

The Rebellion of Korah

Jude 11c; Numbers 16

Jude

a study of the epistle

“Woe to them!” (v. 11)

1. “The Way of Cain”

2. “The Error of Balaam”

3. “The Rebellion of
Korah”

Jude 11c

11c and perished
in the rebellion of
Korah



Numbers 16:1-35

The Leaders of This Rebellion

- Korah, a Levite and Kohathite
- Dathan, Abiram, and On, who were Reubenites.
 - Why does this make sense?
- These men gained the support of 250 other men from the other tribes who were leaders among the Israelites.



Who is Korah?

Exodus 6:16

16 These are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations: Gershon and Kohath and Merari...**18** The sons of Kohath: Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel...**21** The sons of Izhar: Korah and Nepheg and Zichri.

Therefore:

**Korah is the great-grandson of
Levi and the cousin of Moses
and Aaron.**

**He is a priest of the tribe of
Levi.**

Numbers

15:38-40

38 “Speak to the sons of Israel, and tell them that they shall make for themselves tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and that they shall put on the tassel of each corner a cord of blue. **39** It shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the Lord, so as to do them and not follow after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you played the harlot, **40** so that you may remember to do all My commandments and be holy to your God.



Shoulda Known Better

The tassels on their garments should have reminded them of their high calling and privilege.

It was not the “rabble” or even the ordinary Israelites who instigated this rebellion but some of the Levites.

Numbers 16:32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, and their households, and all the men who belonged to Korah with their possessions. **33** So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.



Psalm 106:16-18

16 When they became envious of Moses in the camp, And of Aaron, the holy one of the Lord, **17** The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, And engulfed the company of Abiram. **18** And a fire blazed up in their company; The flame consumed the wicked.

Sirach 45:18-19

18 Outsiders conspired against him, and envied him in the wilderness, Dathan and Abiram and their followers and the company of Korah, in wrath and anger.

19 The Lord saw it and was not pleased, and in the heat of his anger they were destroyed; he performed wonders against them to consume them in flaming fire.

Josephus writes:

“the ground was moved on a sudden; and the agitation that set it in motion was like that which the wind produces in waves of the sea. The people were all affrighted: and the ground that was about their tents sunk down, at the great noise, that terrible sound, and carried whatsoever was dear to the seditious into it self: who so entirely perished that there was not the least appearance that any men had ever been seen there: the earth that had opened it self about them, closing again, and becoming entire as it was before; insomuch that such as saw it afterward did not perceive that any such accident had happened to it.”



Romans
6:23
Personified:

“For the
wages of
sin is
death”

“rebellion” - ἀντιλογία

- Hebrews 12:1-3 –

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider Him who has endured such **hostility** by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**“the rebellion of Korah”
points to those fomenting
opposition to leaders in the
church.**

**They are the ones who “deny...Jesus
Christ” in v. 4, “reject authority” in v.
8, and selfishly “caring for
themselves” in v. 12.**

Korah Embraced Exodus 19:5-6

5 Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; **6** and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.



While Ignoring Numbers 1:47-54

A NT Example

Turn to

Romans 3:21-30

But We Can't Miss Romans 3:31!

“Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.”

Look at the Progression in Jude 11

“Woe to them! For they have
(1) **gone** the way of Cain, and
for pay they have (2) **rushed**
headlong into the error of
Balaam, and (3) **perished** in
the rebellion of Korah.”

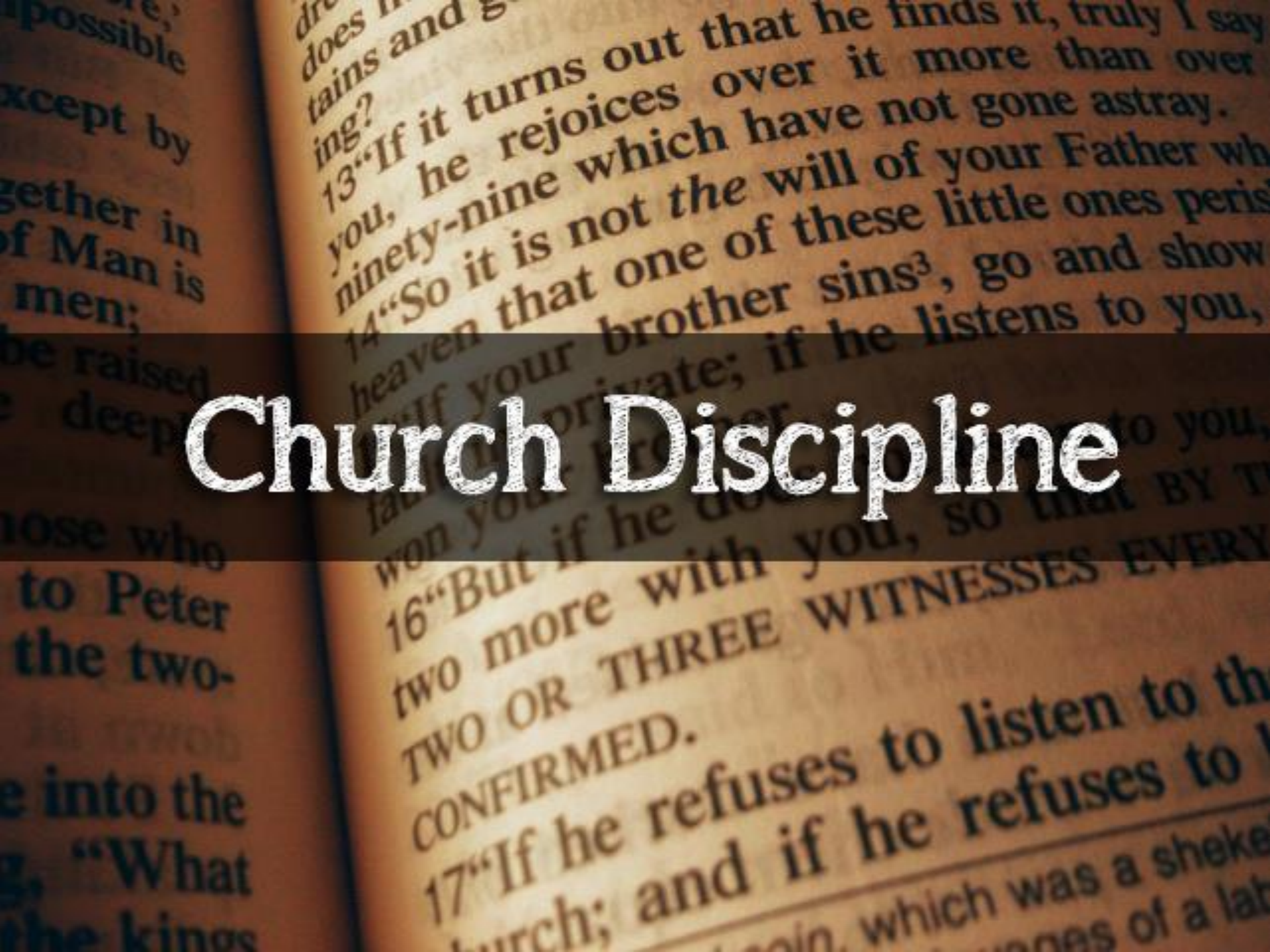
The Sin of Korah:

- He rebelled against the guidance of Moses when the sons of Aaron and the tribe of Levi were made the priests of the nation.
- That was a decision which Korah was not willing to accept; he wanted to exercise a function which he had no right to exercise; and, when he did so, he perished terribly and all his companions in wickedness with him.

Korah Stands

- For those who refuse to accept authority and reach out for things which they have no right to have.
- Jude is charging his opponents with defying the legitimate authority of the Church and therefore preferring their own way to the way of God.

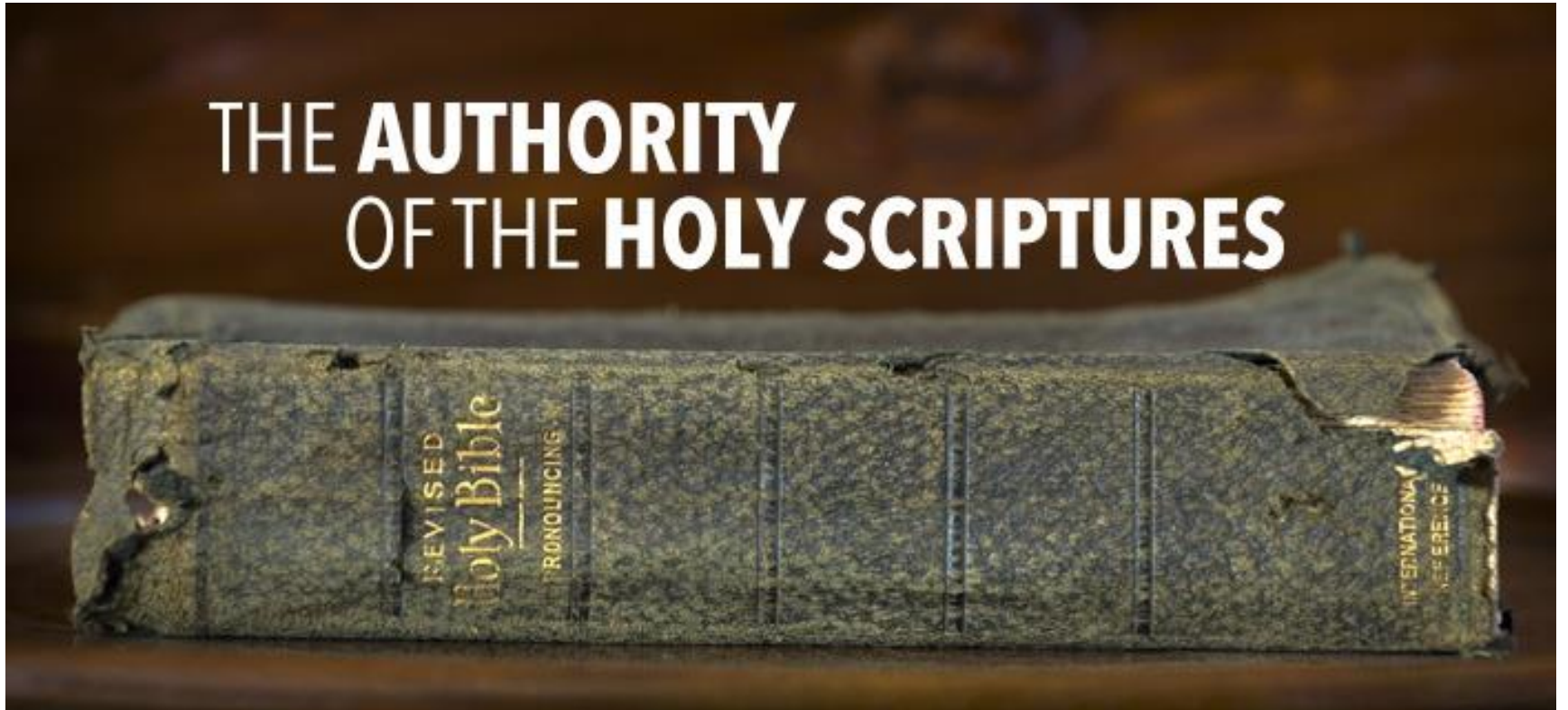
Church Discipline



In a Recent Lifeway Research Survey

- 62% of churchgoing Christians—and 57% of evangelicals—said their church does not have the authority to withhold the Lord's Supper or to exclude them from fellowship.
- 9 in 10 evangelicals said the church doesn't have the authority to declare they're not Christians.
- A 2011 Barna survey found that only 5% of Christians involved in a church say their church holds them accountable.

THE **AUTHORITY** OF THE **HOLY SCRIPTURES**



A Survey of American Evangelicals

- 50% said an individual must contribute his or her own effort for personal salvation.
- 52% agreed with the following: “By the good deeds that I do, I partly contribute to earning my place in heaven.”
- 83% said a person obtains peace with God by first taking the initiative to seek God and then God responds with grace.

And It Gets Worse...

- **46%** agree that God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism and Islam.
- **52%** of self-identified evangelicals who attend church once or twice per month strongly agree with this statement: “Sex outside of traditional marriage is a sin.”
- **48%** of self-identified evangelicals who attend church once or twice per month strongly agree with this statement: “Abortion is a sin.”
- **61%** strongly disagreed with the statement: “Even the smallest sin deserves eternal damnation.”

Tying it Together

1. Korah rebelled against Moses and Aaron and therefore against God and the leaders whom He had appointed.
2. Korah and his followers were destroyed by God.

Jude's Connection

Implicitly then, the false teachers with whom he is dealing are rebelling against properly constituted spiritual authority, and he is announcing that they too will be destroyed, as was Korah.

And Notice One More Thing:

11c and *perished* in
the rebellion of Korah

Judgment is assured.

Bringing it Home for Us

We should remember that, if we take certain things which pride incites us to take, the consequences can be disastrous.

The rebellion of Korah goes all the way back to Genesis 3.

The Word – 1 Peter 1:23-25

23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; **24** for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, **25** but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

The Church – 1 Timothy 3:15

“but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”

**The 1st Responsibility
of the creature is to recognize his
or her creaturely status.**

**Anything less is an attempt to
subvert and usurp God's authority,
and that rebellion must be judged.**

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**Next
Week:**

**Hidden
Reefs,
Clouds
without
Water, Trees
without
Fruit, and
Wandering
Stars**

