

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 9- Going the Way of Cain **Jude 11**

99 Going the Way of Cain Part 1

WOSM Monday 03/24/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing in our Journey through the Epistle of Jude and today I want to see what Jude meant when he pronounced an everlasting and eternal condemnation upon the heretics who bring in false doctrine and ungodly teaching into the House of God. So, let's read verse 11 of Jude again together:

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.

Now I want to look closely at this profile that Jude is giving us here of the spiritual terrorists that creep into the Church and lie in wait in their sleeper cells awaiting the right moment to use their dirty bombs of false teaching and bad doctrine to try to destroy the Church.

Notice in verse 11 that Jude tells us that these heretics have “**gone in the way of Cain**”. Now in order to understand what Jude is talking about, we need to learn about this man named Cain. So, let's turn to **Genesis 4:1-17**:

1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD* ."

2 Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground.

4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat

portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering;
5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

7 "If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

10 He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground.

11 "Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

12 "When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth."

13 Cain said to the LORD , "My punishment is too great to bear!"

14 "Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

15 So the LORD said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him.

16 Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD , and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

17 Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son.

So, as we read about Cain- we can notice several things. First of all, Cain tried to worship God on his *own* terms and in his *own* way. His arrogance and pride caused him to believe that God should and must accept his worship for no other reason other than Cain had offered it. But as we can see- God utterly rejected Cain's attempt at worship; He rejected Cain's offering; God would not accept Cain's

worship at all. Now Jude tells us here that one of the patterns of the false teachers is that they will also “go” or operate in the same way that Cain went. The heretics will teach that we can bring any offering to the Lord and the Lord will accept it.

In other words- the heretics will teach that people can worship God any way that they choose to and at whatever time that they choose to, and that God should be grateful that He is worshipped at all. They will teach that there is no Standard that God expects, and that God demands from those who are His; there is no prescribed method that God has chosen for us to come before Him, and we are free to offer God whatever we want to- and that is simply not true.

Dear friends, look how God responded to Cain’s offering in **Genesis 4:6&7:**

6 ..."Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?

7 "If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Today we think that anytime that someone’s countenance falls that it is because they have been mistreated. But did God mistreat Cain here? Was God rude to Cain? No, He was not.

God tells Cain here that if the Lord does not accept his sacrifice and offering and worship- it is because there is sin lying at the door. And this point underlies all that worship really is. Worship is not something that we do during the song service on Sunday Morning, brothers and sisters. Worship is our heart attitude toward God in all that we do and in every area of our lives 24 hours every day and 7 days every week.

So genuine Worship will teach us how to handle our money; how to raise our children; how to talk; and what to think about the great issue of our day. True Worship in Spirit and in Truth is all about us realizing that God deserves, and He is entitled to our full devotion and our total service and that we view it as being our highest honor and our greatest privilege to totally sacrifice our wills and our plans and our desires to God and to live our lives in complete abandon to the Glory of God alone.

But “going in the way of Cain” teaches us how to live our lives to fulfill our *own* dreams and to satisfy our *own* desires and to do what is right in our *own* eyes – all to our glory. “Going in the way of Cain” sees God as living and existing for no other reason other than to give us whatever our hearts crave after and to whatever extent we want.

But true worship is all about God being Master and Lord and King and Father and us assuming the role and position and language of a slave while “going in the way of Cain” is all about us being lord and master and of God doing *our* bidding.

So, if God had spoken those words to you- how would you have reacted? If you heard the Owner and Creator of the Universe tell *you* that if *your* offering is not received because there is sin at your door- would you have argued with God or would you have fallen on your face in anguish- repenting of your evil heart? You see, how you respond to God’s rebuke is what reveals what condition your heart is truly in. Let me repeat that. How you respond to the rebuke of God- not the blessing of God- but the rebuke of God- is a reflection of the condition of your heart.

Now notice Cain’s reaction to the Lord’s rebuke in Verse 5:

... So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

Now why did Cain react this way? Some say it was because he was disappointed. But that is not the case. Cain reacted this way because his heart was evil and in rebellion to God. To illustrate this point, let’s read in **Hebrews 12:5-13**:

5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

12 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble,

13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that *the limb* which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

Like so many today, Cain really and truly in his heart of hearts did not want God's Will in his life; Cain did not seek to live his life in such a way to please the Lord; Cain did not desire to do that which was good in God's sight- No, he sought to do what was right in his *own* eyes and then got bent out of shape when God didn't accept it and bless it. This reaction by Cain illustrates where many people are today in their Theology.

You see, dear friends, there exists in the Church today two competing theologies. One theology is centered on Man and the other is centered on God. A "Man-centered" theology elevates everything about Man. Therefore, in a Man-centered Theology- all teaching and prayers and preaching centers around what exalts Man; what magnifies Man; and what will glorify Man. And that theology is "going in the way of Cain".

A God-centered Theology is just the opposite. A God centered theology will center everything around God. Therefore, in a God centered theology- all preaching and teaching and prayers are based on what exalts God; what magnifies God; and what will bring God Glory. And that theology is Biblical.

So, as you can see- these two approaches to God are diametrically opposite from one another; they *compete* against each other for our affections and loyalty; they fight against each other and they are at war with each other. And for about 1850 years- a God-centered theology dominated the teaching of practically every Church- but over the last 150 years or so- we have seen a dramatic shift away from a Biblical God centered theology and we have regressed back to going the way of Cain and toward a Man-centered theology. And this change has wrecked havoc in the Church and in our culture.

So here in verse 11- Jude says that the heretics “go in the way of Cain”. The heretics teach that we can approach unto God in the same way and with the same heart as Cain did and because hearing things that tickle our ears pleases our carnal flesh- and because operating under a Man- centered theology satisfies our fallen nature- many today in the modern Church have completely abandoned a God-centered theology and are “going in the way of Cain”.

So, because this is a real and serious problem- Jude cries out to those who have an ear to hear and pleads with us to earnestly contend for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I’ve got to stop right here. But please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse- by- verse Journey through the **Epistle of Jude**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.