We have learned of the ‘three threes’ that Jude put forth. Three examples of apostate rebellion, then follow on destruction…apostate characteristics, that pave a path to destruction…and today we’ll learn about apostate motivation, which leads to destruction.

The ‘three threes’ –

1) v5-7: example of Israel, angels and Gentiles rebelling…led to destruction

2) v8-10: characteristics are immoral, irreverent and they take lightly the word of God…led to destruction

3) v11-13: their motivation is that of Cain, Balaam, and Korah…woe to them…they are D-E-A-D dead and even doubly dead!

v11 –

**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! because in the way of Cain they went, and to the error of Balaam for reward rushed, and in the rebellion of Korah perished.*

We are going to spend the next 20 minutes discussing this escalating sequence…these apostates begin with the way of Cain, escalate and rush to the error of Balaam, and finally perish…the ultimate escalation…they perish as unto the rebellion of Korah. They went…they rushed…they perished! Note the word for rushed is *ekcheo*. It means to rush…to pour…to gush. As a matter of fact, Doctor Luke uses this word to describe Judas’ intestines when he hung himself in **Acts 1:18 - falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.**

So these apostates went, they rushed and they perished…they rushed in such a way that it could be described that they poured or gushed into the error of Balaam for reward.

*What is the way of Cain?*

**Heb 11:4 - By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.**

Cain is contrasted with Abel here…Abel had the right kind of faith…Cain had the wrong kind of faith. Evidently, God had given Adam and Eve the rules regarding what a proper sacrifice should look like. Abel took these rules to heart and offered God a sacrifice that was according to God’s way…the result was God accepted Abel’s sacrifice. Apparently, Cain decided his way for offering a sacrifice to God was better than God’s way…and the result was God rejected Cain’s sacrifice. All that said, Heb 11 indicates there was a certain element of faith involved here. So we can conclude that Cain preferred Cain’s way verses God’s way and preferred faith in Cain vice faith in God. Bottom line, Cain’s way was the religion of his own works without faith.

**1 Jn 3:11-13 - For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous. 13Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.**

So Cain liked things his way, he put faith in himself…and he is of the evil one…he manufactures his own religion and kills the souls of other people by this error.

*What was the error of Balaam?*

Let’s look at how Peter describes apostates –

**2 Pe 2:15-16 - forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, *for* a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.**

So Balaam was a prophet for hire. He loved money and spoke blessings or curses on those who would pay him for either. He is the prototype of all greedy religionists who lead God’s people into false religion and immorality.

Balaam refused to speak what God did not speak and would not curse the Israelites, even though King [Balak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balak) of Moab offered him money to do so. (Nu 22–24). But Balaam's error and the source of his wickedness came from sabotaging the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land. According to Nu 31:16 and Rev 2:14, Balaam returned to King Balak and informed the king on how to get the Israelites to curse themselves by enticing them with prostitutes and unclean food sacrificed to idols. The Israelites fell into transgression due to these traps and God sent a deadly plague to them as a result (Nu 31:16).

So Balaam loved money…he prophesied for money. He brought a curse on Israel by having the Midianite women seduce the Israelite men with idolatry and immorality.

So to sum up Jude’s reference to Cain and Balaam – apostates follow the religion of self effort and self worth…they hate truth and the righteous…they love money and will prefer money over God’s ways…they may even sabotage the church because of their love of money.

*What was Korah’s rebellion?*

Korah gathered followers and trained them to come against Moses and his position of authority…a position that was instituted by God himself (Nu 16).

So Cain did it his way…not God’s way, Balaam loved money over God’s truth…this is an error, And Korah tried to put himself above Moses…he perished and took over 250 men down to their death in the process. These are the ways and motives of apostates.

v12 –

**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;**

These are the, in the love feasts of you, hidden reefs; feasting together [with you] fearlessly, themselves shepherding; clouds without water, by winds being carried about, trees autumnal without fruit, twice having died, having been uprooted;

*These are the, in the love feasts of you, hidden reefs –*

*Write down you findings regarding ‘hidden reefs’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek origin is *spi-las*, which means ‘hidden rock’ or ‘false teacher’. It appears only once in the NT here in Jude. Jude is telling us to watch out because these apostates are stealthy…they’re sneaky…they’re like hidden rocks that a sailor may not see until they wreck on the reef. These apostates act as the tool for which the devil desires to dash the church against…not unlike a shallow area among the seas that a ship is dashed against.

And this peril awaits you during the love feast. The love feast was a large dinner that occurred prior to communion.

*feasting together [with you] fearlessly, themselves shepherding –*

*Write down you findings regarding ‘fearlessly’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek is *aphobós*. It could mean ‘fearless’ or ‘shameless’. So these apostates act as a means to shipwreck Christians during love feasts because they shamelessly carouse and feast, only tending to their own needs…they might be gluttonous while others standby in hunger. This may be part of the reason why Paul gives such stern warnings to the Corinthians in 1 Co 11.

*clouds without water, by winds being carried about, trees autumnal without fruit, twice having died, having been uprooted –*

Now Jude is going into a bit of a tirade. He lists a bunch of symbols explaining how worthless an apostate is. An apostate is a cloud without water blown about by the wind…he shows promise but delivers nothing of substance…further, he has no apparent direction…wherever the wind blows is where he goes. He’s a fruit tree after the harvest…there’s no fruit on it and it will contribute nothing…as a matter of fact, the apostate will produce nothing ever. Not only is it a fruit tree after harvest, but it’s been uprooted…you won’t even see fruit from him next year.

v13 –

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

Waves wild of [the] sea, foaming out [own] of their shame; stars wandering, to whom the gloom of darkness to [the] age has been reserved.

*Waves wild of [the] sea, foaming out [own] of their shame –*

*Write down you findings regarding ‘foaming out’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek origin is *epaphrizó*, which means ‘to foam out’ or ‘to vomit forth’. It refers to the refuse that forms at the crest of waves. We’ve all seen wild waves produced by storms and how they bring forth plenty of interesting things to our beaches. Well, Jude continues his tirade of symbols and compares apostates to a restless sea that is good for nothing except vomiting its shame and disgrace on the sea shore. Keep in mind that a restless sea was avoided back in Jude’s day. Many earned their living on the sea, and if it was rough and wild, they couldn’t do their job…perhaps ‘useless as a restless sea’ was a saying back then of those who didn’t ‘pull their own weight’.

*stars wandering, to whom the gloom of darkness to [the] age has been reserved –*

*Write down you findings regarding ‘wandering’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek origin is *planétés*, which means ‘to wander’ or ‘a wandering star’…this is where we get the word planet. Of course, Aristotle dubbed ‘wandering star’ when he noted planets were not on the same relative orbit/rotation as the earth…while the star’s positions were predictable relative to the earth’s own orbit/rotation, the ‘wandering stars’, or planets, seemed to have their own path that went against the cosmic flow of the others.

So for Jude’s final slight, he appears to be comparing apostates to planets, vice stars…yet again, he is saying they are useless to the rest of us…you see, it is by stellar navigation that mankind has been guided through the ages. The wandering stars are always the ones that cause confusion and misguide us. The rest of the stars adhere to God’s plan, while the wandering stars insist on doing things their own way…and in the process, just like Korah…they end up causing others to get lost and fall to their destruction.

Woe to the apostates. They manufacture their own religion that is based on self effort and self worth…they do it their way instead of God’s way. They seek wealth at nearly all cost…even Balaam drew the line at cursing God’s people himself…instead he just gave Balak the plan that would cause Israel to transgress, and thereby, force a curse upon themselves. Finally, apostates always end up pull others down with them…just like Korah did.

Apostates are worthless and only cause turmoil and confusion. They act as a means to shipwreck Christians, they care only for themselves as they have plenty while others ‘have not’…they appear to have promise but deliver no refreshment to Christians…they have no fruit and will never have fruit…they vomit their shame upon the church and misguide others that think they are real Christians.