

“Trailblazers!”
Jude 11

Introduction:

1. **IE:** Have You Ever Been On A Hike:
 - And Decided To Get Off The Path That You Were On:
 - And Try To Go It Alone?
 - Years Ago - My Brother And I Would Hike Through The Woods:
 - Of Upstate New York!
 - And There Were Times We Would Try To Make Our Own Paths!
 - And To Do So:
 - One Of Us Would Take The Lead:
 - And The Other Would Follow!
 - And The One Who Was In Front Soon Learned:
 - That Trailblazing Was Hard Work!
 - Sometimes Cutting Through Vines And Even Bushes Full Of Thorns!
 - But The One Who Followed:
 - Had It A Lot Easier!
 - Just Following The New Trail That Was Blazed!
 - But You Still Wouldn't Know:
 - Just Where That Path Would Take You!
2. Well This Morning We Return To The Book Of Jude:
 - Where Jude Has Been Describing For Us In Detail:
 - What To Look For When It Comes To False Teachers Within The Church!
 - And In The Middle Of This Description:
 - We Come To Verse 11 - Where Jude Gives Us His Inspired Verdict Of These False Teachers:
 - He Writes - “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 of Core!” (Korah)
 - In This Single Verse:
 - Jude Gives Us The Names Of Three Old Testament Trailblazers – Who We Will Look At More Closely:
 - Three Men Who Made Their Own Paths, Down Which Others Have Followed, Not Knowing Where Those Paths Would Lead Them!
 - But Now There Is No Doubt Where Those Paths Lead!
 - They Lead To Woe!
 - Because They Are The Paths Of The Wicked! (Proverbs 4:14)
3. The Phrase Jude Uses – “Woe Unto Them!”
 - Is A Declaration – Not Of His Judgment – But Of God's Judgment:
 - Of Them For Their Sin!
 - It Is Most Frequently Used By The Lord Jesus Himself All Throughout The Gospels!
 - And So Jude Does Not Use These Words Lightly!
 - No - He Uses These Words:
 - To Alarm Them & Us:
 - Of The Distress & Misery We Will Experience If We Go Down The Paths Of These Three Wicked Trailblazers!
 - You See - There Are Some Trails:
 - That Are Just Not Worth Going Down!
4. And So - This Morning - As We Look At The Three Paths:
 - Of Cain & Of Balaam & Of Korah:
 - I Want Us To Ask Ourselves This Question:
 - What Path Am I On?
 - Anyone Can Do Down These Paths!
 - Not Just False Teachers!
 - So Remember What Solomon Teaches In Proverbs 4:14-15 - “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. / Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away!”
 - What Path Are You On?

* Are You On:

1. ***The Path Of Cain?***

- Jude 11 Tells Us:

- “Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain!”
 - Cain Is The First Trailblazer We Come To!
 - And His Path Will Lead Us To Woe!
- Just What Is The Path Of Cain?
 - Let’s Look More Closely At His Life & Path In:

- Genesis 4:1-16:

- 1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.
- 2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.
- 3 ¶ And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.
- 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:
- 5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.
- 6 ¶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?
- 7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.
- 8 ¶ And 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 slew him.
- 9 ¶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?
- 10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground.
- 11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand;
- 12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.
- 13 ¶ And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.
- 14 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.
- 15 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.
- 16 ¶ And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

- This Is The “Way Of Cain!”

- And It Is The Pathway Of Pride!
 - All Throughout This Passage:
 - You See The Presumptuous Pride Of This Man!

- The Pride Of His Offering To God:

- In Verse 3 - Not Necessarily A Bad Thing In & Of Itself!
 - But In 1 John 3:12 - We Learn Of His Real Character - Cain “Was Of That Wicked One!”
 - And This Is Why God Rejected His Offering!
- It Was Not Offered In Faith, Like Abels!
 - Instead It Was Offered In Pride & Selfishness!

- The Pride Of His Responses To God:

- In Verse 5 - When The Lord Rejected Cain & His Offering:
 - “Cain Was Very Wroth, And His Countenance Fell!”
- In Verse 9 - When The Lord Confronted Cain About Abel:
 - “And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?”
- And In Verse 13 - In Response To The Lord’s Punishment:
 - “And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear!”
- All Of His Responses Were Focused On Himself:
 - And Were The Expression Of His Own Pride!

- The Pride Of His Crime Against God:

- In Verse 8 - “That Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him!”

- The Pathway Of Pride:

- Is A Very Dangerous Path To Be On!

- Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall!"
- And The End Of That Path:
 - Is Woe!
- What Path Are You On?
 - Are You Walking Down The Pathway Of Pride?
 - It Is The "Way Of Cain!"
 - Instead - Walk In The Path That Was Blazed By The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - The Pathway Of Humility!
 - James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up!"
- What Path Are You On?

* Or - Are You On:

2. *The Path Of Balaam?*

- Jude 11 Again Tells Us:
 - "Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward!"
 - Balaam Is The Second Trailblazer We Come To!
 - And His Path Will Also Lead Us To Woe!
 - What Is The Path Of Balaam Like?
 - Let's Look More Closely At His Life & Path In:
- Numbers 22:1-8:
 - 1 ¶ And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho.
 - 2 And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.
 - 3 And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel.
 - 4 And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.
 - 5 He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me:
 - 6 Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.
 - 7 And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.
 - 8 And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam.
- This Is The "Error Of Balaam!"
 - And It Is The Pathway Of Covetousness!
 - 2 Peter 2:15 Tells Us This About Balaam - "Who Loved The Wages Of Unrighteousness!"
- Balaam Was Well-Known:
 - As One Who Had Some Kind Of Spiritual Power!
 - The Midianites Believed That Whomever Balaam Blessed Would Be Blessed & Whomever Balaam Cursed Would Be Cursed! In Verse 6!
 - It Is Apparent That Balaam Had Done Something Like This Before!
 - He Was A Spiritual Mercenary! He Would Offer The Use Of Whatever Spiritual Gift He Had To The Highest Bitter!
 - This Is Why In Verse 7 - "The Elders Of Moab & The Elders Of Midian Departed With The Rewards Of Divination In Their Hand!"
 - Instead Of Serving Others:
 - He Only Wanted To Serve Himself!
- Balaam Was Willing:
 - To Do What The Moabites & The Midianites Requested!
 - Instead Of Saying An Outright "NO!"
 - He "Loved The Wages Of Unrighteousness!"
 - And Wanted Them All For Himself!
- The Pathway Of Covetousness:
 - Is Also A Very Dangerous Path To Be On!

- 1 Timothy 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!"
- And The End Of This Path:
 - Is Woe!
 - Didn't The Lord Get Balaam's Attention At Last? Through A Talking Donkey! But Balaam Continued Down His Own Path!
- What Path Are You On?
 - Are You Walking Down The Pathway Of Covetousness?
 - And The Pathway Of Greed?
 - It Is The "Error Of Balaam!"
 - Instead - Walk In The Path That Was Blazed By The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-11 - "But godliness with contentment is great gain. / For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. / And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. / But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. / 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. / But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness!"
- What Path Are You On?
 - What Are You Following After?

* Or - Are You On:

3. ***The Path Of Korah?***

- Jude 11 Again Tells Us:
 - "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 of Core!"
 - Korah Is The Third Trailblazer We Come To!
 - And His Path Will Also Lead Us To Woe!
 - What Is The Path Of Korah Like?
 - Let's Look At His Life & Path In:
- Numbers 16:1-7:
 - 1 Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:
 - 2 And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:
 - 3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?
 - 4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:
 - 5 And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.
 - 6 This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company;
 - 7 And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD to morrow: and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi.
- This Is The "Gainsaying Of Korah!"
 - And It Is The Pathway Of Rebellion!
 - Which Jude Has Already Described For Us In This Letter!
 - Because Rebellion Against The Authority Of God & Those Whom He Has Placed Over Us Is A Very Serious Sin!
 - 1 Samuel 15:23 - "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry!"
- The Reason For Rebellion:
 - Instead Of God's Way:
 - Which Was The Leadership Of Moses & Aaron!
 - They Wanted Their Own Way!
 - And They Were Willing To Do Whatever They Needed To Get Their Own Way!
 - But Where Would Their Own Way Lead?

- The Result Of Rebellion – Numbers 16:23-35:

- 23 ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
24 Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.
25 And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him.
26 And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.
27 So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.
28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.
29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.
30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.
31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:
32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.
33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.
34 And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also.
35 ¶ And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

- The Pathway Of Rebellion:

- Is A Very Dangerous Path To Be On!
 - The End Of This Path:
 - Is Woe!
 - Jude 11 Tells Us That You Will Be Destroyed Even As Korah Was!

- What Path Are You On?

- Are You Walking Down The Pathway Of Rebellion?
 - It Is The “Gainsaying Of Korah!”
 - Instead - Walk In The Path That Was Blazed By The Lord Jesus Christ – The Pathway Of Honor & Submission!
 - Romans 13:7 - “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour!”
 - Luke 20:25 - “And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar’s, and unto God the things which be God’s!”
- What Path Are You On?

* There Is One Other Path I Would Like For Us To Look At:

- Because It Is The Alternative To All Of These:
 - “Pathways Of Woe!”
 - And It Is:

4. The Path Of Life!

- Which We Find In Psalm 16:11:
 - “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore!”
 - Is This The Path You Are On?
- The Destination Of This Path:
 - Is Real Life!
 - Is Real Joy!
 - Is Real Pleasure!
 - The Destination Of All The Other Paths:
 - Is Woe!

- Matthew 7:13 - "For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat!"
 - The Pathway Of Cain's Pride & The Pathway Of Balaam's Greed & The Pathway Of Korah's Rebellion All End Up At The Same Place!
- But - Matthew 7:14 - "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it!"
 - And This Is Because Of:
 - The Director Of This Path!
 - It Is Only Through The Trailblazing Gospel Of Jesus Christ That You Can Find The:
 - Path Of Life!

Conclusion:

1. What Path Are You On?
 - Whose Path Are You Following?
 - Only One Will Lead You To Life!
 - All Of The Others Will Lead You To Woe!

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