

“CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH - PART 4” (Jude 1:8-11)

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INTRO: Jude exhorts believers to contend for the faith (v. 3) because of the infiltration of false teachers [apostates] in the church (v. 4). Apostates - those who are promoting religious beliefs contrary to the true faith, while often pretending to accept and profess the true faith. The primary characteristic of apostates is denying Jesus is Lord (v. 4)! Jude gave three examples of previous apostates and their consequences (vv. 5-7).

8 CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE MODERN APOSTATES:

1. **They defile the flesh** (v. 8a) – they contaminate their bodies with sin by yielding to their carnal desires.
2. **They reject authority** (v. 8b) – they reject God’s direct and delegated authority over their lives.
3. **They speak evil of dignitaries** (vv. 8c-9) – scoff at or blaspheme supernatural beings like angels (Dt. 34:5-6).
 - a. Be careful what you say about the devil, demons, etc.
4. **They speak evil of what they don’t know** (v. 10a).
5. **They corrupt themselves in what they do know naturally** (v. 10b) – follow their carnal instincts like an animal.
6. **They have gone in the way of Cain** (v. 11; Gen. 4:5-12).
 - a. Cain’s worship was what God wanted, not so with Abel.
 - b. Cain murdered Abel out of jealousy and hatred.
 - c. Rule over sin or sin will rule over you (Gen. 4:7)!
 - d. God held Cain accountable (Gen. 4:8-12; 1Jn. 3:11-12).
7. **They have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit** (v. 11b; Num. 22-24; 25:1-2; 31:16, 8; 2Pet. 2:15-16).
 - a. Balaam prostituted his gift for financial gain.
 - b. Balaam lead Israel into immorality & idolatry.
 - c. God dealt with Balaam (Num. 31:8).
8. **They have perished in the rebellion of Korah** (v. 11c; Num. 16). Korah rebelled against authority and perished.

CONCLUSION: God judged sin in the past and will do so in the present and future! Let’s contend for the faith! People’s eternity will depend on it! Don’t forget – it’s all about Jesus – submit fully to His authority in your life!