



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" MARK 16:15

MARCH / APRIL 1997

FROM US TO YOU

There's always something refreshing about Spring. You can feel it in the air, that mysterious, ethereal substance that signals a wake-up call to all creation. Nature seems to renew itself, as if from a deep sleep. Hibernating animals reappear, dead looking trees come back to life and blossom in majestic colors. Plants and flowers that seemed dead and buried, suddenly spring to life in grandeur and beauty. Even the birds fly back from their winter habitation! There is great beauty in the purity of God's creation. *"For the ...heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands"* (Psalms 19:1 NIV). It is mankind who has polluted the waters, defiled the land, and poisoned the air we breathe. The suffering that goes on in this world was not caused by God. For He made all things perfect. He gave us a world of breathtaking color and variety, coral reefs, grandiose mountain tops, valleys and waterfalls of incredible splendor. He clothed the evening sky with lights to *"...serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years"* (Gen. 1:14 NIV). And God gave us stars that sparkle as jewels in the *"...sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good"* (Genesis 1:17-18 NIV). Our Creator did not cause the wars and the starvation and the misery in this world. He cares about every little sparrow who falls from a tree (see Matthew 10:29). For God is love!

However, it's plain to see that we do not live in a world that is governed by love, peace, joy, and justice. We live in a violent world of hatred, pain, and death. That's because our Creator does not rule over this world system. It is governed by *"...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"* (Eph. 2:2 KJV). That prince is Satan (Matthew 4:8-10)! He runs this world system in the spirit realm, but he does not do so alone. Under his command is an army of demon spirits, many of them are high ranking and have tremendous power and authority under the devil. That's what the scripture means that says, *"...our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"* (Ephesians 6:12 NIV). Obviously, this is not God's will. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16 KJV). We remember the Lord's tremendous sacrifice for us during this Easter season. To the world, this is a holiday that has been largely associated with chocolate bunnies, egg hunts, and parades. *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing..."* (1 Corinthians 1:18 NIV).

However, we are *"...not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..."* (Romans 1:16 NIV). Therefore, during this Easter holiday, let those of us who love Christ remember that Jesus was not just some wise human prophet.

He was not just the founder of a new religion. He was not just a good man. Jesus Christ is, was, and forever will be God! *"Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it"* (John 1:3-5 NIV). He, God the Son, became our only means of atonement and reconciliation to our Creator! (See 1 Timothy 2:5.) For Jesus paid a debt that we could never pay ourselves! (Matthew 18:23-35, Romans 3:23 and 6:23). And when it was finally paid, *"...Jesus said, 'It is finished...'"* (John 19:30 NIV), and then He died. If that had been the end of the story we would have no hope of salvation. We would, therefore, be forced to pay for our own sins, an eternal debt that never ends. It is the horrible future that awaits everyone who dies without Christ! (See Revelation 21:6-8 NIV). But the news is good! For Jesus, our champion, defeated the very powers of darkness, and has triumphed over them in victory eternal.

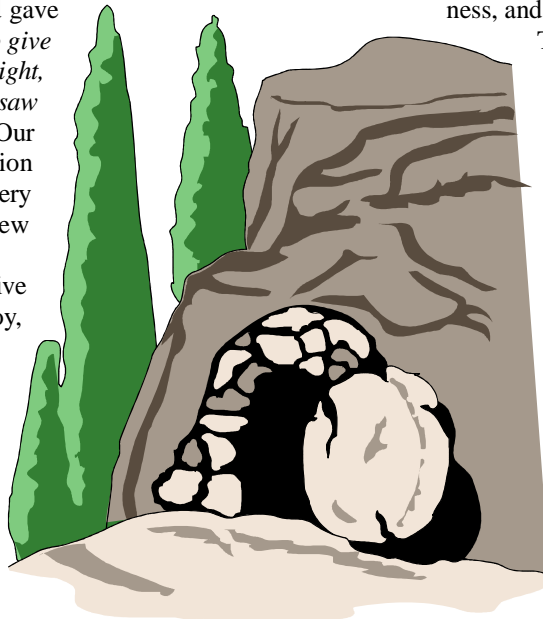
That's because He rose from the dead!

Christianity stands alone as the only faith worldwide, that boasts a conquering hero who rose from the dead! We both stood in the Lord's tomb in Israel in 1984. It is empty! Remember the words of the angels as they spoke to the women who had gone to tend His body. They said, *"...Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!..."* (Luke 24:5-6 NIV). The rest of this world may celebrate Easter with that which is of the world. But we, who live for Him, are not of this world (John 17:14-16). For He was not of this world (see John 18:36). *"He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received*

Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:10-13 NIV. Also, see 1 Peter 1:23).

If you are a child of God, you are one of the Lord's little lambs (Isaiah 53:6 and John 21:16). As such, remember the words of Jesus, *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves"* (Matthew 7:15 NIV). This month's article, **"Cain, Balaam, and Korah"** will help you to identify some of those wolves, who are seeking to destroy the precious flock of God (see Jeremiah 23:1-4 and John 10:12-17). *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ..."* (1 Peter 1:18-19 NIV). Have a holy and blessed Easter everyone!

Through His love we remain, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



Cain, Balaam, and Korah

By Anne Kaestner

The Lord led my husband, Eric, and me to begin this ministry in 1988, after He had spent many years teaching us that which we needed to know before we could even get started. And we're still learning from Him, growing closer to Jesus Christ, and continually moving further away from this world system (John 17:14 & 1 John 2:15-17) and toward the Kingdom of God (Mark 4:11). For just as the Jews had to keep moving after the Lord led them out of Egypt and toward the promised land (Exodus 13:21-22), we also, as Christians, must continue along the "straight and narrow" (Matthew 7:13-14) toward our Heavenly destination (John 14:2). We cannot become stagnant in our faith, because if we do that, we will backslide! The believer who thinks that he knows it all is a person who has drifted away from Christ! (See Matthew 24:10-11, 1 Timothy 6:10, 1 Timothy 6:20-21.) That's because he is no longer teachable by the Holy Spirit, or those through whom He chooses to work (1 Corinthians 2:16 & Galatians 1:11-12). And that is precisely the place where Satan wants God's people! For once the communication line is closed between the Lord and one of His children (John 1:12-13, 3:3, & 1 Peter 2:7-10), the devil is then able to introduce all kinds of erroneous doctrines (Ephesians 4:14 & 1 Timothy 4:1-2) that, if left unchecked, will ultimately destroy their relationship with God!

The Apostle Peter wrote to the church saying, "...there will be false teachers among you. **They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves**" (2 Peter 2:1 NIV). Now what does it mean when Peter says, "denying the **sovereign** Lord"? These false prophets don't deny the existence of Christ. They may not even deny that He is the Son of God. But what they deny is His **sovereignty** over the life of a believer! They don't teach their flock about the importance of striving for holiness in all we do (1 Peter 1:15-16). The Apostle Jude wrote to the church about false prophets who promote worldliness. He said, "**Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion**" (Jude 1:11 NIV). The spiritual influence of these three men is very prevalent in the church today! But I want you to notice something important. None of these men were pagans! Each of them claimed to love God, and to be living for Him! Nevertheless, each one of them was self-righteous and rebellious. "**Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools**" (Romans 1:22 NIV). They would not yield their will to the will of God. Despite their self-delusions of piety, their hearts were so far from the Light (John 1:4-9 & 8:12) that they didn't even know what it meant to live by faith! "**And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him**" (Hebrews 11:6 NIV). Also, see Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, & Hebrews 10:38).

When someone truly walks by faith, regardless of circumstances, their heart is tender and warm before their Redeemer (Job 19:25-27), for they are bathed in the brightness of His glory (see Ezekiel 1:26-28 and Revelation 1:12-16). Therefore, the greater the call of God on a person's life, the closer he is brought to that Holy Torch (Luke 3:16, Acts 2:3) and to Calvary (Galatians 5:24). Thus, we who love Christ, are purified through our afflictions and made strong through our infirmities (see Psalm 12:6 and James 5:10-11). God's Spirit is, to us, an unquenchable fire (Hebrews 12:29), and the hottest flame of all will burn white hot for the cleansing and purity of our soul (Zechariah 13:9, 1 Peter 1:3-9, & Revelation 3:18). Yet, as with all sinners, Cain,

Balaam, and Korah didn't know the Light (see John 8:19). For they lived in darkness (John 3:19-21), unable to see the Truth (John 14:6). As a result, although He tried to do so, the Lord couldn't use them. Through their rebellion, they had become as hardened clay (Isaiah 29:16, 45:9), dry and useless. And their Creator could not mold them into the image of His dear Son (Jeremiah 18:4, Romans 8:29, and 1 John 3:2). Clay comes from the earth, "...the dust of the ground..." (Genesis 2:7 NIV). All of us were made of clay (see Isaiah 64:8 & Romans 9:21), which is a type of soil used to grow plants. But these men were so hardhearted that the Lord couldn't grow any fruit in them! All they produced were weeds! (See Matthew 13:24-30 & 40-42.) Consequently, like straw, or chaff (Psalm 1:1-4, Luke 3:16-17), Cain, Balaam, Korah, and those of like spirit, will burn in the fires of Hell! (See Isaiah 5:24.) This is because they would not allow God to be their gardener (John 15:1-6)!

Cain was the first of the three. He was determined to have things **his own way**, to choose his own method of salvation. Cain knew that God had taught his parents, Adam and Eve, that He is not satisfied with that which we construct for ourselves (see Genesis 3:7), through human endeavors, talent, and ability. That's why "**the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them**" (Genesis 3:21 NIV). For only the shedding of innocent blood would cover their sin! Now, Cain's brother "...Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground" (Genesis 4:2 KJV).

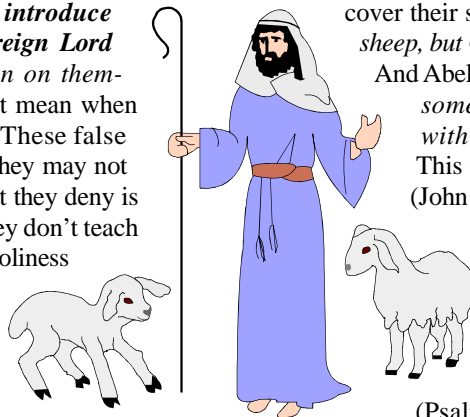
And Abel obeyed God and brought Him "...fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. **The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering**" (Genesis 4:4 NIV).

This was symbolic of the "Lamb of God," Jesus Christ (John 1:29), who would eventually enter into this world

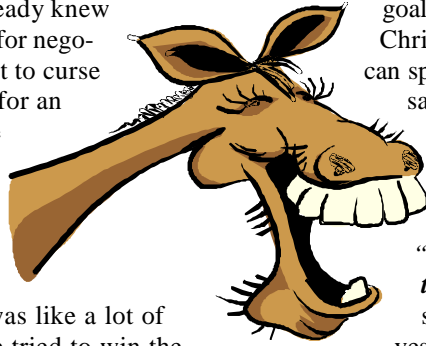
to die in our place! However, Cain thought that he had a better idea! He looked on with contempt at Abel's slaughtered lambs. Abel hadn't worked hard growing fruit and vegetables. All he had to do was to tend to the sheep, who ate the grass of the field and drank from the still waters

(Psalm 23:2). For God had already supplied him with

what he would need to feed his lambs (see John 21:17). So all that Abel had to do was to obey the Lord and trust Him. To Cain, Abel's work looked easy. He could sit under a shady tree while Cain worked up a sweat growing his own crops. However, Cain only saw what he wanted to see! It was unlikely that a hungry wolf would spot one of Cain's cabbages and plan his dinner menu around it. Wolves have no interest in vegetables, for they are carnivorous. It's the sheep that they desire! For sheep are the dumbest of animals! (See Isaiah 53:6.) They are also the most vulnerable! Therefore, a good shepherd (John 10:11-15) keeps a careful watch over his flock, and he will risk his life (1 Samuel 17:34-36), if necessary, in order to protect the sheep! (Also, see Acts 20:28-30.) Cain's problem was like that of a lot of people today (Proverbs 14:12), many of whom claim to love Christ! They will not allow themselves to be led and directed by the Spirit of God because their hearts are stubborn and rebellious. Therefore, they try to please God in their own way, and, as with Cain, it is not acceptable to our Creator! When Cain realized this, he was jealous and angry, so angry that he killed his brother! If Cain had repented of his sin and obeyed God, his offering would have been accepted. But Cain wouldn't do that. Consequently, a bad situation got a lot worse, because sin grows more sin. That's what Paul meant when he said, "**a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump**" (Galatians 5:9 KJV). Cain had insisted on being his own gardener, but all that he had been growing was bad fruit! For only God can grow good fruit in us (John 15:1-2).



Now, what about Balaam? He had been a prophet of God, who is perfect, and therefore, "...does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17 NIV). However, Balaam's heart was divided between his loyalty to God (Exodus 20:3 & Matthew 22:37-38), and his continual desire to please mankind (Ecclesiastes 9:3, Jeremiah 17:9, & Matthew 15:19). As a result, Balaam fell so far away from the will of the Lord that he became dumber than a donkey! Balaam really wanted to please Balak, son of the king. You can read about it in Numbers 22. Balak was important, and he made Balaam feel important. He sent diplomats to visit Balaam and to try to convince him to go with them to curse the Hebrews. But God told Balaam not to do so. He said that the Hebrews were blessed of Him and that no curse should be put on them. Balak wasn't happy about hearing this. So he sent more dignitaries to see Balaam, more important men, to try to pressure him into cooperating with the curse. Balaam wanted to please Balak, but he feared God. Despite this, he allowed the second group of messengers to spend the night at his home, in the hope that God would change His mind. The Lord finally told Balaam to go with them, but only to say what He told him to say. The next day Balaam began his trip by donkey. However, God was not pleased with the way he had acted. Balaam was a people pleaser. He knew how important it was to obey God, but he didn't like disappointing Balak. For he enjoyed the praise of men more than he loved his Creator (John 12:42-43 & Luke 6:26). He also liked all the money (Numbers 22:16-17, Mark 8:36, and 1 Timothy 6:10) and prestige that came with pleasing Balak, who was, as aristocracy, a part of the elite social class. Balaam was very good at lip-service (Numbers 22:18), but what he said and what he did were two different things! You see, Balaam already knew God's position on the issue. There was no room for negotiation. God told Balaam clearly that he was not to curse Israel. Nevertheless, Balaam wouldn't take no for an answer! He kept thinking that he could persuade God to change His mind in order to please Balak. Therefore, Balaam kept building new altars and kept sacrificing more animals each time. He believed that, due to all of his sacrifices, God would acquiesce to the will of Balak. But it didn't work! (See Psalm 51:16-17.) Balaam was like a lot of preachers of the Gospel today. He should have tried to win the pagans over to the position of God, but, instead, he was trying to get God to change His mind in order to please the pagans! Christians, as a servant of the Lord, it is not my job to make Christ acceptable to you. It is my job to show you how to make yourselves acceptable to Him! We are the sinners, not God! We must change our way of doing things in order to conform to **His** standards, not the reverse! As Paul said, "Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ" (Galatians 1:10 NIV).



There are many pastors who fall into Balaam's error. They know how angry Jesus was when He saw tradesmen buying and selling in and around the temple (John 2:15-16), but they still insist on having their flea markets on church grounds! My husband and I pass a certain church on our way home from work. It is always active, and the parking lot is frequently full. But all you have to do is to take a look at the sign on the front lawn and you discover why the church is so popular. At different times during the year, they have read something like this, "Auction Tonight," or "Strawberry Festival," or "Plant Sale," or "Aunt Erma's Barbecued Ribs," or "Antiques." And there have been other signs too. The church is also used for voting during elections. There's a day care center there as well, with a playground in the yard. That church is involved in everything except preaching the Gospel! (See Mark 16:15-16.) They have plenty of lip-service to Jesus, for I have seen Christian tracts in the lobby. But any seeds that are sown at that church will fall among thorns! (See Luke 8:14.) In like manner,

some pastors encourage rock bands to play in their sanctuary in order to lure young people into the church. One Sunday morning, years ago, Eric and I attended a church where everyone there, including the minister, was dressed as if they were going to a softball game! The American Standard Bible says, "Oh worship Jehovah in holy array: Tremble before Him, all the earth" (Psalm 96:9 ASV). The God we serve is Holy! Therefore, when you go to church dressed in sloppy attire, you are not treating Him with respect! (See Ezekiel 22:26.) Consequently, He's not going to be there! The church may be full of young people and sinners; the pastor may preach until his throat is sore, but unless God's Spirit is present, no one will be brought to repentance or cleansed of their sin! (See John 6:44, 15:26, 16:7-8.) In fact, when a worldly church (James 4:4) has such bad fruit, their services will do more harm than good! (See 1 Corinthians 11:17.) For the congregation is left with an artificial concept of Christianity (2 Corinthians 11:3-4 & Matthew 15:13-14), which gives them exactly what Satan is aiming for, a false sense of security! (See Matthew 23:15.)

As for Korah, his sin was the worst of all! That's because Korah was not only guilty of the sinful attitude expressed in Cain and Balaam, but he also wanted to control the lives of other people. And, like thousands of men down through the ages, he realized that religion was the best way for him to manipulate the rest of the flock! Cain was proud and obstinate. Balaam was egotistical and greedy. But Korah was both of these magnified many times! That's because, although Cain and Balaam both rebelled against God and deceived themselves into believing that they were doing His will, at least they weren't power hungry. But Korah would have done whatever it took to achieve his goal! And, unfortunately, I see a lot of Korah's sin in Christians today! Believers seem to think that anyone can speak for God. However, that is not what the Bible says! The Lord doesn't want anyone speaking for Him. (See Jeremiah 14:14-15, 27:14-15, 29:8-9, and 1 Kings 22:7-23.) Remember the words of Micaiah, the only true prophet of God in a room filled with arrogant deceivers. He told the King, "...If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me..." (1 Kings 22:28 NIV). Only **God** can speak for God, and He does so only through those vessels that have been **chosen by Him!** They may be male, like Peter (Acts 2:17-18), or female, like Huldah (2 Kings 22:14-20), or young, like Stephen (Acts 7:54-60), or old, like Anna (Luke 2:36-38). The important thing is that the person is someone through whom the Spirit of the Almighty can operate. But He can't do that unless He is given **total** control! However, those who are willing to move out of the way and allow the Holy Spirit to take over in them, will be used by God in tremendous ways. Moses was such a man! He had learned one of the most powerful lessons of faith, "...unless the **LORD** builds the house, its builders labor in vain..." (Psalms 127:1 NIV). God was able to use Moses, for Moses wasn't looking for personal honor or glory. He was content to obey the Lord, and to submit to His will, no matter what direction his life took. Moses had been a big-shot in Egypt. He had been raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He had lived as royalty, eaten the finest foods, and worn expensive clothes. Nevertheless, "by faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward" (Hebrews 11:24-26 NIV). Moses could be used by God because, he had learned to live by **faith!** (See Romans 1:17.)

Moses was 80 years old when he was drafted into the army of God! Today most men of that age, if they're still alive, want to retire and take it easy. But Moses was only **(Continued On Page 4)**

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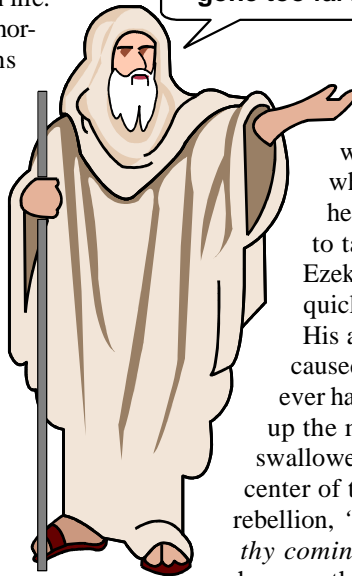
just ready for God's calling. Of course, it was hard to convince Moses of that, for he had become so humble before God that he didn't feel qualified. I can identify a bit with Moses because when the Lord called my husband and me into this ministry, we, like Moses, tried to talk Him out of it (Exodus 3:11, 4:1, 4:10, & 4:13). The irony is that those who feel the most qualified to work for God are often the most unqualified of all. It's because their criteria for religious success is based on human achievement and ability. Yet that is not what God is looking for! The Lord doesn't want people who are good at giving orders. He wants servants who are good at taking them! (See Mark 10:42-45.) The Creator doesn't commission officers in His army based on their ability to win battles. He chooses some lowly private who has learned how to trust and honor his Commander In Chief, Jesus Christ! Moreover, God didn't choose Moses to lead His people out of Egypt when Moses was young and strong. He waited until he was an old man before giving him his ministry (see 1 Corinthians 1:27-29). That's because God didn't pick Moses for his wisdom or strength. He chose him because Moses had learned how to serve Him (Matthew 25:21). *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"* (Ephesians 6:12 NIV). In other words, it is not human beings that are the real cause of our struggles in life. It is high ranking demon spirits who work under the authority and power of the god of this world (see Ephesians 2:2 and Luke 4:5-8), Satan! And that's why those who are called of God, *"...walk by faith, not by sight"* (2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV)!

It was not by any human ability that Moses parted the Red Sea (Exodus 13:18 & 14:10-31) or caused the water in Egypt to become blood (Exodus 7:20). It was God who was doing these things, not Moses! Moses was just the vessel through whom God chose to work. But this was something that Korah just couldn't comprehend. For Korah was a rebel! He was one of the Hebrews who had been delivered from Egyptian bondage by God through the ministry of Moses and Aaron. He had seen the Holy Spirit work many miracles through Moses, just as the Pharisees had seen Jesus perform many miracles when He was on earth. And yet, like the Pharisees toward Christ, Korah became jealous of the authority that God had given to Moses. Therefore, he gathered around himself a mob of men of similar sentiment, and *"they came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, 'You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?'"* (Numbers 16:3 NIV). If you have reached a level of faith in the Lord where He has been able to give you a position of spiritual authority, you will incur the wrath of people like Korah. For there are many hypocrites in the church! Korah wasn't jealous of Moses during those 40 years that Moses spent in the wilderness, hiding from those who wanted to kill him (Exodus 4:19). It was only after the Lord chose Moses to be His vessel of deliverance for Israel that Korah and his men began to hate him. They never stopped to think that if it hadn't been for the faith and trust that Moses had in God, they would still be slaves in Egypt! All that these men saw was the power that God had given to him, and they resented Moses because of it. Jesus taught us strongly, to avoid this type of attitude (see Matthew 23:1-36).

As with Balaam, Korah valued the praise of men more than the holiness of God. Like Cain, Korah wanted to choose what he would

do for God, instead of allowing God to work through him. We, as Christians, don't decide what type of a ministry we will have or what we will do for our Creator. We humble ourselves before Him, and become holy vessels through whom He can work. The Lord isn't interested in cheap opportunists who want to make a name for themselves and promote a man-centered Gospel. He wants those whom **He** is able to control! Moses wasn't looking for fame or glory. He had gained such profound faith in his Creator that he was content to become God's puppet. And God pulled his strings! For the Lord will settle for nothing less in those He chooses to use! But Satan found, in Korah, a man whom he could exploit. I want you to notice something. God was angry at Cain, but He didn't kill him. God was angry at Balaam, but He didn't kill him. However, God was absolutely furious at Korah! Not only was Korah rebelling personally against the Lord, but he was also encouraging others to do so! And Korah's personality was more like that of Satan himself than either of the other two men, who had Satanic traits, but were not as evil. Yes, Cain was a murderer, and Balaam was angry enough to kill his innocent donkey, who had saved his life (see Numbers 22:21-34). But Korah was more dangerous than either of the others. For he was so determined to gain authority over the minds of the people that he could have done tremendous damage to the plan of God. And, since the Bible and the

Moses. You have gone too far!



Christian faith came to us through the Jews, as did salvation itself (for God's own Son, Jesus, came into this world as a Jew), if Korah had succeeded in his mutiny against Moses, Satan would have succeeded in thwarting God's method of atonement for the human race! Korah was, in essence, committing the same sin of which Lucifer was guilty. He tried to take over against the Word of God, who was operating through Moses, just as Satan, when he was Lucifer, a very high ranking Heavenly angel, tried to take over the throne of God! (See Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:13-18, & Revelation 12:7-9.) So the Lord acted quickly. He not only killed Korah and his followers, but His anger had been kindled to such a level of fury that He caused the first earthquake to occur! Nothing like this had ever happened before (see Numbers 16:30). For God opened up the mouth of Hell, and Korah and those with him were swallowed up by the earth (Numbers 16:31-33)! Hell is in the center of the planet. That's why God said to Lucifer, after his rebellion, *"Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming..."* (Isaiah 14:9 KJV). It's also why He told us humans that *"the way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from Hell beneath"* (Proverbs 15:24 KJV. See Romans 10:7 & Ephesians 4:8-10 as well). And Hell is where the fire of volcanoes (see Deuteronomy 32:22) originates. It will be the final destination of Satan and his demons (Revelation 20:1-3 and 10). Hell is also the place where all rebels against God ultimately end up! (See Revelation 21:8.)

All carnal pride is a form of rebellion against the Almighty, but religious pride is about as bad as pride can get! (See Matthew 26:3-4.) It was the same kind of pride that caused the Pharisees to hate Jesus so much! It is hypocrisy! And there is nothing that God hates more! Unlike the hypocrites, those who truly love Jesus don't go around trying to impress everyone with how smart they are, or how educated, or how many gifts of the Spirit they have. For Satan can even fake the gifts of God (see Exodus 7:10-12 and Revelation 13:12-4)! But he can't fake the fruit! Therefore, Jesus said, *"by their fruit you will recognize them..."* (Matthew 7:16 NIV). Despite his vast education, the Apostle Paul told the church, *"...my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the Power of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:4-5 KJV).