

Three O.T. False Teachers

Jude 11

- I. **THE WAY OF CAIN** (Gen. 4:1-5)
 - a. God has a way, and man has a way (Prov. 16:25: There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.)
 - i. Faith vs. works- Hebrews 11:4- By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain
 - ii. God rejected Cain's offering, because He rejected Cain's character- Proverbs 15:8- The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.
 - iii. I John 3:12- Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.
 - b. Rejection of Divine Revelation
 - i. Perhaps God had already revealed that the way to God is the way of blood atonement ("in the process of time"- Gen 4:3)
 1. Animal skins were used to cover Adam and Eve
 2. This was the first blood that was shed. The last blood: Christ
 - ii. Refusal to submit to God- they want to come to God on their own terms.
 - iii. Apostates deny the blood of Christ, and deny that the Gospel is enough.
 - c. The way of false religion- the birth of false religion
 - i. Cain gathered the very best of his crop- the best that man could do
 - ii. False teachers would rather follow human traditions, than obey the Bible (sacraments, golden rule, good works, etc.)
 - iii. God's remedy of cleansing is replaced with man's remedy of improving
 - iv. Many Christians are afraid of secular humanism or atheism. But dead religion is far more dangerous, and sends more people to hell than

anything else. These certain men were in the way of Cain, which is the way of dead religion.

Arthur Guiterman wrote the following poem. Reading his observations, you wouldn't guess it was written nearly fifty years ago.

First denistry was painless;
Then bicycles were chainless
And carriages were horseless
And may laws, enforceless.
Next, cookery was fireless,
Telegraphy was wireless,
Cigars were nicotineless
And coffee, caffeineless.
Soon oranges were seedless,
The putting green was weedless,
The college boy hatless,
The proper diet, fatless,
Now motor roads are dustless,
The latest steel is rustless,
Our tennis courts are sodless,
Our new religions, godless.

II. THE ERROR OF BALAAM

- a. They run greedily- poured out, uninhibited indulging in covetousness
 - i. Balaam's story is in Numbers 22 to 25 and 31. He shows us what a hireling is.
 - ii. Balaam was a prophet for hire, willing to prostitute his gift for money (II Peter 2:15)
- b. Numbers 22:5-7- After King Balak of Moab enticed him with riches, Balaam prophesied over Israel four times. But as he spoke forth he did not curse Israel – he could not! Instead he spoke God's word and blessed her each time.
- c. However, later on Balaam figured out a way to get his reward from Balak. Balaam advised the Moabites on how to entice the people of Israel with prostitutes and idolatry. He could not curse Israel directly, so he came up with a

plan for Israel to bring a curse upon themselves. Balak followed Balaam's advice, and Israel fell into sin, worshiping Baal and committing fornication with Midianite women. For this God plagued them, and 24,000 men died.

- d. Therefore, Balaam was guilty of the greatest of sins: deliberately leading others into sin. Worse yet, he did it for money.
- e. It's no wonder if you research the wealthiest preachers you will find a who's who of false teachers- men like TD Jakes who deny the Trinity; prosperity Gospel preachers who are fleecing the flock here and around the world!

III. **THE GAINSAYING OF CORE** (Numbers 16:1-3)

- a. The word "gainsaying" here means contradiction, or speaking against; rebellion.
- b. It was a rebellion against Aaron the High Priest and Moses- God's appointed men. They resented God-ordained authority
- c. Moses then proposed a test: each group took censers (for burning incense) and came before the Lord. The Lord Himself would choose which man He wanted to represent Him: Moses or Korah.
- d. When they both came before God, the Lord told Moses to step away. Then, the ground opened up and swallowed Korah and his followers. After that, fire came down from heaven and burned up all of his supporters. They all perished.
 - i. Num 16:24-26- God wanted Moses and his followers to separate themselves from the divisive persons.
 - ii. The same attitude should be among God's people today. They should stay away from divisive, argumentative, contentious people in the church. You don't want to be close to them if God should deal with them. A divisive, contentious man will influence you, and you do not want to be consumed in their sins.
- e. V. 2 -And some of the wicked rebels that followed Korah were "princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown" (16:2, 3).- Influential troublemakers are far more dangerous than your regular run-of-the-mill

troublemakers. This is why we must be careful to put humble people in leadership positions. Thank God for the humble leaders in our church!

- f. In contrast to Korah, Moses was humble and he handled this crisis in a wise manner. Numbers 16:4 says, “And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face.”
 - i. He did not have a screaming match or try and fight back on his own
 - ii. He turned to the Lord for this difficulty
- g. Korah’s group represents the insubordination, murmuring, and politicking that goes on in many churches today!
 - i. Different factions looking to grab power and influence
 - ii. The Preacher is flesh and blood and not divine, yet we must recognize God’s call and God’s plan for order- someone has to be in charge!
 - iii. Numbers 16:11- it is ultimately against the Lord!
 - iv. When a church calls a preacher, they are acknowledging that God wants that man to be the pastor of their church. When anyone rebels against this, he is really rebelling against God!
 - v. God calls men into ministry, and those men have a great responsibility and accountability before God. Moses did not appoint himself!
- h. V. 32-35- Their fate- God made an example of them and they ultimately perished- false teachers are identified with them in their character and in their doom. God will one day see to it that they perish also!