

Jude Part 3 – Striving For The Faith – Sep 4, 2026 – Study Guide

Summary

This teaching provides a biblical study on the **Book of Jude**, focusing on the spiritual necessity of **striving for the faith** while avoiding the dangers of **arrogance and pride**. The speaker highlights the historical rebellion of **Korah**, a Levite who challenged the divinely appointed leadership of **Moses and Aaron**. By examining the narrative in **Numbers 16**, the text illustrates how **God's judgment** fell upon those who succumbed to self-exaltation and resisted God's chosen representatives. The overview warns that **false prophets** and prideful hearts lead to severe destruction, affecting not just the individual but potentially their entire community. Ultimately, the teaching serves as a **solemn reminder** for believers to maintain **humility and obedience** to avoid the ancient errors of rebellion.

Study Guide: Strive for the Faith – The Rebellion of Korah

This study guide explores the warnings provided in the book of Jude regarding ungodly intruders, specifically focusing on the historical example of Korah's rebellion found in Numbers 16. It is designed to enhance your understanding of the biblical consequences of **pride** and the necessity of remaining **obedient to God's designated authority**.

I. Definitions of Key Words

- **Atonement:** A process of reconciliation or reparation for sin, often involving a specific ritual to check God's wrath and restore the relationship between Him and His people.
 - **Error of Balaam:** A state of rushing headlong into wrongdoing for the sake of profit or personal gain.
 - **Pride (Arrogance):** An internal heart condition that God hates; it is often at the center of all sin and leads to the belief that one is entitled to positions or authority not granted by God.
 - **Rebellion of Korah:** The act of openly defying and rising up against God's chosen representatives and their divinely appointed roles.
 - **Censers (Firepans):** Metal containers used by priests for burning incense in the presence of the Lord during religious service or judgment rituals.
 - **Sheol:** The place of the dead; in the context of Korah's judgment, it describes the rebels descending alive into the depths as the earth swallowed them.
 - **Way of Cain:** A path characterized by unbelief, jealousy, and evil, beginning and ending with murder.
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II. Expansion of Key Points

1. The Scope and Priority of Divine Judgment

The Apostle Jude aligns his warnings closely with those of the Apostle Peter, emphasizing that judgment is not reserved solely for the "world" but has a specific starting point.

- **The Household of God:** Contrary to some modern teachings, biblical judgment begins with God's own redeemed people and His created angelic beings.
- **Biblical References:** 1 Peter 4:17-19; Jude 5-7.

2. The Root of Rebellion: Pride and Entitlement

The rebellion led by Korah was not merely a political dispute but a spiritual failure rooted in **pride**. Korah and his followers felt **entitled** to the high priestly line and questioned the authority of Moses and Aaron.

- **The Nature of Pride:** God views the proud in heart as an abomination and assures they will not go unpunished.
- **The Magnitude of the Influence:** Korah did not act alone; he influenced, **Dathan, Abiram, and On**, together with **250 leaders** of the congregation—men of renown—to join his cause.
- **Biblical References:** Proverbs 8:13; Proverbs 16:5; Numbers 16:1-3.

3. God's Response to Defiance

Moses did not defend only his own authority but also Aaron as God's appointed High Priest. He in turn passed the matter over to God to show who is the ultimate authority and who would ultimately determine who is "holy".

- **The Test of the censers:** The rebels were challenged to bring incense before the Lord, putting the choice of holiness directly in God's hands. The 250 who were burnt up had their censers hammered into sheets for a plating of the altar as a reminder to Israel that only descendants of Aaron should burn incense before the Lord.
- **Separation for Safety:** God instructed Moses and Aaron to separate themselves from the congregation so He could consume the rebels instantly.
- **A Unique Judgment:** Moses prophesied an "entirely new thing"—the ground opening to swallow the rebels—as proof that they had spurned the Lord and that Moses was truly sent by God.
- **Biblical References:** Numbers 16:4-35.

4. The Persistence of Sin and the Need for Atonement

Shockingly, the very next day after the earth swallowed Korah and fire consumed the 250 men, the congregation rebelled again, accusing Moses and Aaron of killing "the Lord's people".

- **The Plague:** In response to this renewed rebellion, God sent a plague that began to consume 14,700 of the congregation.

- **Intercession:** Aaron, as the high priest, had to run into the assembly with his censer to make atonement, standing between the dead and the living to stop the plague.
 - **Biblical References:** **Numbers 16:41-50; Acts 5** (Ananias and Sapphira).
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III. Study Questions

1. According to **1 Peter 4:17**, where does judgment begin?
 2. Who were the primary leaders of the rebellion against Moses and Aaron in **Numbers 16**?
 3. How many "men of renown" did Korah influence to join his rebellion?
 4. What was the specific "unnatural death" that Moses prophesied for Dathan and Abiram?
 5. What was done with the bronze censers of the 250 men who were consumed by fire, and why?
 6. How did the congregation react the day after the initial judgment of Korah?
 7. How many people died in the plague that followed the second day of rebellion?
 8. According to the source, what is the primary motive or heart condition behind the sins of Cain, Balaam, and Korah?
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IV. Answer Key

1. Judgment begins with the **household of God**.
 2. **Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On**.
 3. **250 leaders** of the congregation.
 4. The **ground split open and swallowed them** alive, along with their households and possessions.
 5. They were hammered into **sheets for a plating of the altar** as a reminder to Israel that only descendants of Aaron should burn incense before the Lord.
 6. They **grumbled against Moses and Aaron**, accusing them of causing the death of the Lord's people.
 7. **14,700 people** (approximately 15,000).
 8. **Pride and arrogance**.
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V. Comprehensive Biblical References in the Source

- **Jude 1:10-11, 16**
- **1 Peter 4:17-19**
- **Proverbs 8:13**
- **Proverbs 16:5**
- **Genesis 4** (Reference to Cain's line)
- **Numbers 16:1-50**
- **Acts 5** (Ananias and Sapphira)

- **Matthew 24:21**
- **Revelation 6:15-17**
- **Mark 13:19**
- **Daniel 12:1**
- **Matthew 1**

VI. Exhortations

- **Guard Against Pride:** **Pride** is a deceptive force that can lead even "men of renown" and those in privileged positions to overstep their divine calling.
- **Respect Divine Authority:** Recognize and honour the representatives God has placed in leadership. Rebellion against God's chosen leaders is viewed by God as rebellion against Himself.
- **Heed the Warnings:** The historical records of Cain, Balaam, and Korah are not merely stories; they are serious warnings for modern believers to avoid the paths of evil, greed, and rebellion.
- **Seek Humility:** In a world filled with the influence of false prophets and external distractions, focus on walking in humble fear and obedience to the Lord.
- **Understand the Weight of Sin:** God takes sin very seriously, and the consequences of one person's pride can have a horrific influence on their entire family and congregation.

THE HIGH COST OF REBELLION:

The Case of Korah



PRIDE BLINDS THE HEART

Korah's entitlement led him to reject his calling and covet the high priesthood.



REBELLION IS A DANGEROUS CONTAGION

One man's pride influenced 250 "men of renown" to turn against God's leaders.



GOD VALIDATES HIS CHOSEN REPRESENTATIVES

Moses deferred to the Lord to show who was truly holy rather than arguing.



JUDGMENT IS SWIFT AND TOTAL

The earth swallowed the rebels while divine fire consumed those offering unauthorized incense.



A PERMANENT WARNING FOR TODAY

Korah's end serves as a "reminder" that judgment begins with the household of God.