

(vv1-9) God wants us to control our tongues and defer to Him in all matters: **1 PETER 3:8-12; 2:1-10** we are a blessing as we speak of Jesus and praise Him before men. The apostates, the *'certain men'* from v4, are filthy dreamers, ungodly men, who secretly slithered into the church in Jude's time just as they do today.

(v10) *'But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.'* The *'certain men'* have traits that will accompany apostates wherever they go. The archangel Michael, though dealing with Satan himself, and possessing a far greater and complete spiritual knowledge, dared not speak out in slanderous judgment. But the *'certain men'* do not hesitate to speak judgment on matters they know nothing about. While they claim superior knowledge to others, as *'brute beasts'* they are entirely barren of true knowledge.

1 CORINTHIANS 2 (vv1-5) *'And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.'* What a disparity between Paul and the ungodly men Jude is speaking of (vv6-8) in the life of Jesus there were many Jewish apostates that claimed superior spiritual knowledge yet totally acted as brute beasts **MATTHEW 12:14; 27:1; JOHN 5:18; 11:53 (vv9-13)** this is speaking of the man (woman) who is born-again (v14) *'the natural man'* the Greek word is *'psuchikos'* – **belonging to the soul; the man (woman) living under the control of fleshly passions.** Unsaved people cannot discern the things of the Holy Spirit (v15) *'he that is spiritual'* the Greek word is *'pneumatikos'* – **this man (woman) lives under the control of the Holy Spirit; he (she) has the mind of Christ.** **JOHN 17:8; COLOSSIANS 1:9; ROMANS 8:13**

(v11) *'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.'* The ungodly men that secretly crept in were sexually impure, despised authority, slandered anyone they wanted to, acted as brute beasts though they claimed to be teachers and leaders. *'Woe to them!'* these ungodly men and women are eternally condemned. Those that Jude wrote of, as well as the unrepentant apostates that are alive today and continue with all of these evil traits.

God puts before us three examples of Old Testament men who led others to destruction; from which we need to apply to our lives:

1. *'the way of Cain'*
2. *'the error of Balaam'*
3. *'the rebellion of Korah'*

Apostates always lead people to the edge of a cliff, then right over it to their destruction. God continually warns of them in His Word.

#1. 'the way of Cain' - **GENESIS 4:1-8** Abel brought a blood sacrifice; Cain brought the works of his hands of the cursed earth. **HEBREWS 11:4; ROMANS 10:3** Abel offered by faith; both boys were taught that without the shedding of blood there was no remission of sins **ROMANS 10:17; GENESIS 3:7-21**. It is only by the shed blood of Jesus that one can be saved. The way of Cain is to blaspheme God by trying to add to His completed salvation. Cain knew God, he did not deny His existence, he was not an atheist; however he came to God his own way, not the way of faith. God did not receive his offering. **MATTHEW 7:13,14** Jesus is the only way to heaven, apostates deny this truth.

#2. 'the error of Balaam' – Balaam's desire was to become personally wealthy by making a business out of his service to God. Balaam, the Old Testament prophet, was hired by Israel's enemies to curse God's people. God warned Balaam not to do that: **NUMBERS 22:9-12** *'And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."* Balaam was greedy for reward, so instead of cursing Israel, he devised a scheme to lure them into sin with the daughters of Moab **NUMBERS 25:1-3; 31:14-16; REVELATION 2:14** *'the doctrine of Balaam.'* Even today Christianity is plagued with the sin of making it a profitable venture, and Jude warns us of false teachers attempting to do just that **MATTHEW 6:19,20; COLOSSIANS 2:2,3; HEBREWS 11:24-26**

#3. 'the rebellion of Korah' – **NUMBERS 16:1-34** Korah led an insurrection against God's appointed leaders. God judged Korah, and He will judge apostates that are here today and beyond for this.

APPLICATION IN OUR LIVES:

'the way of Cain' – trying to please God in our own way, not the way of faith **ROMANS 3:28**. We are saved only by faith in Jesus, not by works.

'the error of Balaam for profit' – greed; using your spiritual giftedness for profit is certainly against the will of God. **HEBREWS 13:5; 1 TIMOTHY 6:6** God wants us to be content and trust Him with our resources.

'the rebellion of Korah' – we must not rebel against Godly leaders who are anointed by God **TITUS 3:1,2** *'Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.'*

Apostates reveal their evilness by the fruit of their lives. **For us: walk in Jesus, obey His Word!**