meat and you shall eat.

19 'You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days,

20 but a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you; because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"'"

21 But Moses said, "The people, among whom I am, are 600,000 on foot; yet You have said, 'I will give them meat, so that they may eat for a whole month.'

22 "Should flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to be sufficient for them? Or should all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to be sufficient for them?"

23 The LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD'S power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not."

24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD . Also, he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and stationed them around the tent.

25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed *Him* upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do *it* again.

26 But two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), and they prophesied in the camp.

27 So a young man ran and told Moses and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

28 Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, "Moses, my lord, restrain them."

29 But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!"

30 Then Moses returned to the camp, *both* he and the elders of Israel.

31 Now there went forth a wind from the LORD and it brought quail from the sea, and let *them* fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp and about two cubits *deep* on the surface of the ground.

32 The people spent all day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers) and they spread *them* out for themselves all around the camp.

33 While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very severe plague.

34 So the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had been greedy.

This is the terrible; price that Israel paid because they were not content with what God gave them and they lusted after more. Beloved, we must be careful that as we pray for God to give us something, that we are not being unthankful and ungrateful for what

God has already done for us. We must be careful to appreciate what God has provided and show Him our appreciation by valuing that which God has already done before we ask for more.

And most importantly, we need to make sure that whatever we are being taught about money and possessions and the things of this world- that we are not being taught to be discontented and that we are not being taught to be unthankful and that we are not being taught to be ungrateful, lest we fall into the same error of Balaam and meet the same reward.

Listen to me- asking God for things is not wrong- but being discontent with what God has already done is a sin. Desiring that God would do something for you is not wrong- but being unthankful is a sin. Wanting to see God move in your life is not wrong- but not appreciating and not valuing what He has already done is a sin.

Appreciating and being grateful and honoring what God has given and what God has already done and what God has already provided needs to be practiced more often and taught and held in high esteem again in this country.

We have a desperate need to once again learn about and show thankfulness and gratefulness and godly contentment about that which God has provided and that which God has given, and that which God has done and we need to refuse to enter the rat race of trying to keep up with the Jones and we need to refuse the temptation to always want more and bigger and better things and learn to be content with what God has already done.

I tell you that the children of Israel got what they lusted after. They were no longer grateful for the manna that God had provided. They were no longer thankful for the food that God wanted them to have. They despised the gift of God, and they lusted after what their own hearts craved and God gave it to them. He gave them so much flesh that it came out of their noses, and they choked on it and they died while the flesh was between their teeth.

The lust for material goods in this country has become a reproach to God and a stench in His Nostrils. The unthankfulness for what God has given and what God has provided has reached unto the heavens. We have become discontented with what God has given. We have become ungrateful and unthankful, and we have lusted after more and more and more. And the majority of the modern Doctrine of

Prosperity has promoted this lusting and it has promoted this ungratefulness and it has promoted this unthankfulness and it has promoted this discontentment and God has heard it.

Today we are drowning in our possessions. We have so much stuff that it is killing us to try to pay for it. And yet we lust for more. The pursuit of more of this world's goods has overtaken us and we are drowning in a sea of debt and payments and finance charges that are destroying our homes and our marriages and our children and is making that which we lusted after a curse to us. Truly we can begin to see the Error of Balaam.

I tell you it is time to repent. It is time to return to being thankful and grateful and of appreciating what God has already done. It is time to praise God from whom all blessings flow. It is time to reject any teaching from any man that causes you to be discontented with what God has provided for us and it is time to give God glory for what He has provided. It is time to thank God and show Him our appreciation for what He wanted to give to us. And it is time that we 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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