

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 13



*Contend
for the faith
which was
once delivered
to the saints
Jude 1:3*

THE GAINSAYING OF CORE

Scripture Text: Jude 11

This lesson focuses on *Core*. His Hebrew name was *Korah*, which we are more familiar with. He was the last of the three men, in this verse, to serve as an example of the sad fate of apostates. We should not overlook the fact that all the statements in **Jude 11** are in the past tense. In God's sight, those who have been overcome by an apostate spirit *have already perished*. **Romans 4:17** says that God "calleth those things which be not as though they were." The fate of apostates is just as certain as the glorification of the saints.

Memory Verse: But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

—2 Timothy 2:16

Who Was Core?

Why did Jude use *Core*? He was a Levite and a cousin to Moses (see **Exodus 6:18-21**). He had great influence in the congregation. Along with two others, he started an insurrection, a rebellion, against Moses' authority. **Numbers 16:2** says that "they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown."

This verse teaches that men who are highly revered and have tremendous influence, such as those in positions, are the ones the enemy would like to use to work against the cause of God. Then, it teaches that you ought to be extremely cautious about what you lend your influence and your name to.

The One Mediator

Numbers 16:3 says that *Core* charged Moses, saying, "Ye take too much upon you . . . wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?" It is easy to see that religious jealousy was at the root of this rebellion. **Proverbs 6:34** says, "Jealousy is the rage of a man." When one is overtaken by jealousy, he becomes enraged, cruel, and does not exercise proper restraint.

Core rose up against Moses' authority and God's divine plan. Moses was a type of Christ; Aaron was a type of the ministry. When those men opposed Moses and Aaron, they were in direct rebellion to God's plan for a mediator. **1 Timothy 2:5** states, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." They thought (as religion thinks today) that there could be many avenues, or mediators, but God had chosen just one: Moses. In our day, *Jesus Christ is our mediator*—Mary cannot intercede for us and neither can a priest or a preacher—only Christ!

Perishing in Apostasy

Perished in the gainsaying of Core. The word *gainsaying* comes from the Greek word *antilogia*. *Anti* means "against"; *logia* means "the word." Combined, they mean "against the word." By studying **verse 11**, we can see how apostasy worsens. *Cain* "ignored" the Word that had been spoken to him personally. *Balaam* "subtly opposed" the Word that had been revealed to him. *Core* "openly rebelled" against the Word of God. His name means "ice cold," and he stood in cold-hearted defiance against God's plan, God's man, and God's Word—and he was punished for his actions.

How did he perish? Moses told him to gather all his men before God at the door of the tabernacle. What happened? "There came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered

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incense” (**Numbers 16:35**). This is another type. **Hebrews 12:29** says that God is a consuming fire. What is it about God that is a fire? “Is not my word like as a fire?” (**Jeremiah 23:29**). What is the lesson here for us? Those who are not on fire *for* God will be burned by the fire *of* God. The same Word we refuse and rebel against will put judgment on us.

Taking a Stand

Throughout the Psalms there are songs that have the caption: “To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah.” What is the significance of this? *Core* took a very rebellious stance toward the Word and perished for it; but when his sons were confronted with a choice, they obeyed the man of God and even stood against their father. God honored their stand, and they became the most renowned temple singers in David’s day. Friend, you may be required to stand against those you love the dearest to avoid being drawn into apostasy, but your love and allegiance to the truth must be supreme.

JUST A THOUGHT

To avoid repeating history, one must know it!