

Lesson 7 – WHAT A PERSON TRULY BELIEVES WILL BE REVEALED BY HOW THEY ACT – Part 4**Jude 1:8 - 11 (NASB)**

⁸Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.

(Pride = A deadly sin. Prov.6:16-19)

⁹But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

¹⁰But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.

¹¹Woe 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.

THEY REJECT DIVINE AUTHORITY (JUDE 8-9)

Even the Archangel Michael (Dan. 10:13) did not dare to rebuke Satan, but respected the authority given to him by God.

Michael means “Who is like God?”

Satan had said in his rebellion, “I will be like the Most High!” (Isa. 14:14)

Sin that cost Adam = “You shall be as gods” (Gen. 3:5).

- We have no information about the conflict between Satan and Michael over the body of Moses. When Moses died, the Lord buried him and no one knew where the grave was located and still don't. (Deut. 34:5-6).
- The point is that Michael did not rebuke Satan, but left that to the Lord. Zechariah 3:1-5 = It is a dangerous thing for God's people to confront Satan directly and to argue with him, because he is much stronger than we are.

If an archangel is careful about the way he deals with the devil, how much more cautious ought we to be! While it is true that we share in the victory of Jesus, it is also true that we must not be presumptuous. Satan is a dangerous enemy, and when we resist him, we must be sober and vigilant (1 Peter 5:8-9).

Cain: God rejected Cain's offering because God rejected Cain: his heart was not right before God (see Gen. 4)

Cain rebelled against God's way of salvation (1 John 3:11-12).

- By clothing Adam and Eve with the skins of slain animals (Gen. 3:21), God made it clear that the only way of forgiveness is through the shedding of blood. This is the way of faith, not the way of good works (Eph. 2:8-10). But Cain rejected this divinely authorized way and came to the altar with the fruits of his own labor. It was *by faith* that Abel's sacrifice was offered, and that was why God accepted it (Heb. 11:4).
- The “way of Cain” is the way of religion without faith in Jesus. Righteousness based on character and good works. The “way of Cain” is the way of pride, a man establishing his own righteousness and rejecting the righteousness of God that comes through faith in Jesus (Rom. 10:1-4; Phil. 3:3-12).

Balaam: He prostituted his gifts for money and led Israel to mix with the other nations (see 2 Peter 2:15-16)

The “way of Balaam” is merchandising one's gifts and ministry just for the purpose of making money. It is using the spiritual to gain the material (1 Thes. 2:5-6; 1 Tim. 6:3-21).

- In practical terms, the teaching or doctrine of Balaam is the view that Christians can—or even should—compromise their convictions for the sake of popularity, money, sexual gratification, or personal gain. It’s the attitude that treats sin as “no big deal.” Christians can’t—and shouldn’t—totally shun the presence of sinners or unbelievers (Luke 7:34; 1 Corinthians 5:9–13), but we are obligated to stand up for truth (Ephesians 4:25), righteousness (Proverbs 23:20; Romans 14:22), and goodness (2 Peter 1:5, Matthew 5:16), whether it’s what others want to hear or not (John 4:16–18; 8:11; Acts 24:24–25).

The “error” of Balaam – Num. 20: 2-24

- *the error* and *way* of Balaam have to do with “monetary gain”; and, according to the Old Testament account, monetary gain derived through this means is acquired through one’s willingness to compromise the principles of God and proclaim things contrary to the revealed Word of God (though Balaam was prevented from doing this and could only utter that which was in accord with the revealed Word of God).

The “doctrine” of Balaam – Rev. 2:14

- It is the attitude that one can be fully cooperative with the world and still serve God.
- The doctrine of Balaam teaches compromise, wanting Christians to forget they are called to be separate and holy (Leviticus 20:26; 1 Peter 1:2);
- the doctrine of Balaam makes believers indistinguishable from the unbelieving world (Matthew 5:13).
- The doctrine of Balaam is a belief that “a little sin” doesn’t hurt (Galatians 5:9), especially if there’s some financial or personal benefit involved (1 Timothy 6:5).
 - A person following the doctrine of Balaam is willing to compromise his beliefs for the sake of economics. He acts to enable sinful behaviors for personal gain or even participate in them (Romans 1:32).

Korah: *He rebelled against God’s authority by denying that Moses was God’s appointed servant and attempting to usurp his authority.* (Numbers 16)

- Korah and his followers resented the leadership of Moses and dared God to do anything about their rebellion. In speaking against (“gainsaying”) Moses, they were speaking against the Lord who had given Moses his authority. This is a warning to us today, for it is so easy to speak against spiritual or governmental leaders in a careless way (see Titus 3:1-2). God judged Korah and his followers and established clearly the authority of His servant, Moses.

Monday Morning Moment: Action Step

“Make a point to create and follow a daily personal spiritual growth plan that works for you, and start following”

Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

¹⁵But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”