

## **The Rebellion of Korah**

Jude 11 interjects a Woe Judgment upon three of the eight biblical examples of opponents to the Contenders of the Faith (Jude 3-4). Korah is the number seventh example.

(Jude 11c) “They perished (apollumi / a.m.ind. 3pl) in the rebellion (**te antilogia / inst.s.f**) of Korah.”

**Antilogia** can be translated gainsaying, dispute, strife, hostile, or contradiction.

(Rom.10:21) “But as for Israel He says, ‘All the day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and **obstinate** (antilego / p.a.ptc.asm) people.’ (Isa.65:2) (Acts 13:45-49; Heb.12:3)

**This lesson will study five aspects of the Rebellion of Korah and the Woe Judgment pronounced upon those engaged in this rebellion.**

**NOTE;** Jude wrote “to appeal that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 3b)

### **1. We will begin by comparing the spiritual characteristics of these three biblical examples of the Woe Judgment as opponents to Contenders of the Faith.**

- **Cain** believed in the God of his family but rejected the gospel of Christ as the only way to relationship with God as Father and ended under Woe Judgment (Gen.3:15; Gal.3:8; John 14:6).
- **Balaam** believed in the God of the Jews as one of many gods of the world but rejected God as sovereignty over all the other gods and ended under Woe Judgment (Rom.1:18-32; **21, 25, 28**).
- **Korah** was a believer and custodian priest of the gospel of Christ and ended under Woe Judgment. “Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of **Levi**.” (Num.16:1a) He was the great-grandson of Levi and of same tribe as Moses (Ex.2:1-2, 10) [Pharaoh’s daughter named Moses].

### **2. Korah’s priestly duty to the Tabernacle and shadow Christology are important to the biblical history of the rebellion of Korah (Num3:15-17, 19, 27-29; 4; 1-20).**

(Num.3:29) “The families of the sons of Kohath were to camp on the **southward side of the Tabernacle.**”

**Korah’s priestly duty** to the Tabernacle was Shadow Christology:

(Num.4:5; 4:1-20) “When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in and they shall take down **the veil** of the screen and cover the ark of the testimony with it

**This veil** separated the holy place from the Holies of Holy. This is the veil that God tore down at the death of Jesus Christ (Matt.27:51; Heb.9:1-8; 10:1) [Shadow Christology]

**Co-conspirators with Korah were some leaders from tribe of Reuben.** Reuben, Simeon, and Gad were also camped on **the south side** (Num.2:10-16).

(Num.16:1) “Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben” (Num.26:5-11)

**3. In (Num. 16), Korah formed a southern conspiracy and led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron who were the Contenders of the Faith.**

The southern conspiracy included some from the tribe of Reuben recruited to seize the position of ruler lost by divine discipline of Reuben despite what word of God ordained (Gen.35:22; 49:1-4).

It also included some from among the Kohath Levites recruited to seize the high priest status of Aaron despite what the word of God ordained (Ex.19:6) [Kingdom of priests and holy nation of theocracy].

The strategy of this rebellion is the same old same old of **Satan's strategy** (2 Cor.2:11; 2 Tim.2:26; 1 Pet.5:8; Isa.14:12-15).

**Schemes of the devil:** (Eph.6:11-12) "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." (1 John 4:4; 5:4-5/ **victory in Jesus**)

God is of order and peace and Satan is of chaos and conflict (1 Cor.14:33, 40; John 16:33).

**4. Korah thinks that power in numbers can change the power of the sovereign will of God.**

**Cosmos diabolicus (worldly thinking promoted by devil)** believes 1/3 is enough to overthrow the Will of God when supported by key leaders (Rev.12:4; Num.16:1).

Motivated by spiritual arrogance, ambition, and power lust, they think they can do a better job than the people God had appointed. From a human viewpoint, they could be right but the final decision is with the Lord who made the appointment [Absalom against David] (2 Sam.15-17). In fact, Moses resisted this appointment (Ex.3-4).

**Moses to Korah:** (Num.16:9-10)

**"It is not enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the service of the Tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to minister to them; and that He has brought you near, **Korah**, and all your brothers, sons of Levi, with you? **And are you seeking for the congregation to minister to them?"****

**5. Moses allowed it to form into an organized rebellion against divinely delegated position of authority. He allowed it to become public in order to show others the danger of this type of rebelling against God.**

The rebellion of Korah is an example of **Reverse Process Reversionism (RPR)** (Matt.6:24).

- The Lord gave Korah and 250 priests the fire pan priesthood test to teach other priests about divine appointments (Num.16:16-23).
- **The Woe Judgment** consumed the 250 Korah priest involved in the rebellion by fire (Num.16:35). Next it consumed those of the tribe of Reuben involved in the rebellion by the earth (Num.16:23-34).
- Then it consumed 14,700 Israelites who sat in the bleachers of this rebellion but sided with Korah and grumbled against God's Woe Judgment by a plague (Num.16:41-50).

**JUDE'S WARNING TO THE CHURCH:**

"Woe to them! They perished (apollumi / m.ind.3pl) in the rebellion of Korah."