

"The Mystery of Balaam"

Part 3

Numbers 22-25

Introduction: Today we are returning to our study of false prophets and specifically to the study of Balaam. Balaam is a mystery because he had so much contact with God but yet he died as a false prophet who was lost in his sin. Balaam had been summoned by Balak the king of Moab. When Balak saw Israel sweeping across the land he was fearful that he and the Moabites would not stand a chance against them. So, he called on a sorcerer whom he knew of and that was Balaam. He called him and promised him great riches if he would curse the nation of Israel.

Balaam sought God's Word on this offer and God clearly told him NOT to curse Israel. Balaam however was determined to get the riches offered to him and when Balak's messengers came to him a second time he sought God again. He was looking for a way around God so that he could get the riches. He then went with the messengers to visit Balak and the Angel of the Lord stood in the way and that was when Balaam had a conversation with his donkey who was more spiritual than he was. God permitted Balaam to go, and he knew the heart of Balaam that Balaam was all about getting the riches.

When Balaam arrived at Balak's he was rebuked for not coming earlier and then he was taken to a high place where Baal was worshipped, and they offered several sacrifices and then Balaam went to seek God's will.

Notice Numbers 23:1-11

This is where we stopped the last time.

Now before we move on let me remind you of two points that we considered from Balaam.

1. The error of Balaam.

Jude 1:11

¹¹ *Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

The error of Balaam was greed.

2. The way of Balaam.

2 Peter 2:15

¹⁵ Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

The way of Balaam was that his greed became his WAY of life. This is what we are seeing in the book of Numbers. He is determined to somehow get the riches that Balak has offered to him.

Application:

He is just like many today who know the will of God and they know that what they are striving to get is forbidden. God has done everything but send Balaam's ass to them and they are just determined to get what they want. If that is you then you need to know that the consequences can be life changing and they can affect not just you but also your entire family. The pain of the consequences can last for your lifetime.

**I. Balaam Meets Balak
Part 2**

1. Prophecy/Blessing #2

Notice Numbers 23:13-24

I want to stop here for a moment and consider the words of Balaam.

He tells Balak that God cannot lie and when God says He will bless His people the promise is irreversible.

Verse 23 makes it very clear that it was impossible for Balaam to curse Israel in any way. There was no curse nor any enchantment that could be used against Israel.

Application:

There are two points we need to see for application here:

- a. **God's Word is the ABSOLUTE TRUTH, and it will ALL be fulfilled.**

Matthew 5:17-18

¹⁷ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

- b. **God is Faithful to Bless His People.**

We belong to the Lord, and we have the promise of the blessings that pertain to us. Satan cannot stop the blessings of the Lord for our lives.

Romans 8:29-33

²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

³⁰ *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

³¹ *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

³² *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

³³ *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

2. Prophecy/Blessing #3

Notice Numbers 23:25-24:9

3. Prophecy/Blessing #4

Notice Numbers 24:10-17

Verse 17 is a prophecy of the Messiah Jesus Christ. There are many who believe it is because of this prophecy that the wise men followed His star.

Matthew 2:1-2

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

² *Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

Notice Numbers 24:18-20

This prophecy concern Amalek contains a spiritual picture for us. Amalek is a type of the flesh/sin nature.

Exodus 17:8

⁸ *Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

Deuteronomy 25:17-18

¹⁷ Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt:

¹⁸ How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.

One day, when we receive glorified bodies, we will no longer have a sin nature. What a day that will be!!!

Notice Numbers 24:21-25

So, it looks like the story ends here, but it does not. Remember that Balaam really wanted the riches because he was driven by greed. This brings us to our next point.

II. The Doctrine of Balaam

We read of Balaam's doctrine in the letter to the church at Pergamos.

Revelation 2:14

¹⁴ But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Here is what Balaam did, he could not curse Israel, so he advised Balak to send the Moabite women in unto the men to seduce them. Balaam knew that if they were defiled with the women and became involved in the worship of Baal that God would judge them. That is exactly what happened.

Notice Numbers 25:1-9

There are two points to consider in all of this:

A. Balaam's choice.

Balaam knew God would not permit him to curse Israel, but he desired the riches, so he found a back door. He advised Balak how to bring defeat upon Israel and that was with the Moabite women.

Balaam got his money, but he did not enjoy it for long.

Numbers 31:6-8

⁶ And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of every tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war, with the holy instruments, and the trumpets to blow in his hand.

⁷ And they warred against the Midianites, as the LORD commanded Moses; and they slew all the males.

⁸ And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: **Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.**

Conclusion/Application:

You may have made the choice to live in opposition to the will of God because there is something of this world that you desire and you are determined to grasp as much as you can, while you can. Just let me remind you that you may get your stomach filled with what you desire but it is only temporary.

Luke 12:15-20

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

¹⁶ And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

¹⁸ And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

²⁰ But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

B. Balaam's Counsel

We can be sure there are false prophets in the world today that are under demonic influence, and they will do all they can to lead God's people into a practice that is completely forbidden by God. We see it all around us today.

- **The false prophets promote homosexuality.**

Leviticus 18:22

²² *Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.*

- **The false prophets promote abortion.**

Exodus 21:21-23

²¹ *Notwithstanding, if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished: for he is his money.*

²² *If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.*

²³ *And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life*

- **The false prophets promote transgenderism.**

Deuteronomy 22:5

⁵ *The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.*

- **The false prophets promote sex outside the bonds of marriage.**

Romans 1:28-29

²⁸ *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

²⁹ *Being filled with all unrighteousness, **fornication**, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*