

Beware! Rebellion & Covetousness

Jude 11

Numbers 16:1-22

Philippians 2:1-11



2 June 2024

A Letter to the Blessed (Jude 1-2)

- Connecting Psalm 1:1-3, 119:1-2, with Jude 1-2

Contending for the Faith (Jude 3)

- A call that goes out to ALL saints.
- To “earnestly contend” for the faith one must know doctrine.
- To know doctrine one must be a disciple of God's Word. (1 Timothy 4:13, 16)
- A warning against standing only for a part and not the whole.
- To “contend earnestly” one must test EVERYTHING one reads and hears by the written Word of God. (1 Thessalonians 5:21; Isaiah 8:20)

The Deception of the Times (Jude 4)

- Many false teachers (Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24; 1 John 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1; 2 John 7)
- God warns that deception will get worse and worse. (2 Timothy 3:13)
- A failure to test everything by the whole counsel of God. (Acts 17:11; Isaiah 8:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:21)
- Saints are commanded to grow and mature in order that “we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried away with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting . . .” (Ephesians 4:13-14)

Be Warned (Jude 11)

- The Way of Cain
- The Error of Balaam
- The Rebellion of Korah

Who Was Korah? (Numbers 16:1-40)

- A Levite of the tribe of the privileged family of Kothath.
 - The Levites: A Gift to the High Priest (Numbers 3:6-13)
 - They were **chosen** by God. (Deuteronomy 18:5)
 - They were **separated** by God. (Numbers 1:48-53)

- They **belonged** to the LORD. (Numbers 8:14; 3:12, 45)
 - Their duties (service) were **determined** by God. (Numbers 3)
 - **KOHATHITES**: the Ark, the Table of Shewbread, the Lampstand, the Altars, the utensils, the screen.
 - The Levites received no inheritance (land) – God was their inheritance! (Deut. 10:9; 18:1-2; Ezekiel 44:28).
 - They were **presented** (*given*) by God to the Aaron, the High Priest to serve him and the congregation. (Numbers 3:6-7; 8:14; 16:9)
- **YET, despite all of these blessings Korah was not CONTENT!**

A Covetous Rebel (Numbers 16:1-3)

- His covetousness - wanting something that was not his to have.
- His rebellion - rebelling against God's appointed leaders.
- Korah, along with **sons of Reuben**, gather to themselves 250 leaders (men of renown) **against** Moses. So, this is a nationwide rebellion.
- Korah has a "stated reason" for coming against Moses: "You take too much upon yourself, *for the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why do you exalt yourself above the congregation of the LORD?*" (v. 3)
- **BUT** Korah has a "hidden agenda" – He wants to be **PRIEST!** (v. 10)
- Korah **coveted** Aaron's God's appointed position.
- Korah **seems** to be standing up for all the people when he really has self-ambition.
- Korah was **not satisfied** in all of his God-given privileges! He wanted what God had given to others!

Moses, A Godly Response (Numbers 16:4-7)

- (Numbers 12:3) The Holy Spirit declared that Moses was the **meekest** man on the face of the earth.
- Definitions: Humility and Meekness
 - Humility is NOT thinking lowly of yourself. It is NOT thinking of yourself at all. (Philippians 2:2-5; Luke 9:23; 14:7-11; Romans 12:10; Ephesians 4:2; 5:21; 1 John 3:16; Matthew 20:26-28; John 13:1-17)
 - ✓ Humility is serving your brothers and sisters as a **bond servant - just as Christ!** (Philippians 2:5-8; Matthew 20:25-28)
 - ✓ Humility is denying yourself. (Luke 9:23)
 - ✗ Pride always leads to destruction, shame, strife dishonor. The proud will be put down! **God hates the proud.** (Proverbs 6:16-17; 8:13; 11:2; 13:10; 16:17-18; **16:5**; 21:4; 29:23)
 - MEEK **does not** mean WEAK.
 - ✓ MEEK is POWER submitted to the higher power. Christ commanded us to learn from His humble and meek example and in so doing we

- will find **PEACE** for our souls (lives). (Matthew 11:29)
- ✓ Meekness is being controlled by the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Moses was **God's appointed** leader for Israel and Aaron was **God's appointed** high priest.. (Exod 3:10; 1 Sam. 12:6; Psalm 105:26; Acts 7:35)
- Moses was NOT taking this responsibility on himself – see v. 28.
- Korah and his followers were **rebellng** against **GOD!**
- Moses fell on his face! Also see verse 22!
- (vv. 5-7) Moses' does not argue with Korah. Moses' simply hands the situation over to the LORD – confident that the LORD would do what was **RIGHT**.

Be Clothed with Humility

- Christ is our example. (Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:1-11)
- God gives grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5; Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6)
- Evidence of humility: SERVANTHOOD/SUBMISSION
- Getting dressed (an act of the will):
 - ❶ Submit to God. (1 Peter 5:6-7)
 - ★ Submission to God is an act of **faith**. It is **trusting** God with our lives, our future, and our destiny **knowing** that He cares for us.
 - ❷ Submit to each other. (1 Peter 5:5)
 - Children submit to parents. (Ephesians 6:1; **Colossians 3:20**)
 - Wives submit to husbands. (1 Peter 3:1-7)
 - Church members submit to elders. (Hebrews 13:17)
 - Citizens submit to government authorities. (1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1-5)
 - Slaves submit to masters. (1 Peter 2:18-25)
 - All believers submit to each other. (1 Peter 5:5; Ephesians 5:21)

Is It a Small Thing to You? (Numbers 16:8-10)

- Is it a small thing that God separated you from all humanity to being near to Him? (1 Peter 3:18; 1 Cor 6:11; Heb 10:10; Jude 1)
- Is it a small thing that God foreordained work for you to do in serving the living God? (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14)
- ★ Is it a small thing that God chose you, predestined you, call you, justified you, and glorified you that you should not serve Him with the grace and gifts He has given you? (Romans 8:28-30; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

Seeking Those Things That Are Not Ours to Have (vv. 10-11)

- Genesis 1:1 — God created the heavens and the earth for Himself. (Proverbs 16:4; Romans 11:36)
- God has a PERFECT PLAN and in this plan He has **ordained** how things are to be.
- Wives and mothers are to be wives and mothers in accordance to God's Word.

- Husbands and fathers are to husbands and fathers as ordained by God.
- Elders' qualifications are decided by God – NOT the (or "a") Church.
- All are to serve in the ROLES that God has foreordained.

God's Judgment on Korah **and** His Followers (Numbers 16:15-40)

- "and it came to pass" - "it" being the will of God.
- God's wrath **displayed!**
- God is a God of love, mercy, grace, holiness, **and** anger and wrath.
- God is slow to anger (Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Nahum 1:3)
BUT HE IS PROVOKED to ANGER! (Isaiah 1:4).
- "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!" (Heb 10:30-31)
- "The LORD **reigns** . . . a fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about." (Psalm 97:1, 3)

Have We Been Warned?

- ① God commands us in both the Old and New Testaments to honour, respect, and follow His appointed leaders – family (Exodus 20:12; Eph. 6:1-3; 1 Cor.11:3; Col. 3:20, government (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:17), and church. (1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24).
- ② Covetousness is **SIN**. Covetousness is **IDOLATRY!** (Exodus 20:17; Colossians 3:5)
- ③ We are commanded to be **CONTENT** with what we have, where we are, and what God has given us to do. (Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6-9; Hebrews 13:5-6)
- ④ We must **BEWARE** of following those who are rebelling against God's appointed leaders. God not only destroyed Korah, He also consumed those who followed him. (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Cor 16:15-16; 1 Tim 5:17)
- ⑤ **To rebel against God's appointed leaders is to rebel against God. This is NO SMALL THING (Numbers 16:11).**
- ⑥ As God **gave** the Levites to Aaron, He has **given** born-again believers (His own) to Christ, our High Priest. (John 6:37; 17:2, 6, 8, 9, 11, 24) **This is a GREAT PRIVILEGE.**
- ⑦ God places us (everyone of us) into the Body of Christ as He sees fit. Each Christian is to use God's given grace and gifts inside the Body for the good of the Body. Not to use God's given grace and gift inside a local Body is SIN. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16) We are to do everything unto the Lord with all of our heart. (Col 3:17, 23)
- ⑧ He who exalts himself will be humbled! (Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11)
- ⑨ Blessed are the MEEK - they shall inherit the earth (the new one). (Matthew 5:5; Psalm 37:11; Matthew 11:29)