

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.

When you retreat, you are in essence revolting against the authority of Bible doctrine and of God, who is behind Bible doctrine.

When you are revolting against God and Bible doctrine, you will revolt against whatever authority it is that presents Bible doctrine. They go hand in hand. So, believers should never take part in church revolutions, no matter how justified they seem.

You have no right to ever rebel against church authority. Move on. Move out. Find it somewhere else! But you do not stay in a church and cause problems.

Korah is a perfect example. He revolted against Moses and against God. Whenever you put your plan before God's plan, you are in rebellion. Reversionism and revolution - exactly what we are seeing in the Korah revolution.

The conspirators should have recognized how gracious God was in giving them their current positions of service. They were elevated in those positions above others in Israel.

Leadership is developed. Be satisfied with whatever He gives you and wherever you are. Be patient because God's plan develops over time. It doesn't happen overnight. You've got to be ready to fulfill that plan. It's a day by day, step by step by step to get there.

But it's so easy not to realize the grace of God and not be absolutely content with His grace and with everything He does for you.

So, Moses responds to the revolutionaries, and he warns them to cease their anti-authority revolt. But Korah, Dathan, and Abiram are committed to this course because their arrogance drives them and motivates them.

The arrogance and false doctrine of the false teachers blinds the minds of believers, so that the truth is obscured and rejected.

Blind arrogance divorces the believer from both personal and historical reality in life. The false teachers are not in touch with reality if they have no absolute Bible doctrine in their souls. This was demonstrated by Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and many, many other times by the rebellious people of Israel in their desert wanderings.

When blind arrogance becomes locked in, the believer remains out of touch with reality.

Gradually, blind arrogance forces all reality out of life. This is why Christians join rebellions in churches. This is why denominations that taught Bible doctrine, or at least churches that at one time taught Bible doctrine, become utterly apostate.

Rebellious blind arrogance rejects human, as well as divine, authority. The word of God and divine establishment does not exist in their souls. This has been called in the past blackout of the soul.

When a whole generation rejects all establishment authority, and believers reject spiritual authority (that is, the pastor and the doctrine he teaches), severe discipline is the consequence. Utter destruction is the end result.

Korah's rebellion, then, is comparable to believers who are dissatisfied with their positions in a church.

What was Korah's problem? He was dissatisfied with his position in Israel.

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram are so arrogant that when they are summoned by Moses, who is the legitimate legal authority of Israel and summons them to face charges, they refused to come (Numbers 16:12-14).

What they did was reject a subpoena from the Supreme Court. They return Moses's summons to face charges with a mocking reply.

Emphatically, they say to Moses, we will not come up. Twice they absolutely refuse to appear before the national authorities, once in verse 12 and once in verse 14.

Now, they have rejected authority and here's the reason why they have refused to come before Moses and Aaron: they are in revolt.

“It's not enough for you to have brought us up out of the land flowing with milk and honey, to have us die in the wilderness.” Numbers 16:13

He has not taken them into the land. In other words, they're not in the land that God promised. In fact, they charge that "he removed them from a land flowing with milk and honey."

Somehow Egypt has changed from a slave state to a land where they had prospered. This is the thinking of revolutionaries. In their perverse thinking, they have switched Canaan, the land God had promised. And when he came back with Caleb, they said, this is the land flowing with milk and honey, and the others rejected that entirely.

It was not Egypt that they said was flowing with milk and honey. But Dathan and Abiram used that terminology for their own purposes. They completely distorted the promise that God had given to Abraham.

Now that's rejection of doctrine and rejection of divine authority. They cite Moses as the fool in all of this. He is the idiot who led them out of Egypt, their so-called land of milk and honey.

It's all Moses's fault that they're wandering in the desert to die. Once again, an incredibly perverse distortion. But those are the kind of lies, half-truths, and distortions of revolutionaries, whether it be in politics or in churches.

Dathan and Abiram blame Moses for the overall failure of all Israel.

They also charged that Moses would have them die in the wilderness. Moses is a murderer according to them.

The Exodus generation lost the land that God promised to Abraham because of one reason: their disobedience, their anti-authority mindset.

In their rebellious attitude, they refused to enter the land. It wasn't Moses's fault. It wasn't God reneging on his word. It was these people who were rejecting.

Dathan and Abiram conveniently forgot Israel's rebels' rebellion at Kadesh, where they refused to enter a land full of giants and tough warriors. They were scared to death.

The rebellious souls of Israel brought on rebellious actions and that caused God's just punishment. It always gets God's punishment. Nothing will get divine

discipline faster than rejecting the authority, divinely appointed authority, who teaches doctrine, the absolute authority of God's Word.

It was not Moses but God who condemned the Exodus generation to wander in the wilderness until they died. It was not an immediate punishment, the way you see Dathan and Abiram's punishment.

In the rebellious souls of Dathan and Abiram, reality is turned to fantasy. The facts become fallacies. You wonder how on earth these guys could have gone from Egypt, through the desert all the way to Kadesh, seen what happened, and then come up with this garbage. But they did. That's blind arrogance.

God's man is under the protection of God. When doctrine is taught, God honors the doctrine. And when people decide they are going to throw dirt and attack a pastor who teaches doctrine, look out! The same is true for those who get into church rebellion.

Here are the four characteristics of rebels and false teachers in churches.

1. They are brazen in their falsehoods.
2. They will say any lie to discredit those they oppose.
3. In rebellion, they are completely deceptive in their language and in their actions. What is the result?
4. The false teachers will find confused and disgruntled followers to foment the rebellion and take part in it.

The maturing believer should see right through rebellious souls and their schemes. Yet, immature, disgruntled believers fall for the kinds of rubbish that comes from a revolutionary.

The outcome of the rebellion of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, and the 250 other princes of Israel, leaders of Israel, is revealed in three verses: Number 16: 30-32.

This is Moses speaking to Israel, and he is giving a lesson on the results of revolution.

God has shown His grace, totally, and His love toward His people, Israel. Now, He shows His justice and righteousness and that is going to kick in against revolution.

The Lord brings about an entirely new punishment: the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they descend alive into *Sheol*.

Moses tells Israel the very specific results of Korah's revolt and then what happens in Numbers 16:31.

Seconds after he's told them what's going to happen, it says,

Numbers 16:31 “And as he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them split open;”

Then, in Numbers 16:32, “and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, their households, and all the people who belonged to Korah with all their possessions.”

Their wives, servants and all of their belongings – everything, gone! They aided and abetted in the revolution, hence they are a part of the punishment. As was true in Hebrew culture, the man represented the household, and the household was, in fact, indicted with the man.

A few final points on Jude 11c:

Rebellion against legitimate pastoral authority by any church members is a major distraction to the congregation and to the true purpose of the church.

Ambition and power are frequently behind revolution. Even in churches. Ambition for what?

Revolution always exhibits blind arrogance in the revolutionary. What is the result of blind arrogance? A skewed reality. There is no true reality.

There are nothing but relative values on a sliding scale. One value today is not tomorrow's value because it gets in the way of what the revolutionary wants.

There are no fixed values in the mind and the soul of someone in revolt. And that's true of emotional revolt as well.

Another aspect of blind arrogance is total self-centeredness. The revolutionary is totally self-centered under the guise of helping the people, being a good servant of the people, looking out for the welfare of the people, and that's what they would say to church members: I'm really looking out for you, there's something wrong here. No, it's nothing but self-centered blind arrogance.

For the revolutionary, the truth of God's Word is obscured and rejected. That's the very beginning and the foundation of a church revolution: obscuring and rejecting the truth of the Word of God.

The rebellious believer is the proverbial thorn in the side of everyone in his periphery.

Anti-authority thinking rejects human and divine authority.

Those who are in revolution in a church have rejected divine authority, because they have rejected Bible doctrine. They've got their own agenda, which results in the attempt to remove authority. Revolution removes authority, or tries to.

The authority of Bible doctrine is replaced by the relativism of humanism. A revolutionary, even in a church, who is in rebellion of soul, is thinking humanistically. They are not thinking divine viewpoint from Bible doctrine in their soul.

You, as a believer in Jesus Christ, should never be involved in a revolt against the government. What is all of that?

1. The intent to overthrow one's government, either through plots and intrigue or by force of arms, paramilitary activity, militias, etc., constitutes evil and is always contrary to divine will.
2. Revolution is the deposing of the existing establishment or government.
3. Problems, requiring divine establishment solutions, can never be solved by violating divine establishment principles.
4. Fomenting revolution can lead to senseless mob violence, as we are seeing in this country, and the lawless usurping of power. The end never justifies the means.

Our corrected translation of Jude 11:

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 (rejection of authority) of Korah.” (EXT)

Jude 12: “These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

Vs.13: wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.” (NASB)



Jude continues to justify the “woe” he pronounced at the very beginning of verse 11 with more character descriptions of false teachers. He uses five more illustrations in verses 12 and 13.

Here are the five illustrations Jude uses in verses 12 and 13:

1. They are called “hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves;”
2. Next, we have “Clouds without water”
3. Then “Autumn trees without fruit”
4. The false teachers are then called “wild waves”
5. Finally, he calls them “wandering stars.”

So, he opens verse 12 with one way they have accomplished these little sneak attacks. He says, “they are hidden reefs in your love feasts.”

“Reefs” here is the nominative plural of a noun. “σπιλάς” – “*spilás*.”

“*Spilás*” is a *hapax legomenon*, it occurs only once in the New Testament. It can mean “spot” or “a ledge or reef of rock in the sea.”

Since this is a *hapax legomenon*, it presents a minor problem in finding the right meaning for this word, because one of the techniques of hermeneutics is to compare words in the New Testament with how they are used and what their meanings are.

You look at the context along with the word you are studying, and it helps you narrow down the range of the meanings so that you can get the correct meaning.

However, we get a break because there are only two possibilities for meanings. The first one being “spot” or “stain.” That is one of the meanings of “*spilás*.”

But the false teachers are far beyond being mere “spots” or “stains” on the assembly of the churches, so “stain” or “spot” is not strong enough.

The other meaning of “*spilás*” in the lexicon is the preferred one in this context. The meaning is a “rock washed by the sea” and if that's not enough for you, it means a “hidden reef.” A “hidden reef” is “rocks or a jagged bit of coral;” it is hidden by water but it's very shallow.

So, our meaning of “*spilás*” here is “a hidden reef of jagged coral” which is certainly a sneaky characteristic to the infiltration of the false teachers.

They are always below the surface doing their damage. You never see it in the light of day. Ships cannot detect “hidden reefs” so they can be wrecked before they even identify the danger.

The figure of speech “wrecked ships on hidden reefs” fits the modus operandi of the false teachers perfectly.

As “hidden reefs,” the false teachers are the “hidden reefs,” awaiting unsuspecting ships to tear them to pieces and to sink them. So, what's the metaphor?

1. The unsuspecting ships are believers who fall for the false teacher's furtive attitudes and actions.
2. Believers are often unaware of the hidden dangers of false teachers or the revolutionaries in the church, and they find themselves on the “hidden reefs.” It sneaks up on them.
3. The influence of these teachers and the revolutionaries is subtle, hidden, until the believer is caught up in their human viewpoint thinking, which for the believer in Jesus Christ is entirely destructive.
4. The danger the “hidden reefs” present lurking under the surface of the church is often the hidden mental attitude sins, like the illustration of Cain in verse 11. The mental attitude sins led to the overt sin of murder.
5. In this case, the “hidden reef” is the murder of the believer's spiritual life.

Next, Jude names a particular time and place where these “hidden rocks” of falsehood reveal themselves and cause destruction.

Sooner or later the hidden reefs are revealed. Often when the ship piles into it, but suddenly everyone knows that it's there and it is revealed.

We have the preposition “ἐν” – “en” plus the noun “ἀγάπη” – “agape,” which means “love.”

You have the preposition “en”, plus the locative plural of “agape” plus the genitive plural pronoun “σὺ” – “sú,” which means you're in the genitive plural. Then we have the present active nominative plural participle “συνευωχέω” – “syneuōchéō.”

“Syneuōchéō” means “to feast together” with you in your love feasts.

We then have the attitude of the false teachers, who are feasting together with the congregation in this love feast. It is revealed by the adverb “ἀφόβως” – “aphóbōs” – which means “without fear,” “boldly,” or “shamelessly or impudently.”

Our expanded translation of Jude 12 (so far):

“These same false teachers are hidden reefs under the ocean (destructive), shamelessly feasting together with you (those you thought were making spiritual progress, but who are really trying to shipwreck you), in your love feasts.”

“Love feasts” here were the location for the “hidden reefs” (rocks). In other words, the false teachers where they do their damage.

Clearly it was a practice of the early church, a time of gathering and fellowship among believers of a church, which was obviously fellowship over a meal.

This meal was a prelude to the service of the communion table. If we were doing this on the second Sunday of the month, we would have a big meal, a big breakfast here, before we had the communion service, and we would call it a love feast.

The purpose, then, was to express the Christian attitude of virtue love. Virtue love is an expression that is comparable to our personal love toward God in communion. It's a mental attitude.

It was a time of like-minded fellowship. A group of believers fellowshiping who are supposed to be mature believers and who should be demonstrating virtue love. But you have the “hidden reefs” who are there lurking below the surface waiting to destroy those who are unsuspecting and gullible.

The love feast was also something else in the early church. It was a prelude to preparation for concentrating on the upcoming worship in communion at the communion table.

It was a time of fellowship, but it was also a time of preparation. And so, the feast was centered on the expression of genuine virtue love from the souls of maturing believers.

The false teachers are the “hidden reefs” in this metaphor. They await unsuspecting believers who are unaware of their rocky falsehoods.

Gullible believers, who could be almost anyone who is not taking in Bible doctrine, or negative believers, those who simply don't want Bible doctrine. Both are without doctrine. They are vulnerable.

“Hidden reefs” of deceptive untruths and human viewpoint rip a gaping hole in their spiritual lives. It tears them to pieces and such shipwrecked believers sink into the depths of reversionism.

Jude then gives us both the time, place, and attitude where these “hidden reefs” of falsehood are hiding. The “love feasts,” which cause destruction and reveal themselves.

But you see, the warning here by Jude about the “love feasts” indicates that the hidden reefs, or the “false teachers,” can still be discovered before they do their damage.

They were present at the “love feasts,” and they were active, or Jude would not have written this epistle to the churches.

The hidden reefs are out there. They just haven't quite taken all of the ships of these churches and destroyed them yet. They are lurking below the surface to pervert the true purpose of the love feasts.

That’s what false teachers do best, manipulate. That's what they like to do inside congregations, manipulate other believers to get what they want.

This was, in fact, something happening in the churches to whom Jude was writing. The love feasts were being subverted. The false teachers were quietly beginning to do damage as the “hidden reefs” in the metaphor.