

Raising Cain

Jude 10-11a

Jude

a study of the epistle

Jude 10

10 But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed.

Βλασφημέω (*blasphēmeō*)

“these men *revile* the things which they do not understand”

- ESV, CSB: *blaspheme*
- KJV: *speak evil*
- NET: *slander*

Completing the Thought

- v. 8: *revile* angelic majesties
- v. 9: *railing* judgment
- v. 10: *revile* the things which they do not understand

“These men” believed they understood heavenly things, but they were far out of their depth.

What Do They Understand?

“the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals...”

(KJV: “brute beasts”)

Based on what we know about their behavior, how are they like “unreasoning animals?”



“unreasoning
animals”

That is...

- They have lowered themselves to the level of animals in their sexual pursuits are guided by “instincts.”
- Yet, unlike the animals which abide by the laws of nature, these godless men suffer the consequences of their actions.

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

William Barclay:

“Their way of life is to allow the instincts they share with the beasts to have their way; their values are fleshly values; their gospel is a gospel of the flesh. Jude describes men who have lost all sense of, and awareness of, spiritual things, and for whom the things demanded by the animal instincts of man are the only realities and the only standard.”

And the Result?

“by these things they are *destroyed*.”

- KJV: *they corrupt themselves*
- NET: *they are being destroyed*

So, What is Jude Saying Here?

Jude's Profound Truth

If a man is persistently blind to spiritual values, deaf to the call of God, and rates self-determination as the highest good, then a time will come when he cannot hear the call he has spurned, but is left to the mercy of the turbulent instincts to which he once turned in search of freedom.

φθείρω (*phtheirō*)

This word can mean both “corrupt, defile” and “destroy.”

In the Jewish mind, the temple was corrupted or “destroyed” when anyone defiled or in the slightest degree damaged anything in it, or if its guardians neglected their duties.

1 Corinthians 3:17

- **NASB:**

“If any man *destroys* the temple of God, God will *destroy* him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”

- **KJV:**

“If any man *defile* the temple of God, him shall God *destroy*; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”

Parallel: 2 Peter 2:12

- **NASB:**

“But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and *killed*, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the *destruction* of those creatures also be *destroyed*”

- **KJV:**

“But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and *destroyed*, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly *perish* in their own *corruption*”

In the Context of Judgment

- I believe Jude has eternal punishment and ultimate destruction in mind.
 - v. 4: “marked out for this condemnation”
 - v. 5: “the Lord...destroyed those who did not believe”
 - v. 6: “angels...kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment”
 - v. 7: “Sodom and Gomorrah...undergoing the punishment of eternal fire”

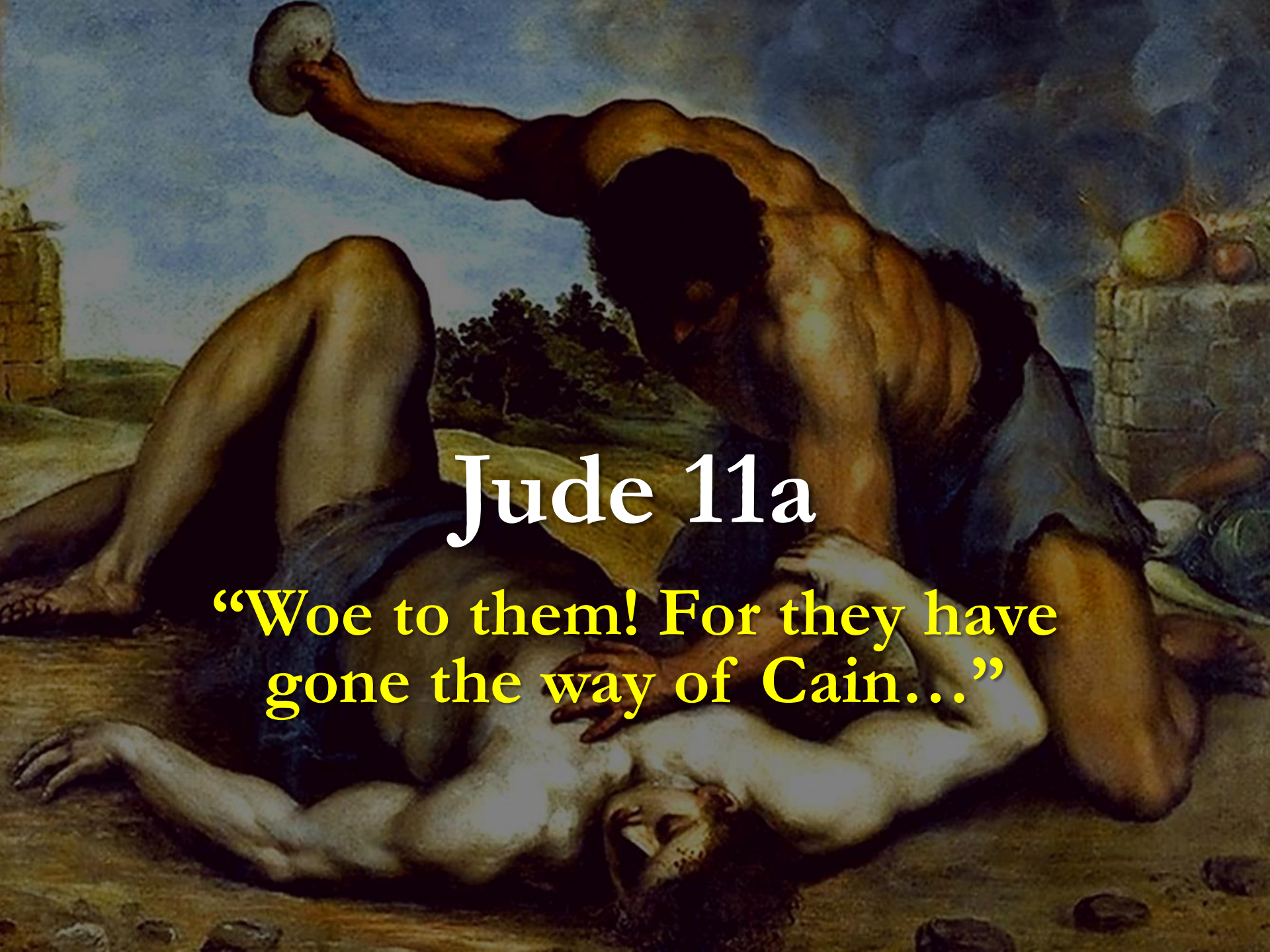
S. Maxwell Coder:

**“The doom of apostates
is no less sure than the
glorification of the
saints.”**

Another Set of 3 Examples in v. 11

1. “The Way of Cain”
2. “The Error of Balaam”
3. “The Rebellion of Korah”

This is a “Woe Oracle.”



Jude 11a

“Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain...”

Isaiah 5:20-21

20 Woe to those who call evil good,
and good evil; Who substitute
darkness for light and light for
darkness; Who substitute bitter for
sweet and sweet for bitter! **21** Woe to
those who are wise in their own eyes
And clever in their own sight!

What is the most
memorable “Woe
Oracle” in the New
Testament?



“The Way of Cain”

Turn to

Genesis 4:1-16

Why Does Jude Choose Cain?

- He is an example of a person who chose wickedness over goodness.
- And when God confronted him about his evil sacrifice, Cain grew angry and killed his brother instead of repenting.

These False Teachers

- These men are not murderers, but they do hate God and others, which lines up perfectly with NT teaching.
- **Also, in light of Matthew 5 and 1 John 3, murder and hatred are tightly connected.**
- If they deny Christ and hate the truth, this works itself out in animus against those who follow Christ.

1 John 3:11-12

11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; **12** not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

William Barclay tells us:

“To the Hebrew thinkers, Cain was the cynical, materialistic unbeliever who believed neither in God nor in the moral order of the world and who, therefore, did exactly as he liked. So, Jude is charging his opponents with defying God and denying the moral order of the world.”

1 Clement 4:6-7

6 And Cain said unto Abel his brother, Let us go over unto the plain. And it came to pass, while they were in the plain, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him. **7** Ye see, brethren, jealousy and envy wrought a brother's murder.

Testament of Benjamin 7:5

5 Because forever those who are like unto Cain in envy and hatred of brethren, shall be punished with the same judgement.

Apocalypse of Abraham 24:5-6

5 And I saw, as it were, Adam and Eve who was with him, and with them the crafty adversary and Cain, who had been led by the adversary to break the law, and (I saw) the murdered Abel (and) the perdition brought on him and given **6** through the lawless one.

In the Targums, Cain said:

“There is no Judgment, there is no Judge, there is no other world, there is no gift of good reward for the just and no punishment for the wicked.”

We Can Then Infer:

Cain has something in common with the false teachers, who “defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.”

Is that supported by the Genesis account?

Look Back at Genesis 4, particularly verses 17, 19, and 22-24.

The Way of Cain

- Genesis 4:17 – The City
– Genesis 11:4
- Genesis 4:19 – Polygamy
– Genesis 2:24
- Genesis 4:22-24 – Violence & Oppression
– Psalm 11:5

Jude's opponents followed the way of Cain, the path of evil.



Next Week: The Error of Balaam



