

THE WOEFUL WAY OF THE APOSTATES – PART 1

Jude 11

INTRODUCTION

- The fact is that the bible is full of what many people would regard as “negative”.
- But people, particularly in our day, do not want to hear these things.
- Note God’s commission to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:10).
- And Paul’s instruction to preachers (2 Timothy 4:2).
- Jude’s full frontal verbal assault on these ungodly men; his vehement barrage of these apostates is too offensive to our sophisticated ears.
- These warnings are desperately needed in our day.
- Jude makes frequent reference to Old Testament history to illustrate his message.
- Verse 11 presents three well known villains from the Old Testament that represent certain characteristics of the apostates he is warning against.
- Note how important it is for Christians to have a strong knowledge of the Old Testament.
- The Greek word for “woe” is *ouai*, and is onomatopoeic, and expresses a cry of intense distress, displeasure or horror.
- “Woe unto them!” in the parallel in 2 Peter 2:14 is “cursed children”, which means “children of curse,” that is, devoted to the curse.

- All these three men were given divine light, rebelled against it, and perished because of it.
- The same is true for the ungodly false teachers.

I. THE WAY OF CAIN (Genesis 4:1-15)

A. The way of self-righteousness

1. He knew that God's required a blood sacrifice (cf. Genesis 3:21; Hebrews 9:22)
2. Yet he chose to offer the fruit of his own labour (Genesis 4:3)
3. These people reject Christ as the sole means of justification, and rely on their works (John 10:1; Ephesians 2:8-9)

B. It is the way of unbelief

1. Abel's sacrifice was offered by faith and was accepted (Hebrews 11:4)
2. Faith is comes through hearing God's word and relying upon it (Romans 10:17)
3. His absence of true faith was evidenced by his evil works (James 2:14-22)

C. It is the way of will-worship

1. This is any form of worship that is based on man's will, not God's revealed will (Colossians 2:23)
2. Man has not been given liberty to devise his own ways of worshipping God (Deuteronomy 12:32; cf. Leviticus 10:1-2)

D. It is the way of anger

1. He was angry and envious that his brother's sacrifice was accepted, and his wasn't (Genesis 4:5)
2. The apostate's anger is directed towards true Christians (Luke 15:28)

E. It is the way of impenitence

1. Cain was given opportunity by God to offer an acceptable sacrifice (Genesis 4:7)
2. Yet rather than repent, he proudly maintained his wicked course
3. The wicked refuse to be corrected (Proverbs 9:8; 21:29; Titus 3:10-11)

F. It is the way of hatred and murder

1. Cain killed his righteous brother (Genesis 4:8)
2. Apostate Christianity has persecuted and murdered true Christians, even in the name of Christ (John 16:2)
3. False teachers are murderers of men's souls through a false gospel

G. It is the way of Satan

1. Cain was "of that wicked one" (1 John 3:12)
2. All the unregenerate are children of the devil (Matthew 13:38; John 8:44; Ephesians 2:1-3)
3. Satan's ministers may appear as ministers of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

H. It is the way of lies

1. Cain lied directly to God (Genesis 4:9)
 2. Cain's followers lie to hide their sins and further their wicked ways (1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:9)
- I. It is the way that objects to God's justice
1. Cain refused to accept his punishment from God (Genesis 4:13)
 2. Many false teachers today pervert or deny the doctrine of hell
- J. The way of Cain leads to eternal destruction
1. Cain suffered the consequences of his sin in this life, and will eternally perish in hell (Genesis 4:11ff)
 2. This is the broad way that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14)

CONCLUSION

1. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25)
2. Most people in this world are following the way of Cain and seeking salvation their own way.
3. Like him, they may become successful in this world, yet lose their own souls.
4. Cain warns us of the foolishness of rebelling against the revealed will of God.