**Journey through Jude--11-13**

**Jude 11—three specific apostate men from the past**

**“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.”**

This verse gives three individual examples of the *specific men*, apostates, who have gone astray. These three errors portray a process God is highlighting: **1. They enter on the wrong path, 2. They run “righteously and riotously” down that path, 3. They perish at the end.** THEIR DOOM IS SURE…THEY PERISH! And, apostasy is not constrained to one class of people. These are: farmer, prophet, and prince of Israel; they all fall away from the truth. **See 2 Peter 2:20-22….dire warning!! Another way of saying this verse: The apostates chose--the way of Cain rather than the way of Christ, the error of Korah rather the truth of Christ, and the perishing of Korah rather than the life of Christ.**

1. **Define “woe.” “**Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain….” Grief; sorrow; misery; heavy calamity….wail of grief or of denunciation.
   1. **See** [**Isaiah 30:1-2**](http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/Isaiah/30/1)**.** "Woe to the rebellious children," declares the LORD, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin; Who proceed down to Egypt Without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!
2. [Prayerlessness](http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Prayerlessness)[Refuge](http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Refuge)Rejection Of GFaithlessness, As DisobedienceTrust, Lack OfLeaders, Political**Discuss “The way of Cain.” Read Genesis 4.**  Each of the sons of Adam and Eve brought an offering to the Lord. Cain (being a farmer) brought an offering from his harvest. Abel (being a shepherd) brought an offering from his flocks. God accepted Abel's offering, but He rejected Cain's sacrifice.
   1. **Refer to Proverbs 16:24-25 and 14:12.**
   2. **Review Hebrews 11:1-4. (Hebrew 11—the great faith chapter)**Many people assume that because Abel brought a blood sacrifice and Cain brought a grain sacrifice, that the difference between the two offerings was sacrificial blood. But the real difference was between *faith* and *unbelief*. [Hebrews 11:4](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Hebrews+11:4&t1=en_nas) makes this plain: *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.* Cain's sacrifice was probably more pleasing to the senses than the carcass of a dead lamb. But his sacrifice was offered without faith, and therefore it was unacceptable to God. You can give to God whatever you have or whatever you are, but you must offer it *in faith*.
      1. **See Romans 10:13….**faith comes by hearing.
      2. **See Genesis 3:7.** Their eyes were opened after the sin…no longer clothed with light, conscious of loss of God’s covering.
      3. **See Genesis 3:20 and Genesis 22:1-2.—**God clothed them with skins and required Abram’s sacrifice.
      4. **Refer to Hebrew 9:22.** From Genesis 3-Revelation 19, no remission of sins without the shedding of blood.
   3. **Review** [**Genesis 4:5**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+4:5&t1=en_nas)**. Why did God refuse Cain’s offering?...** says that after God rejected his sacrifice, *Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell*. He became angry because he knew he was rejected by God. In a fit of anger Cain murdered Abel, and then he lied about it to God.
      1. **What was Cain’s mistake?** Blaspheming God by declaring His way to salvation, the blood sacrifice, is not complete without works. THEME-- FAITH VERSUS WORKS.
      2. **Was he a believer? Was he in rebellion? Was he trying to worship God?**
      3. **Correlate Cain’s mistake of the shed blood offering with blaspheming God by attempting to add to it. Salvation by works is this blasphemy.** 
         1. **Refer to Proverbs 14:12.**
   4. **See** [**1 John 3:12**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20John+3:12&t1=en_nas) **and 2 Timothy 3:5.** **Discuss.** Thistells us that Cain murdered his brother because Abel's works were righteous (by faith), while Cain's own were wicked. Cain's lack was not in works, but in faith. The way of Cain: Jude says that Cain typifies a way that the *certain men* follow in. It is the way of unbelief and empty religion, which leads to jealousy, persecution of the truly godly, and eventually to murderous anger. **There is no greater curse on the earth than empty, vain religion; those who have *a form of godliness but denying its power* (**[**2 Timothy 3:5**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Timothy+3:5&t1=en_nas)**). No wonder Paul added, *and from such people turn away!***
3. **Examine “The error of Balaam.” Read Numbers 22 to 25 and 31. During the time of the Exodus, Israel advanced to the land of Moab, after defeating the Amorites. When the Israelites came near, King Balak of Moab sought the help of a prophet named Balaam.**
   1. **Is Balaam a true prophet? *You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed*"**
   2. **Examine Numbers 24:15. Is the “star out of Jacob” the Christmas star?**
   3. **In** [**Numbers 22:34**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Numbers+22:34&t1=en_nas)**, he said to God *I have sinned . . . Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back*. But he didn't turn back. He continued on, refusing to see that when God says no,**
   4. **What was the sin of Balaam?** Therefore Balaam was guilty of the greatest of sins: deliberately leading others into sin. Worse yet, he did it for money.
   5. **Was greed in the error of Balaam? Prophecy for profit? The greedy error of Balaam was that he was willing to compromise everything for money. The *certain men* Jude warned about had the same heart.** 
      1. **Parallel with Judas’ actions in Matthew 26:15**. Covetousness is such a dangerous sin that it killed Jesus - 30 pieces of silver helped put Jesus on the cross.
      2. **See Deuteronomy 23**:**3-6.** BALAAM’S ERROR—PROPHECY FOR PROFIT.
      3. **Refer to Balaam’s plan of cross-marrying as seen in Numbers 25:2-3, 31: 1-18.** Verse 15-16--Because he lost his payment in the incident with King Balak, where he blessed the Israelites, rather than cursed them, he sought his gold by advising the king to entice the Jewish men to intermarry with pagans.
      4. **See Revelation 2:14-16.** Mixed marriage, church married to the world. **DOCTRINE OF BALAAM.**
   6. **Contrast God’s love as seen in Romans 5:5.** But Paul also uses the same term for the extravagant way God loves us: *the love of God has been poured out in our hearts* ([Romans 5:5](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Romans+5:5&t1=en_nas)).
   7. **Reference 2 Peter 2:15.—the Way of Balaam. Hire.**
   8. **Discuss his death in Joshua 13:22, Nehemiah 13:2, and Micah 6:5.**
   9. **Review “The Error of Balaam”---God couldn’t curse the Israelites.**
4. **Review “the rebellion of Korah” in Numbers 16. Korah happened chronologically before Balaam….the rebellion/against the Word. (Moses is a type of Christ). Exodus 6 background, cousin of Moses, Levite.**
   1. **Read Numbers 16.**
   2. **How many rebelled against Moses?**
   3. ***Explain the question, “Why then do you exalt yourself about the congregation of the Lord?”*** ([Numbers 16:3](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Numbers+16:3&t1=en_nas)) Korah and his followers resented the authority God gave to Moses and Aaron. When Korah said this, Moses fell on his face, knowing God's judgment would soon come. 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**.**
   4. **When they both came before God, the Lord told Moses to step away. Why?** 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.
   5. **Who was Korah?** Was a Levite, but not of the priestly family of Aaron. As a Levite, he had had his own God-appointed sphere of ministry, yet he was not content with it. He wanted the ministry and the authority of Moses.
   6. **See Matthew 26:36-44….only one way to redemption. Numbers 16:28-31.….Moses was ordained by God, like Jesus was.**
5. **Wrap-up the three examples.** These three men came from quite different backgrounds: Cain was a farmer, Balaam was a prophet, and Korah was a leader in Israel. Apostasy is never confined to one group of people. "There are apostates in the pulpit, in the palace, and in the poorhouse." **THEY CHOOSE A WAYS, RUSH HEADLONG INTO THAT WAY, AND PERISH BECAUSE OF IT.**
6. **See 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12, the great apostasy.**
   1. **Compare this passage to Jude 11’s “list of three” apostates.**
7. **Sum-up Jude 11.**

**Jude 12-13—descriptions of Apostates**

**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** [**c**](javascript:void(0);) **by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;×**

### References for Jude 1:12

* [**Footnotes**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nkjv/jude/1.html#footnote-12)

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

These two verses explain, in detail, what the future holds for these *certain men*. Jude offers a vivid description of the depravity of these *certain men*. **Five word pictures occur here.**

1. **What does** “**Spots in your love feasts” mean?** Rocks…like to a mariner. HIDDEN ROCKS. The early Christians often met for a common meal, something like a potluck dinner. They called these meals **love feasts**, or "Agape Feasts." When these *certain men* came, they were **serving only themselves**. They ate greedily at the **love feasts** while others went hungry. "Of a feast of faith" [F2](http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/jude-1-12.html#b). These here seem to be the Agape, or love feasts, of the primitive Christians; the design of which was to maintain and promote brotherly love, from whence they took their name; and to refresh the poor saints, that they might have a full and comfortable meal now and then: their manner of keeping them was this; they began and ended them with prayer and singing; and they observed them with great temperance and frugality; and they were attended with much joy and gladness, and simplicity of heart: but were quickly abused, by judaizing Christians, as observing them in imitation of the Passover; and by intemperance in eating and drinking; and by excluding the poor, for whose benefit they were chiefly designed; and by setting up separate meetings for them, and by admitting unfit persons unto them; such as here are said to be spots in them, blemishes, which brought great reproach and scandal upon them, being persons of infamous characters and conversations. I Corinthians 11:21.
   1. **Refer to Corinthians 11:17-34.** At the Agape Feast, everybody brought what they could - some a little, some a lot; but they all shared it together. For some slaves who were Christians it might have been the only decent meal they regularly ate. The selfishness of these *certain men* spoiled the fellowship. [1 Corinthians 11:17-34](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Corinthians+11:17-34&t1=en_nas) describes a similar problem in the Corinthian church. It always spoils fellowship when we come to church with a selfish "bless me" attitude. Many who would never eat selfishly at a church meal still come to church concerned with **serving only themselves**.
   2. **What are “Spots?” See 2 Peter 2:13.** Some Greek scholars think this word should be translated "hidden rocks" instead of **spots**. The allusion is either to spots in garments, or in faces, or in sacrifices; or to a sort of earth that defiles; or else to rocks and hollow stones on shores, lakes, and rivers, which collect filth and slime.
      1. **Use I Timothy 1:19-20 as Paul’s example.**
2. **There are five “Word Pictures” represented here. Describe.**
   1. **Discuss the first “Word Picture,** “**feeding themselves without fear**,” **#1**.  
      these were like the shepherds of Israel, who fed themselves, and not the flock, and were very impious and impudent, open and bare faced in their iniquities, neither fearing God nor regarding man;
      1. **Talk about** “**Serving only themselves**.” See Romans 16:18, “8for those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+16%3A18&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28355a)] Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. Literally in the ancient Greek this is "shepherding themselves.” They were shepherds of a sort - but only shepherding **themselves**.
   2. **Discuss #2,** “**Clouds without water, carried by the winds**.” **Clouds** without water are good for nothing. They bring no life-giving rain and they only block out the sun. They exist just for themselves. The *certain men* were like these **clouds**.
      1. **Review Proverbs 25:14**. “Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind **without rain**.”
      2. **See Ephesians 4:14.** “That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,
      3. **Matthew 12:43.** Clouds carried by the wrong spirit.
   3. **Refer to the** “**Late autumn trees without fruit**,” **#3.** By **late autumn**, trees should have **fruit**. But these *certain men* did not bear **fruit** even when they should. They were like trees that only take instead of give.
      1. **What does “twice dead” mean? Refer to I Timothy 5:6, Revelation 20:6, 14, and 21:8.** **Twice dead**; that is, entirely, thoroughly, and really dead in trespasses and sins, notwithstanding their pretensions to religion and godliness; or the sense may be, that they were not only liable to a corporeal death, common to them with all mankind, but also to an eternal one, or to the death both of soul and body in hell. Homer calls those (diyaneiv), "twice dead", that go to hell alive: or rather the sense is this, that they were dead in sin by nature, as all men are, and again having made a profession of religion, were now become dead to that profession; and so were twice dead, once as they were born, and a second time as they had apostatized: second birth (1 John 2:19).  When they are dead, they only die once.  The Bible speaks of the second death in Revelation 20:6, Revelation 20:14 and Revelation 21:8 that the Lake of Fire is the SECOND DEATH that is died twice.
      2. **Compare to “twice born. See I John 2:19.**
      3. **Parallel Matthew 7:20, “by your fruits you shall know them.”**
   4. **Examine the use of Jude’s phrase,** “**Raging waves of the sea,” #4.** For modern man, the sea is often a thing of beauty. But to ancient man, especially in Biblical cultures, the sea was an unmanageable terror. Sea in scripture is unsaved
      1. **Review** **Psalm 89:9, 104:19 and Matthew 8:26.**
      2. **See** [**Isaiah 57:20**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Isaiah+57:20&t1=en_nas)**, which expresses this idea:** *But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt*. These *certain men* were busy and active like the **raging waves of the sea**, but all it brought was **foaming up their own shame**. Busyness is no mark of correctness. The fruit of these men was like the foam or scum at the seashore. Jude has in mind the ugly shoreline after a storm has washed up all sorts of driftwood, seaweed and debris.
      3. **See Revelation 21**:**1**…..no more sea.
   5. **Explain** “**Wandering stars,”** **#5**. Like meteorite and comets streaking through the sky, these *certain men* astonished the world for a time, and then vanished into darkness. An unpredictable star was no good for guidance and navigation. Even so these deceivers were useless and untrustworthy. Meteor flashes for a brief time.
      1. **Why did Jude end with the phrase,** “**Blackness of darkness forever?”** 
         1. **See Matthew 8:12.** This described their destiny. Unless they repent, they would end up in hell - and be there **forever**. The punishment of hell is **forever** because a *mere man* is paying for his own sins.
      2. **Support, with scripture, what happens to all apostates in the end.**
         1. **“And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**[**Matthew 25:30**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Matt%2025.30)
         2. **“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels…”**[**Matthew 25:41**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Matt%2025.41)
         3. **“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”**[**Matthew 25:46**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Matt%2025.46)
         4. **“…and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”** [**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Thess%201.7-9)
         5. **“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”** [**Revelation 20:10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Rev%2020.10)
      3. **Contrast, with scripture, why Christians will never face eternal death.**
         1. **“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”**[**Romans 5:9-10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Rom%205.9-10)
         2. **“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** [**1 Thessalonians 5:9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Thess%205.9)
3. **Sum-up verses 12-13.**
4. **Describe the process and parallel the downward degeneration of apostates from verse 11.**
   1. **Hidden rocks=unseen danger—contrast with solid rock of our salvation (I Peter 2:5)**
   2. **Waterless clouds=false promise—contrast with living water who comes with the clouds (John 7)**
   3. **Autumnal Fruitless trees/trees of death=barren profession—contrast to the tree of life (Isaiah 61:3)**
   4. **Raging seas=wasted effort—contrast to “He who leads beside still waters” (Isaiah 48:18)**
   5. **Wandering stars/eternal darkness=aimless course, ultimate perishing—contrast to “Bright and Morning Star” (Daniel 12:3)**

**And, here are the promises:**

**Romans 8:12-25, “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.**[**13**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-13.html)**For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**[**14**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-14.html)**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**[**15**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-15.html)**For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."**[**16**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-16.html)**The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**[**17**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-17.html)**and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.**[**18**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-18.html)**For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**[**19**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-19.html)**For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**[**20**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-20.html)**For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;**[**21**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-21.html)**because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**[**22**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-22.html)**For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.**[**23**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-23.html)**Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.**[**24**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-24.html)**For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?**[**25**](http://www.studylight.org/bible/nkj/romans/8-25.html)**But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”**

**NOTE: HEBREWS 6:4-6, ” For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6if they fall away,[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30051b)**] to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame.”**

**2 Peter 2:20-22, “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it,* to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”**