



Romans 16:17, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”

INTRODUCTION: We have defined apostasy as a falling away from the truth on which it was founded. We have defined an apostate as one who receives the truth, but rejects the truth and then ridicules the truth. Now Jude is going to use the example of three men in order to identify the marks of an apostate.

I. APOSTATES PERVERT THE GOSPEL (JUDE 11)

A. THE WAY OF ABEL (GENESIS 4:1-4)

Hebrews 9:22, “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

The word “remission” means forgiveness. No sin can be forgiven apart from a blood sacrifice.

The Bible calls Abel a prophet? He was given revealed truth from God. And when Abel gave this blood sacrifice, it was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

B. THE WAY OF CAIN (GENESIS 4:3-8)

Cain’s sacrifice represented the work of his hands. It represented man’s efforts to attain Heaven by works. So the way of Cain is religion without the atonement of the blood sacrifice. The way of Cain is one of the marks of an apostate.

“I believe it is unwise to seek for a ‘necessity’ for the cross. It is quite possible to affirm and clarify the importance of the cross without speaking of it as necessary. Men today cannot believe that vicarious punishment is either meaningful or moral.” - Fisher Humphrey, Baptist Author (A Baptist Apostate)

1 Corinthians 15:3, “³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

Isaiah 53:5-6, “⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

II. APOSTATES PROSTITUTE THE GOSPEL (JUDE 11, NUMBERS 22-25)

Balaam was a prophet of Jehovah God. The king of Moab was a man named Balak. Balak was afraid that the Jews were going to be too great and therefore might conquer the Moabites, so Balak wanted to find a way to put a curse on them. So he tried to bribe Balaam into putting a curse upon the Jews. Balaam, however, understood that he didn’t actually have the power to place a curse on Israel.

Isaiah 54:17, “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.”

So Balaam tells King Balak to send some beautiful Moabite women over to have a feast with the men of Israel, and when they commit fornication with these woman of Moab, God will place a curse on them. And the plan worked.

Numbers 31:16” Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.”

God killed 24,000 of them for the sin of fornication with heathen women.

Balaam represents those men who sell out. He represents those who take the truth of God, and for gain and personal advantage, they prostitute the office of prophet.

2 Peter 2:1-3, “¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. ³ And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”

2 Peter chapter 2 is a parallel chapter to the Book of Jude. Here Peter tells us that these false prophets, because of covetousness, use feigned words.

III. APOSTATES PROTEST THE GOSPEL (JUDE 11, NUMBERS 16:1-4, 31-35)

Korah (Hebrew translation for Core) protested Moses, God’s appointed prophet, and Aaron, God’s appointed priest. These apostates protested against God’s prophetic message, Moses, and God’s priestly mediator, Aaron.

CONCLUSION: An apostate is someone who receives the truth, then rejects the truth, then ridicules the truth, but lastly, he seeks to replace the truth. Korah wanted to replace Moses and Aaron.