

# **Jude 11-13**

## Examples of Cain, Balaam and Korah

Jeremy Doan

Holly Hills Bible Church

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## Jude 11-13 (NASB)

*11 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. 12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.*

# Outline of Jude (via Constable)

- Introduction vs. 1-2
- The purpose of this epistle vs. 3-4
- Warnings against false teachers vs. 5-16
  - Previous failures vs. 5-7
    - The example of certain Israelites v. 5
    - The example of certain angels v. 6
    - The example of certain pagans v. 7
  - Present failures vs. 8-16
    - The nature of the error vs. 8-9
    - **The seriousness of the error vs. 10-13**
    - The consequences of the error vs. 14-16
- Exhortation to the faithful vs. 17-23
  - The reminder to remember the apostles' warning vs. 17-19
  - The positive instruction of the readers vs. 20-23
- Conclusion vs. 24-25

# Judian Triads

- Three sinful errors/corruptions in verse 8 are tied to earlier examples
  - Lust – *defile the flesh*
    - Verse 7 – *indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh*
  - Rebellion – *reject authority*
    - Verse 5 – *those who did not believe*
  - Irreverence – *revile angelic majesties/glories*
    - Verse 6 – *angels who did not keep their own domain*
- Three examples of blasphemies/slandering
  - Verse 8 – *revile angelic majesties/glories*
  - Verse 9 – *railing judgment*
  - Verse 10 – *revile the things*

# Raising Cain

*11 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.*

- *Woe to them*
  - Woe – a denunciation; shame upon them<sup>1</sup>
    - An imprecation of doom<sup>2</sup>
    - Matt. 23:13-29 – woes to the Scribes and Pharisees
  - Them – the apostates of the previous verses
- *Gone the way of Cain*
  - Genesis 4 – *but for Cain and for his offering [God] had no regard*
  - 1 John 3:12 – *[Cain's] deeds were evil, and his brothers were righteous*
  - The error of pride, greed, and selfishness

<sup>1</sup>Greek definitions come from Zodhiates

<sup>2</sup>from Constable

# Fools rush in

*11 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.*

- *For pay* – wages gotten through iniquity; wages of unrighteousness (see 1 Cor. 3:8)
- *Rushed headlong* – lit. *they have poured themselves out*
- *Error of Balaam*
  - Numbers 22-24
    - Balaam hired to curse Israel; God turns it to a blessing
    - Killed in Numbers 31:8
    - Referenced in Deuteronomy 23:4, 5; Joshua 13:22; 24:9, 10; Nehemiah 13:2; Micah 6:5
  - Numbers 31:16 – counseled Israel to sin
  - 2 Peter 2:15 – *[Balaam] loved the wages of unrighteousness*

# What has God done for me lately?

*11 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.*

- *Perished in the rebellion of Korah*
  - Numbers 16
    - Korah leads a rebellion against Moses and Aaron
    - The earth swallows them up
    - A plague kills 14,700
  - Number 16:9 – *Is it not enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you ...?*
    - They ignored what God had done for them in bringing them out of Egypt
    - They ignored the position in the nation God had given them
  - Reminds of James 3:1 – *Let not many of you become teachers...*

## 5 metaphors

*12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts  
when they feast with you without fear, caring for  
themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds;  
autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, 13 wild waves of  
the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering  
stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved  
forever, uprooted;*

- Hidden reefs
- Clouds without water
- Autumn trees without fruit
- Wild waves of the sea
- Wandering stars



# No safe harbor

*12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;*

- *Hidden reefs in your love feasts*
  - Hidden reefs – a rock by or in the sea, a cliff or sandbank on which vessels are shipwrecked
  - Love feasts (greek is agape) – public banquets instituted by the early church and connected with the celebration of the Lord's Supper
  - Caring for – to shepherd, tend
    - 1 Peter 5:1-3 – *shepherd the flock of God among you*
  - Without fear – fearless
    - Implies there is a callousness of conscience

# Blowing in the wind

*12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; **clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;***

- *Clouds without water*

- Clouds that can be seen, but bring no good
- 1 Corinthians 3:6 – *Apollos watered*
- Hebrews 13:9 – *Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings*

- *Autumn trees without fruit*

- Dead, without leaves and without fruit – no sign of Christ's life
- Autumn – indicates end of life
- Uprooted = judgment (see Ps. 52:5; Prov. 2:22; Jer. 1:10)

# Born to be Wild

*13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.*

- *Wild waves of the sea*

- Shame – literally *shameless deeds*<sup>3</sup>; disgraceful conduct
- Wild – wild, turbulent, tempestuous; untamed
- Spread the evidence of their misdeeds

- *Wandering stars*

- Possibly referring to comets
  - Do not belong to the system
  - Soon fizzle out and die
- Darkness – spiritual darkness; eternal misery and damnation
- Their spiritual destruction is assured

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<sup>3</sup>BlueLetterBible.com

# Who are these people?

- These apostates are fleshly, irreverent, rebellious, arrogant, worldly, unrighteous, self-centered, ungrateful, selfish, uncaring, bombastic, shallow, fruitless, lifeless, shameless, disgraceful, frivolous, unrooted, and ignorant
- The path these apostates are on surely leads to spiritual destruction, if not more.
- How does the teaching of false teachers correspond to the character of false teachers?
- Why is Jude so concerned with the actions of these apostates?

## Jude 11-13 (Wuest)

*11 Woe to them, because in the way of Cain they took their way, and to the error of Balaam they abandoned themselves for a reward, and in the gainsaying of Kore they perished. These are those individuals who are hidden rocks in your love feasts, sumptuously feasting with you without fear, as shepherds leading themselves to pasture, waterless clouds carried along by winds, autumn trees without fruit, having died twice, rooted up, wild, untamed sea waves, foaming up their own shames, wandering meteors, for whom the blackness of the darkness has been reserved forever.*