

Episode 11: Jude 11

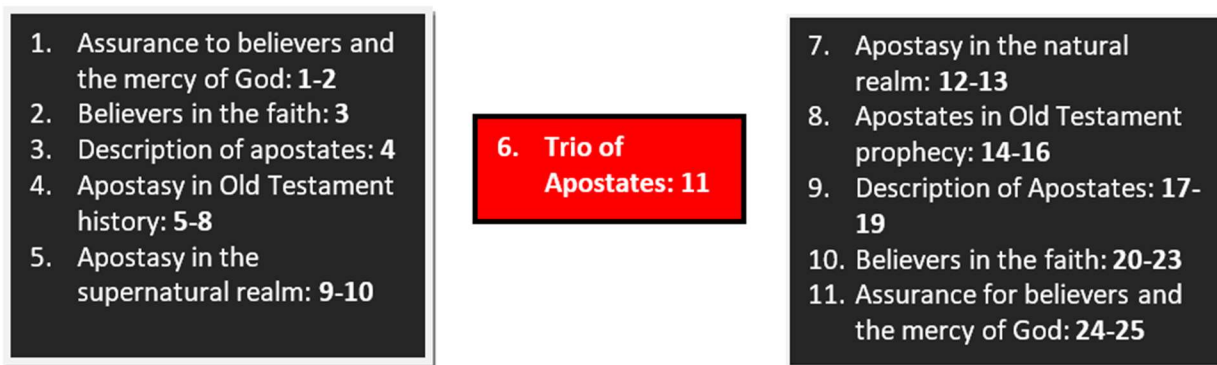
Jude 11

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.

Triad 11: “Cain,” “Balaam,” and “Korah”

We have now come to the center piece of the text. Let us return to our diagram which sets for the spiritual layout of **Jude**. **Jude 11** comprises the 6th or middle grouping of scriptures, and it is the 11th triad, the triad of chaos. According to the Biblical numerology, 11 is the number associated with chaos.

The Spirit uses a triad of Old Testament examples of apostasy as a picture and a **WARNING** and as a sign which gives us insight into the meaning of the infamous and mysterious **666** –the number of the Beast.¹ This chart is in the transcript which you can download for free at threshermediagroup.com. If you remember, Jude is set up with bookends, 5 sections in front, then this middle 6th section, and then 5 more sections at the end. In the first bookend (1-5), then the 6th Trio of Apostates, and then the second bookend (7-11).



This 11th triad describes the sensuality addressed in **Jude 4** and depicts its terrible affects through the way of Cain, Ballam’s error, and through Korah’s rebellion. Cain in effect wanted to be good like God; Balaam desired the blessings that this world has to offer; and Korah lusted for power and authority. The three of them loved what this world has to offer, and it is these three sensual indulgences which chart for us the slippery slope of apostasy all of which begins to give meaning and insight into the number of the Beast: **666** (which we will dive into deeply when we get to **Revelation 13**).

¹ **Revelation 13:18**

1 John 2:15-16

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the **boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

The lust of the flesh (the craving deep within our soul which tries so hard to be good like God); the lust of the eyes (wanting the riches and luxuries that this world has to offer); and the boastful pride of life (wanting to be the chosen one with the all the requisite power and control over people). These apostasies are the way of Cain, Ballam's error, and Korah's rebellion.

These are the core sensual corruptions of grace, as they tear away from the truth that everything good that we could ever need or want comes only from the Father of lights.² Those who live according to these three sensual indulgences do not have the love of the Father abiding in them and are, in effect, now marked by the number of the Beast: **666**.³

Just the suggestion that these three sensual indulgences are tied to the mark of the Beast, **666**, is mind-blowing and revelatory. We will study this in **Revelation 13** where if one does not now and continually bear the mark, either the name of this demon who is referred to throughout **Revelation** as the Beast or the number of His name, they cannot buy or sell in the market economy that undergirds the religions of our world. This passage is shockingly rendered in the *present* tense, as something that is happening even now.

Just fathom the implications. A second demon, a lesser beast who is referred to as the False Prophet, who serves the first demon (the Beast), is even **now** causing people to be marked (rendered in the *present active indicative*) and being marked is a requirement to buy and sell, speaks volumes about our religion, which is dominated by those who function in the spirit of Cain, Balaam, and Korah. Simply said, without the mark, one is extremely limited in their ability to succeed (to buy and sell) in the realm of religion.⁴

The Apostasy of Cain (6)

"Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain." Cain was a farmer who offered up to God an offering of the "fruit of the ground" (which only makes sense since he was a farmer), whereas Abel (his brother) offered up an "animal sacrifice," the "firstborn from his flock" of lambs. We are told that Abel offered a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain and God commended Abel by accepting his gifts; yet Cain's sacrifice was not even regarded by God.⁵

From the surface it seems that God's response was a bit unfair. They both presented an offering, each sacrifice cost them something (Cain worked hard for his offering) and they both had willing hearts to worship God. However, God chose one sacrifice over the other, and seemingly never did give the boys an

² **James 1:17; Psalm 16:2; Isaiah 26:12**

³ See **Revelation 13**, where a demonic beast is even **now** causing people to be marked with the name of the first demonic Beast or the number of His name: **666**.

⁴ **Revelation 18** depicts the dealings and trading that takes place, the buying and selling, in the realm of religion.

⁵ **Hebrews 11:4-5**

explanation as to why one sacrifice was more valuable to God than the other.⁶

We find out that Cain's offering was deemed to be wholly insufficient because his deeds were evil whereas his brothers were righteous.⁷ This angered Cain to the point that he eventually killed his brother in an envious rage, even after having been warned by God against giving into His anger. It is obvious that there was a lot more going on in this story than simply the type of sacrifices acceptable to God. Clearly, this story goes to the hearts of those bringing their sacrifice.

There is also a back story as well that comes from the Garden of Eden and the time when Adam and Eve first were deceived by Satan.⁸ As soon as Adam and Eve had sinned, they became aware of their nakedness and looked for some way to cover up (which is why in paintings they are always depicted with big fig leaves covering their privates). But seeing the complete inadequacy of their efforts to cover, protect, and warm their bodies by fig leaves, God clothed them. This speaks to mankind's neediness for God in all things and our abject inability to live outside of that neediness.

Genesis 3:21

And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments **of skins** and clothed them.

Many tend to blow right past this verse, but a careful reader will realize that for there to be skins to clothe Adam and Eve, there had to be dead animals. In other words, it was there in the Garden of Eden that God implemented the first blood sacrifice and introduced an unbending principle: **without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sins.**⁹

This first sacrifice pointed forward to the ultimate sacrifice of **Yahweh's first-born** Son—the true lamb of God; and, in so doing, He gave Adam and Eve a pattern that was to be followed throughout the ages: sin offerings to God must be preceded by blood.

Cain, however, did not follow this example and that is why his offering was not acceptable; and with the state of his heart, he probably did not even connect to his need for a blood sacrifice. Whereas Abel believed by faith the practice that was handed down by his parents, i.e., that blood was necessary. Therefore, he offered up an appropriate sacrifice, the first-born of his flock.

In contrast, Cain, guided by his instinctual religious wisdom, figured that he could give what he had worked so hard to produce, and thereby rejected the principle of substitution. He thought what he had to offer was enough and was good. He thought that God was obligated to accept his offering since he went so far out of his way to offer it.

This is the way of Cain (**6**)—**the way of the ungodly (Jude 4)**. The “lust of the flesh” is depicted by this one act of sensual indulgence of instinctual religious wisdom. Cain honestly believed that the product of his hands, what he could do for God, was good enough for God.

⁶ ***Genesis 4***

⁷ ***1 John 3:12***

⁸ ***Genesis 3***

⁹ ***Hebrews 9:22***

CAIN SPEAKS TO US OF THAT BATTLE WITHIN OUR *FLESH* THAT DOES NOT WANT TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH THAT ONLY GOD IS GOOD—THE TRUTH WHICH DEMANDS THAT WE LIVE UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBSTITUTION ACCORDING TO WHAT YAHWEH DOES FOR US AND NOT WHAT WE DO FOR HIM.¹⁰

As with Cain, this truth bugs us and gets deep under our skin. With the Eve-Imprint having been passed down through our spiritual DNA, practically everyone universally struggles adopting this truth. Our *flesh* lusts so badly to prove ourselves as worthy of God's love and acceptance and worthy of the love and acceptance of others. It is sheer pride, but we legitimately want God and others to be pleased by all the ways that we have served, obeyed, honored, and so on. We want **Yahweh** to affirm, bless, and love us because we deserve it, at least more than others.

As a result, our *flesh* wrestles with and fights the concept of grace—the notion that it is all about what God does for us and not what we do for Him. Our minds do a slightly better job of accepting grace as a concept, but not the dark part of our soul, that deeply religious part which yearns to be like God.

Many people tend to get uncomfortable when I talk about the religion of Christianity, concerned that I am attacking good hearted believers. But we must never forget that **the source matters, the source is everything**, hence the principle of substitution. **Yet, the religion of Christianity is built upon the sensuality of Cain—the desire to serve God, please God, honor God, and be good for God.** We must get this truth into our souls: we cannot offer anything to God that is acceptable to Him no matter how earnest we may be.

God wants us simply to be willing to present ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice and the rest is up to Him.¹¹ He wants us to believe that He is our **I AM**, even though He must put to death on that altar of sacrifice all the parts of our soul that rejects Him being our **I AM**. It is how He comes to possess us and live in and through our lives. Ultimately, it is how He loves through us; hence, all that matters to God is faith expressing itself in agape love.¹²

**CAIN TEACHES US THAT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD,
GOOD INTENTIONS ARE MEANINGLESS.**

True Christianity is About Total Substitution

His blood for ours; His life for ours; His sacrifice for ours; His love for ours; His strength for ours; His character for ours; His personhood for ours; His will for ours; His goodness for ours; His works and deeds for ours; His obedience for ours; His mind for ours; His Spirit for ours; His word for ours; His wisdom for ours; His future for ours; His friends and family for ours; His journeys for ours, and His faithfulness for

¹⁰ The very definition of **grace**.

¹¹ **Romans 12:1-2**

¹² **Galatians 5:6**

ours.

In using the example of Cain, the Spirit is shouting that we must never deviate from this principle of substitution, for it grieves the Spirit. We must reject the lust of our *flesh* which screams that we can be good, obedient, faithful, holy, and genuinely good loving Christians, and that God is relationally obligated to appreciate all that we have done for Him by blessing us accordingly.

This delusion of personal goodness is why the Spirit says, “*Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain.*” And, when you consider the size and magnitude of the religion of Christianity, that is a big “woe”—huge, gigundus!

The Lust for Goodness, to Be Like God, is The First (6) of 666.

The Apostasy of Balaam (6)

“... and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam.” This leads us to those who abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam’s greed. The story of Balaam depicts those who pervert the grace of God to satisfy “**the lusts of the eyes.**”¹³

Balaam was a prophet of God; although from all indications there is nothing that would lead us to believe He was a follower of God. In fact, the story of Balaam just highlights the critical point that just because someone is gifted by God to do supernatural things does not mean that we ought to follow them. A person’s gifting has nothing to do with their heart. It just has to do with God’s willingness to use them to care for others, despite their heart.

For example, the demon who is called the Beast¹⁴ is going to have in his consort a second demonic beast that does all sorts of signs and wonders—even call fire down from the sky.¹⁵ This second demonic beast is also referred to as the False Prophet.¹⁶ In fact, this demon’s works will be so fantastical that many, the world over, will be deceived to believe that the first demonic Beast is worthy to be worshiped as God.

So, take this principle to heart and do not judge or determine your allegiances by the size of ministry, the wealth of a ministry, the esteem of a ministry, or the amazing things that are done in a ministry to “advance the Kingdom of God”. Looks can and are often deceiving. In fact, this is the thrust of Jesus’ message to the churches at Sardis and Laodicea.¹⁷

The story of Balaam takes place towards the end of the Israelites’ 40-years of wandering in the desert, as they were passing through Moab on the east side of the Jordan River.¹⁸ The Moabite king, Balak, knew how Moses and the Israelites defeated the Amorites, and he was afraid they would suffer the same fate. Therefore, he sent for Balaam, a well-known prophet of **Yahweh**, knowing that whom Balaam blessed was blessed and whom Balaam cursed was cursed.

So, the king’s messengers came to Balaam with an offer of a lot of money if only he would curse Israel. Balaam told them that he would first have to seek the will of **Yahweh**. That night **Yahweh** told Balaam

¹³ **Numbers 22-24**

¹⁴ This Beast is the demon who ultimately possesses the man we call the Antichrist.

¹⁵ This is the demon who causes people to worship the first Beast.

¹⁶ **Revelation 16:13, 19:20, 20:10**

¹⁷ **Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22**

¹⁸ **Numbers 22-24**

that he is **not** to go with the Moabites, and he is **not** to curse the Israelites, for God has blessed them. Accordingly, Balaam told the king's officials to go home.

The king responded by sending a greater entourage of more important people and said he would make Balaam filthy rich if he gave just one little curse, that's all, just one little curse. This got Balaam's attention. He responded that he could do nothing against the will of **Yahweh**, no matter how much money he was offered, but that he would once again ask God for permission to go.

This was his big mistake. He knew what God had said, and he should have stood on the Word of God. **But Balaam was a greedy man, and he wanted the money.**¹⁹ That night, God told Balaam to go with them, but to only do what He (**Yahweh**) tells him to do. Now rest assured, God had not changed His mind about the issue, *He was just going to use the rebellion that was already in Balaam's heart to bring glory to His name.*

God's Voice in Our Rebellion

Let me explain this dynamic about **Yahweh** using the rebellion and darkness in Balaam's heart for His purposes. It is all a bit unnerving. Back in **Jude 5**, we discussed how God supported the Israelites' decision to not enter the Promised Land. He even swore in His wrath to adhere to what they wanted—what they had already determined in their hearts. This is a scary principle.

If in a certain matter we have already made up our mind about what we want, if our heart has already turned, God will support our decision to rebel.²⁰ And in so doing, we will likely be thoroughly convinced that we are following the voice of God in our life (because, in a way, we are), notwithstanding the fact that what we are doing is against the Word of God or what He has already revealed to us.

I have seen this happen many times, and I have personally experienced this on many occasions. People take great pride in the decisions they make even though it is so obvious that they are in abject rebellion to all that God had already revealed to them. And sure enough, they truly are convinced that they have the backing of God which, in a twisted and dark sort of way, they do as He is supporting and reinforcing their decision to rebel. But when it is all said and done, He will bring glory to His name. He always does!

The next morning Balaam gets on his donkey and ventures off to meet King Balak, and **Yahweh** was furious with him for going. **Yahweh** desired Balaam to be obedient to His original message and choose to **not** to go; therefore, God sent the Angel of **Yahweh**²¹ to block Balaam's way.²² Unbeknownst to Balaam, however, his donkey could see the Angel of **Yahweh** standing in the road with a drawn sword in His hand. Wisely, the donkey bolted off the road into a field to avoid the trouble. Not seeing the Angel of **Yahweh**, Balaam was furious at the donkey and beat the donkey until it got back on the road.

The Angel of **Yahweh** then moved to where the road narrowed and was walled off on each side by two vineyard walls and the donkey was going to try and squeeze past the Angel of **Yahweh** and in so doing crushed Balaam's feet against the wall. Balaam beat him again. Then the Angel of **Yahweh** moved and

¹⁹ **2 Peter 2:15**

²⁰ *Note:* He will do all He can to convince us **WHY** we can trust Him, but if we refuse and refuse and refuse, like the Israelites, He will swear in His wrath that we will not enter His rest (**Hebrews 3** and **4; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**).

²¹ A pseudonym for a pre-incarnate form which Jesus took when He presented Himself to Humanity.

²² *Note,* Biblical references to "the Angel of the Lord" are references to an Old Testament appearance of **Yahweh**, the Son. In other words, Balaam's decision put him at direct odds with Jesus.

stood in a place so narrow that the donkey could not get by, so the donkey just laid down. Balaam went into a fit of rage and beat the donkey with his staff.

Yahweh then caused the donkey to speak. It asked Balaam: *“What have I done to you that deserves your beating me these three times?”* And to all our surprise, Balaam just answers him, *“Because you have made me look like a fool! If I had a sword with me, I would kill you!”* Then the donkey said: *“But I am the same donkey you always ride on. Have I ever done anything like this before?”* “No” Balaam admitted, seemingly unshaken by the fact that he is talking to a donkey.

Do you catch the spiritual irony? As a prophet, Balaam was known for being the man who had spiritual eyes and spiritual discernment. But the truth is He was blind and ignorant and filled with pride, and God used a donkey to prove it.

Then **Yahweh** opened Balaam’s eyes and he saw the Angel of **Yahweh**, and Balaam fell-down before Him. The Angel of **Yahweh** said that He had come to block the way and would have killed Balaam if it was not for the donkey. Balaam, still unfazed by the speaking donkey, confessed: *“I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to block my way.”* *“I will go home if you are against my going.”* But the Angel of **Yahweh** told Balaam he may go, but warned him to say only what He (Jesus) tells him to say.

Balaam may have confessed, but it was only because he was caught in the act of rebellion. There was no repentance for the greed, pride, or rebellion in his heart; rather, he was afraid of what the Angel of **Yahweh** might do to him. Thus, in the face of personal demise, Balaam suddenly became willing to obey. However, obedience when motivated by fear is not legitimate, it is a worthless religious act.²³ Therefore, He lets Balaam continue with the course that was set by his hardened heart.

OBEDIENCE MOTIVATED BY FEAR IS A WORTHLESS RELIGIOUS ACT!

When Balaam arrived, king Balak was miffed that he took so long getting there. He asked Balaam, *“Didn’t you believe me when I said I would reward you richly?”* So, it was all about the money (**the lusts of the eyes**). Then 3 different times Balaam went to curse Israel, but instead of cursing only blessings flowed from his mouth. The king was enraged and said: *“Go back home! I had planned to reward you richly, but **Yahweh** has kept you from your reward.”* And that seems to be the end of the story—the whole thing seemed to be a huge bust.²⁴

Balaam goes home and then **Numbers 25** picks up with what seems like a new story where the women of Moab seduce the men of Israel to not only indulge themselves sexually with these women, but also to join them in feasting and worshiping the gods of Moab, resulting in God judging His own people for having once again turned from Him to idolatry.

But wasn’t that the whole plan from the beginning—to curse the people of Israel? From the surface it seems that what Balaam could not do, Balak did. It was a clever plan, for it rested on the character of God’s holiness. But the rest of the story is even more intriguing.

²³ In contrast, God desires a humble and contrite heart. See **Isaiah 66:2; Jeremiah 44:1-14**

²⁴ I am always amazed at how these gentile kings and prophets knew the name of **Yahweh** and knew He was sovereign and ruled over the nations.

In **Revelation 2:14** (yes, the whole story is spread throughout the entire Bible, which is why we must read the whole thing from end-to-end) we are told that this plan was conceived by none other than Balaam. There was no way Balaam was going home empty handed; he was like, “*show me the money.*” Thus, he conceived this plan knowing full well that although he could not curse Israel, the character and nature of **Yahweh**’s holiness would require Him to judge His own people if they became spiritually and morally compromised.

The error of Balaam is about greed (6). Specifically, the kind of greed that uses religion, spirituality, and the manipulation of God’s people to ensure that one’s pockets are filled with gold coins. It is all about personal gain, regardless of the consequences to others.

Jesus specifically addressed this in His letter to Pergamum, **WARNING** them because some of their people held to the teachings of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.²⁵

Now, let us tie this into our topic of apostasy in the church. There are those who, in effect, teach that this life is about what God can do for us in our here and now and what we, as His sons and daughters, deserve. And, like Balaam, these teachers are willing to manipulate whoever and whatever to ensure that their own pockets are lined with gold. They really do not care if they hurt anyone; all that matters to them is that when it is said and done, they get what they want. *After all, in the religion of Christianity, their being financially blessed is definitive proof that God is on their side.*

For example, the way of Balaam is at the heart of the health, wealth, and prosperity teachings. Behind their promise of great abundant blessing is a heart of greed. They seduce people with the promise of health, wealth, and prosperity, all the while asking for a “faith” contribution to their ministry to secure that blessing. They take money under the pretense of their having God’s authority because of their visions, dreams, words spoken in the night, and because of their self-proclaimed success in ministry. They flaunt their wealth obtained from manipulation and label it as God’s anointing over their lives and ministry; and they use these ill-gotten gains to self-validate their appeal for more money.

Millions of believers are seduced by their greedy ways believing that if they “give to the Lord” they will get it all back in abundant multiples. If this were true, can you imagine how wealthy the average “joe” Christian would be? These false teachers, these dreamers, speak damnable lies.

Greed, the lust for riches and the wealth of this world, is the second (6) of 666.

We will stop here and pick up next time with the third (6) in 666 that is tied into the rebellion of Korah.

²⁵ See **Revelation 2:12-17**