

Korah also had an overwhelming ego, and he was extremely arrogant, as we shall see. There you have the false teachers.

To conspire against Moses and Aaron in Israel meant that you are ultimately conspiring against God for power.

Likewise, the illustration of the false teachers is their lust for power.

We can say something else about Korah's rebellion and the comparison to false teachers: they are anti-authority, as those who follow rebellion have a similar motivation to the dreamers in verse 8.

But Korah goes further than the “dreamers” in verse 8. He tries to completely remove divinely appointed authority. Destroy it and then assume it, which is what rebellion is.

Korah, then, is an example of an Old Testament heretic and an unbeliever. The consequences that he suffered will be exactly the same as with Balaam.

Israel finally killed Balaam in the conquest of the land and Korah, as we will see, will be actually swallowed by the earth. The consequences, then, of rebellion against divinely appointed authority is inevitable.

Now Korah's end, as described by Jude in his rebellion, is wholly spectacular, as I have mentioned already.

It begins with a verb in verse 11c. It is the verb “perish.” It's the aorist middle indicative of the Greek verb “ἀπόλλυμι” – “apóllymi.” “apóllymi” means “to be utterly destroyed” or “to be put to death.”

There's no uncertainty in this word “apóllymi.” “Utterly destroyed” or “to be put to death.” In other words, this was a rebellion by Korah that could not succeed. It was crushed. This is the ultimate end of all rebellion against divine authority and against those who wield divine authority through teaching Bible doctrine.

Divine authority comes not because a man holds the office of pastor. It comes because he teaches the Word of God, and that's exactly the point. The false teacher wants authority, but it's false authority because it is removed from the Word of God. And, yet, they will assume that authority.

What kind of rebellion did Korah initiate, then, that merited this certain type of destruction, this “*apóllymi*?”

The destruction is described by the Greek noun, which is part of the phrase, “*ἀντιλογία*” – “*antilogía*.”

“*antilogía*” is a rebellion that manifests itself by extreme hostility by the rebelling party toward the one in authority.

In other words, this is not just a rebellion. This is revolution against ruling authority. This is beyond rebellion. It is a plot that seeks to overthrow authority and assume power.

At its core, revolution like this is monumental, self-centered arrogance.

Korah's revolution was built on hatred of existing authority in Israel (Moses and Aaron) and, in his arrogance, he wanted to seize that authority for himself.

So, Korah's hatred of authority, and his desire to remove the authority and seize the authority for himself, is the definition of what a revolution is.

“*apóllymi*” is in the “indicative mood” and the “middle voice.” These two items of grammar tell us much about the use of “*apóllymi*.”

First, we have the indicative mood. The indicative mood here means that the circumstance of the revolution is a statement of fact. The indicative is always a statement of fact. It happened. The fact here is that Korah was a key component of the revolution.

Korah and revolution, therefore, are part and parcel of the indicative. Next, we have the middle voice, which indicates that the subject is “Korah,” along with several others who initiated the rebellion and brought on the consequences of verse 11c.

You see, this verse is talking about consequences and so it's a statement of rebellion. It is a statement that Korah is the one who is perpetrating the rebellion and bringing on the results – “*apóllymi*” (to be utterly destroyed).

Korah is synonymous with destruction. So, the translation here of verse 11c, “they, (meaning the false teachers), were put to death as in the revolution of Korah.

Jude 11: “Woe to them (the apostates), because they have been led into the way of life of Cain (jealousy and arrogance), “they, (the false teachers), have run with reckless abandon to the strong delusions of Balaam which is monetary lust (materialism lust) and were put to death as in the revolution of Korah.”

So, this was a rebellion by Korah against divinely appointed leadership and priestly authority of Israel.

This was a national revolution. This was about taking power over the whole nation. What they left out was God. God had appointed the leadership and Korah decided that he should be leader and it didn't matter what God said.

We have a perfect illustration of false teachers. They don't care what doctrine they distort. They don't care about the Word of God. They care about themselves, their arrogance, their lust for power, and, as we have seen, lust for money.

Definition: The doctrine of authority refers to the legal power given by God whereby certain members of the human race have jurisdiction over and responsibility for others. It also refers to the supreme and unalterable authority of Bible doctrine for the believer. Accordingly, legitimate God-ordained authority exists and functions in two main categories in life: (1) authority in the Divine Institutions; and (2) authority in the realm of Bible Doctrine.

Divine Institutions: In the Divine Institutions, proper authority protects human freedom, but there is always a delicate balance between the freedom and authority. Freedom without authority is anarchy, and authority without freedom is tyranny. For the Divine Institutions to function properly, privacy must be respected and protected.

Biblical Terminology: The primary words in the Bible used for authority include:

(a) ὑπακούω – *hupakouō* - (to be subject to) – Matthew 8:27; Luke 8:25; Romans 6:14-15; Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20, 22; 1 Peter 3:6.

Luke 8:25: “And He (Jesus) said to them (the disciples), “Where is your faith (πίστις – *pístis*) (the lack of Bible Doctrine in their soul and the

failure to apply faith rest to the problems of the storm)?” They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey (ὕπακούω – *hupakōuō*) Him?” (NASB)

(b) ὑποτάσσω – *hupōtassō* - (to be in the military ranks under absolute authority) – James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:5; Colossians 3:18; 1 Corinthians 14:32; Romans 8:20; Ephesians 5:22. This is the strongest Greek word for authority.

Colossians 3:18: “Wives be subject (ὕποτάσσω – *hupōtassō*) to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.” (NASB)

(c) πείθω – *peithō* – (to obey; to persuade) – Galatians 5:7; Hebrews 13:17; James 3:3.

Galatians 5:7: “You (Believers in Galatia) were running well (They had positive volition to learn Bible Doctrine and advance in the Christian way of life); who hindered you from obeying (πείθω – *peithō*) - (To persuade) the truth (ἀλήθεια - *alētheia*) – (What is true in any matter under consideration)?” (NASB)

Types of Authority:

1. God’s Authority. Bible Doctrine is the absolute authority in the life of the positive volition believer.
2. Pastor/Teacher. In the local church or “Bible class,” the authority rests with the Pastor/Teacher. 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 2 Corinthians 10:8; Hebrews 13:7; Isaiah 54:17

1 Thessalonians 5:12: “But we (Paul and his team) request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor (To grow weary – Pastor/Teacher who studies and teaches on a consistent basis) among you and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction (So that the Believer can reach spiritual maturity). (NASB)

3. Self. Volitional self-discipline to truth is the key to the believer’s advance to spiritual maturity. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 1 Timothy 4:7

1 Timothy 4:7: “But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline (γυμνάζω – gymnázō) (To practice for the games) yourself for the purpose of godliness.” (NASB)

Authority in the Divine Institutions:

1. Husband over wife in marriage (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:11-12).
2. Parents over children. Both the husband and wife over their children – Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 6:1; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 7:9; Song of Solomon 8:2; Proverbs 22:6; Exodus 20:12. Note: Children are spoiled by a lack of training/discipline, not by giving them material things.

Colossians 3:20: “Children (τέκνον – téknon) (Child; daughter or son), be obedient (ὑπακούω – hupakouō) to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the LORD.” (NASB)

3. Government over citizen. Legitimate forms of human government over the citizen (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14).

1 Peter 2:13-14: “Submit (ὑποτάσσω – hupōtassō) yourselves (Believers) for the Lord’s sake to every human institution (The Divine Institutions), whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.” (EXT)

4. Teacher over the student (Proverbs 5:13).
5. Employer over employee. The employer, whether male or female, is the boss over the employee (Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22-25; Proverbs 31:13- 18, 24).
6. Military: the entire rank structure is based on chains of authority to prepare the soldier for the stresses of combat (Nehemiah 4:13-15).
7. God over nature (Job 5:10; 28:25-27; 36:26-33; Psalm 135:7; 147:8; 148:8; Leviticus 26:4; Jeremiah 10:13; Mark 8:26-27; Matthew 4:41; 5:45; Luke 8:25).

Job 5:10: “He (God) gives rain on the earth and sends water on the fields.” (NASB)

8. God over Angels. God has absolute authority over all categories of angels (Mark 1:27; 1 Peter 3:22; Luke 4:36).

Arrogance rejects authority:

Arrogance attacks all forms of legitimate authority. God makes “war” on the believer with negative volition who rejects lawful authority (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5-6; Proverbs 3:34; Hebrews 13:7, 17).

- (a) Adam and Eve: Although Eve was deceived by Satan, she committed the first sin stemming from her rejection of God’s authority and her husband in marriage (Genesis 3:16). On the other hand, because Adam’s sin was intentional, he not only suffered spiritual death like Eve, but the Sin Nature is now passed down genetically from Adam (the male in copulation) to all subsequent humans (1 Corinthians 15:22; Colossians 1:13).

1 Corinthians 15:22: “For as in Adam all die (spiritual death), so also in Christ all will be made alive (salvation – Faith alone in Christ alone).” (EXT)

Colossians 1:13-14: “For He (God) rescued us (Believers) from the domain of darkness (spiritual death) and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (EXT)

Genesis 3:16: “To the woman He (God) said, “I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” (NASB)

Orientation to Authority:

Authority orientation is key to a healthy society and Christian growth. However, the full benefits from authority must come from the true consent of the person that is under that authority – humility.

Exercising Authority:

Those who exercise authority must exhibit humility, patience, and sacrifice. A good leader places the concern of those under his care above his own wants and needs (2 Corinthians 1:24; 1 Peter 5:3; Ephesians 5:25, 28).

1 Peter 5:3: “Nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your (the Pastor/Teacher) charge but proving to be examples to the flock (Believers in the congregation).”

Ephesians 5:28: “So husbands ought also to love (*ἀγαπάω* – *agapáō*) (To love dearly) their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself.” (EXT)

Jesus Christ submitted to authority. Jesus Christ rejected calls to maintain His eternal and absolute “equality” with the other members of the Trinity, and opted, instead, to submit to the authority of the Father’s plan to take on the form of a true human in Hypostatic Union in order to go to the cross and provide the opportunity for salvation to all mankind (Luke 4:11-12; Hebrews 2:14-15; Philippians 2:6-9; John 10:34-38).

Authority vs. Bible Doctrine:

The believer must resist those government commands when they directly conflict with certain dogmatic aspects of Bible Doctrine such as witnessing (1 Peter 2:13-14; Acts 4:18-20; Daniel 3:16-19; 6:10).

Acts 4:18-20: “And when they (The Jewish High Council) had summoned them (Peter and John), they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard (Jesus Christ’s actual resurrection from the dead).”

Our corrected translation of Jude 11: “Woe to them (the apostates), because they have been led into the way of life of Cain (jealousy and arrogance), “they, (the false teachers), have run with reckless abandon to the strong delusions of Balaam which is monetary lust (materialism lust) and were put to death as in the revolution of Korah.”

Revolution is the subject of the last phrase of verse 11. The revolutionaries are the false teachers in churches as demonstrated by a man that you see there named Korah. Jude has characterized these revolutionaries in previous verses.

This is the culmination of what has come before. Jude has been building to this point - a graphic picture of these anti-authority revolutionists beginning in verse 4. He calls them “ungodly” in verse 4.

Then, these qualities of the ungodly, these revolutionaries, are illustrated in verses 5 through 7, which we have studied. They are the Exodus generation who complained constantly to Moses and conspired against him. Revolutionaries who, like fallen angels, rebelled against the authority of God himself and paid a very steep price for it. And also like the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah, whose immorality and debauchery was legendary and were destroyed, immolated, completely wiped off the map.

But Jude didn't stop there. He provides even more descriptions of these same revolutionaries, that they speak evil of dignitaries, another very obvious quality of revolutionaries.

Then, in the first two illustrations of verse 11, the revolutionaries are described as having mental attitude sins just like Cain. Like Cain, they become murderers. But in the church, they are soul murderers of believers since they lead them into false doctrine. They destroy spiritual lives.

Never forget, destruction of a spiritual life does not mean destruction of eternal life. Once saved, always saved. What happens after salvation is the spiritual life and it can certainly be destroyed if false doctrine infiltrates into the soul of that believer who has eternal life. That is what the false teacher revolutionaries do.

Then there was that second illustration that we have just completed, the illustration of Balaam, the greedy self-centered materialist, and you see it is a corruption of thinking: the corruption of thinking of these false teachers that have influenced believers in churches in Jude’s time and our world today.

So now, Jude comes out and labels these very men he has been describing previously as destructive revolutionaries. To do so, Jude uses another Old Testament rebellious figure: Korah.

Jude also ominously reveals the result of a revolutionary attitude against church authority and, ultimately, against God.

“*apóllymi*” indicates the ultimate end of Korah's rebellion. It will also be the ultimate end for the false teachers in the churches. That's the whole point of this last phrase.

Jude uses Korah's revolution as an illustration and indicates the ultimate end of Korah's rebellion. It will also be the ultimate end for the false teachers in the churches.

It's the same today, meaning believers must not become church revolutionaries.

In Numbers 16:1-35, Korah conspires and foments revolution against God's authority in Israel. In other words, he is revolting or rebelling against the leadership of the congregation of Israel.

Korah challenges Moses, who is the *de facto* leader of Israel. He challenges Aaron, the high priest, who is the highest authority in Israel on spiritual matters.

So, this was a revolution to remove the legitimate, theocratic government of Israel. Israel at this time was ruled directly by God; Moses and Aaron were appointed by God. They represented God as the ruler of Israel. They communicated between God, God's Word, God's mandates, and Israel.

So, the real revolution by Korah was against God. That is always the case with revolutionaries in churches.

In Numbers 16, the revolutionary conspirators are all identified. They are Korah, along with two other men named Dathan and Abiram from the tribe of Reuben. There are also 250 other subordinate leaders in Israel, called men of renown simply meaning they were well-known figures in Israel. They were also a part of this conspiracy.

The authority of any pastor comes from the communication of God's Word. The authority is meaningless unless they communicate God's Word. The authority is in God's Word, not inherent to the pastor. They simply hold the office.

Anyone with the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher has the authority, but to wield it means to communicate the Word of God.

Revolutionaries distort the facts. They demonstrate arrogance. What they charge others of, is what they are doing.

It's the same anti-authority characteristic by which Jude identifies in verse 8, "false teachers" in the churches. They reject authority and they speak evil of dignitaries, simply meaning they foment revolution.

Korah's revolt was certainly not God's plan for Israel. This was a power grab by the conspirators. God had appointed not only Moses and Aaron as leaders, but an entire Levitical priesthood, and that priesthood interceded for all the people. So, if God promoted and appointed a priesthood, then Korah has no authority to change it.

Israel lived under a priesthood that interceded for all the people of Israel. They carried that divine authority as priests, and God ruled by means of his priesthood, as well as through Moses and Aaron. That's what the theocracy was: God at the head.

Aaron's relationship was to reveal the will of the Lord. He was appointed by the will of the Lord, and he communicated the will of the Lord to Israel. He was appointed by God for that position and for that mission. It was a divinely appointed position.

What Korah used was that old saying, "Power to the people! Power to the people!" The cry of the campus revolutionaries of the 1960s. It was an ominous phrase that spewed anti-authority hate all over the campuses of this country.

Revolutionary, anti-authority hate is nothing but a ruse and a maneuver against duly-appointed authority.

Korah didn't care about the spiritual life of Israel. He cared about what Korah could get and what Korah could assume, but that is the revolutionary and, especially, the church revolutionary.

They don't have the best spiritual interest of the congregation at heart. Rather, they have their own desires at heart.

Korah just wanted to remove the current leadership, assume the mantle of the High Priest, and keep the people just where they were under his authority and his rule.

Korah's sights were set on Aaron's spiritual position of authority. He lusted for Aaron's power over the Levites and in the Tabernacle. But, again, he had no interest in the spiritual welfare of Israel.

In effect, these men, Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and the 250 others, had no authority orientation. They were not happy of where God had appointed them to serve. Get rid of the authority in the church and I'll take over.

There are several lessons to be learned here concerning service to the Lord and one's position in that service.

You see, these men who were conspirators of revolution all had positions of service. God had ordained them to different areas of leadership.

They just wanted it all and there are some lessons to be learned about service in the Christian life right here.

1. We are all called to holiness. We are all priests. We are a royal priesthood as Peter tells us.
2. Even though we are called to holiness, we are not all called to leadership. Everyone cannot be a leader or an authority unto themselves.
3. By definition, leadership requires a limited number of people. We can't all be leaders.

PRINCIPLE: *You cannot destroy authority without destroying the organization.*

4. Leadership must be qualified by both aptitude and training. There are leaders who are born leaders. They have a natural charisma. Their personality lends itself to leadership, but this is rare.

NOTE: *If you look in the book Freedom Through Military Victory, there's a list of qualities of leadership that must be present in a leader.*

Leaders in the spiritual realm are divinely appointed in the sense that they are provided spiritual gifts. Unless there is spiritual advance, unless there is training,

unless that pastor, that leader, that teacher knows things that he can impart to the congregation, he can't lead them. He must have the ability to understand the original languages, have a theological background, and been trained in the correct hermeneutics.

Revolution against divinely appointed leadership brings, "*apóllymi*," destruction, as verse 11c of Jude calls it. "Perish" is the word there, but it means utterly destroyed, which is what happens to the revolutionary.

You can begin to see how the false teachers of Jude's epistle fall into the same category of rebellion as Korah and the others. They are dissatisfied with existing church leadership.

They have a desire for material gain and power. They would depose those who are divinely appointed by spiritual gift, and by training, in order to supersede that authority.

Church rebels who join the false teacher rebels, like the 250 in Israel who joined with Korah, will share the consequences of that revolt with the leaders of the revolt. "*apóllymi*" applies not only to the revolution.

That's why believers in churches must beware of the rebels, the "dreamers" of verse 8. "Dreamers" is a perfect word for them. They dream of power and authority and money.

They see themselves in a position that they were never meant to be in, but they will take it. That is why believers must beware of these types and avoid them.

Those who would assume authority over the legitimate and accurate teachers of Bible doctrine and lead other believers into reversionism, destroy their souls because there is no spiritual advance. There is no development of a spiritual life.

Your soul is not inculcated with Bible doctrine. That's soul destruction for a believer. That's a soul that is wasted. That's a soul that deteriorates.

If you don't advance in the spiritual life, you retreat. And you never want to retreat in the spiritual life. Your obligation is to advance as a believer, not to retreat.