

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH
THE BOOK OF JUDE
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE APOSTATE
“FOR THEY HAVE. . .PERISHED IN THE GAINSAING OF CORE
(KORAH)”(VS 11)

I. THE DEFINITION OF “GAINSAING.”

It comes from the Greek word “*antilogia*” which means “*contradict, dispute, resist, disobedience*” with reference to God’s appointed authority.

The word that is translated “*gainsaying*” here is also translated elsewhere as:

1. “*Contradiction*” in *Hebrews 7:7* (see verses 4-8 for context) and in *Hebrews 12:3* (see verses 1-4 for context).
2. “*Strife*” in *Hebrews 6:16* (see verses 11-19 for context).

The Greek word translated here is derived from another word which means “*to dispute, refuse.*”

This word is translated as:

1. “*gainsayers*” in *Titus 1:9* (see verses 7-11 for context).
2. “*gainsaying*” in *Romans 10:21* (see verses 16-21 for context cf. *Isaiah 65:1-3*).
3. “*answering again*” in *Titus 2:9* (See verses 9-12 for context).
4. “*contradicting*” in *Acts 13:45* (See verses 43-46 for context).
5. “*deny*” in *Luke 20:27* (See verses 27-40 for context).
6. “*speaketh against*” in *John 19:12* (See verses 1-16 for context).

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II. THE EXAMINATION OF THE “GAINSAING.”
(NUMBERS 16:1ff)

A. WHO Was Involved?

1. **Korah, A Levite. (Vs 1a)**
The Levites were given charge over the keeping of the Tabernacle!

So this rebellion was a challenge against the religious leadership of Moses!

Aaron, the high priest, also became an object of their attack. (Vs 9-10)

2. **Dathan And Abiram, Who Were Reubenites. (Vs1b)**
Reuben was the firstborn son of Jacob (Israel).
So, this was also a challenge against the political leadership of Moses.

3. **250 Princes Of The Assembly. (Vs 2)**
They recruited **250 of the top leaders of Israel** as collaborators.

Notice these men were “*famous in the congregation, men of renown.*” i.e. They were people of influence!

Oh how we need to be careful about how we use our influence!

B. WHAT Was Involved? (Vs 2-3)

1. **They Rose Up Before Moses! (Vs 2)**
We think of it in our day as “*getting up in his face.*”
This was a bullying maneuver used to try to stir up **fear in the one it is used against!**

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2. They Gathered Themselves Together Against Moses And Against Aaron! (Vs 3)

This was another bullying maneuver...**a show of force against the men whom God put in charge of the congregation of Israel!**

3. They Gathered Together Against God! (Vs 11)

Moses is the one speaking here. And he gives here the reality of what this gang of 253 had done!

When folks rise up against God’s appointed leadership the LORD doesn’t take it lightly!

Moses and Aaron were not perfect, but **they had done nothing more than lead as the LORD led them!**

There was no **“just cause”** in what went on here!

C. WHAT Was Their Charge? (Vs 3-14)

1. Moses and Aaron took too much leadership on themselves! (Vs 3a; Cf. Exodus 3:10; 4:10-16)

Remember the LORD’s call of Moses, Moses’ reluctance when the LORD called him, and how that because of Moses not trusting the LORD, Aaron was brought in?

2. All the people were equally holy and capable of being leaders! (Vs 3b; Exodus 19:5-6)

3. The LORD was as much among the people as He was with them! (Vs 3c; Exodus 29:45)

4. Moses and Aaron lifted themselves above the congregation of the LORD! (Vs 3d, 5-11)

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5. They questioned the motives of Moses (and also of the LORD!) (Vs 12-13)

Why had Moses brought the children of Israel out of Egypt? The LORD told him too!

This was the same charge leveled at the Red Sea!
*Exodus 14:11-12 – “11 And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?
12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.”*

6. They also questioned the truthfulness and/or timing of Moses (and also of the LORD!) (Vs 14)

Exodus 3:8–“And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

*Exodus 3:16-17 –“16 Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:
17 And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.*

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D. What Was The Real Problem? Rebellion Against Godly Leadership!

The Lord Himself had appointed Moses and Aaron to their offices.

III. THE RESULT OF THE “GAINSAYING.”

A. They Were All Destroyed! (Numbers 16:29-35)

**B. They Negatively Affected Others Who Died Also!
(Numbers 16:41-50 - 14,700 additional died)**

C. They Became A Sign! (Numbers 26:9-10)

Jude 11 says that the apostates “*have perished in the gainsaying of Core.*”

One doesn’t rebel against God and God given leadership without there being consequences.

Conclusion

We need to ask ourselves, what is our attitude toward the God-given leadership we have over us!

To Young People – God has given parents, Sunday School teachers, Children’s Church workers, Pastoral Leadership, and Himself! Young people will give an account to God for a gainsaying attitude!

To Wives – God has given you Husbands and Pastoral Leadership and Himself! Wives will also give an account to God for a gainsaying attitude!

To Husbands – God has given you Pastoral leadership and Himself. Husbands you will also give an account to God for a gainsaying attitude!

We who assume the leadership capacities will also give an account of both our submission to God and how we have led!