

# Kingdom Feature, December 2015

## ***“Unveiling the Revelation in the Book of Revelation”***

### ***Chapter 2, Doctrine of Devils***

**by Apostle Jerry Upton**

“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 stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication.” [Revelation 2:13]

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing sprits, and doctrines of devils. [1 Timothy 4:1]

In this lesson we will be examining and looking at the strategies, tricks, devices, and avenues that the devil uses in order to gain a stronghold in the lives of many believers. There are two doctrines discussed in the letter to the church of Pergamos, they are:

*The Doctrine of Balaam*

*The Doctrine of the Nicolaitans*

These doctrines are directly connected due to the fact that the impartation of them being in the midst of the church is promoted and released by leadership. Leadership is essential to having health, God fearing churches; however, one of the strategies of the enemy is to create spiritual wickedness in high places. {Ephesians 6:12}

We will first look at the doctrine of Balaam, and then examine closely the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.

THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM AS IT RELATES TO PAGAN TRADITIONAL IDOLATRY  
CONCEPTS AND SEXUAL IMMORALITY IN LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE CHURCH  
THAT HAS RESULTED IN ENTIRE CONGREGATIONS BECOMING CONTAMINATED

In our study of Doctrine of Devils, we are examining the subtle tricks of the enemy and seeing why the Law of Restoration must be released to restore many of God's children who have been pulled away from the truth by seducing spirits in the midst of the Body of Christ. Under this section we will look at several traditional (yet idolatrous) beliefs that have been planted and embedded in the church over a period of years that

are completely pagan in origin. Now before we go into complete disclosure concerning the pagan idols that have consumed mainline Christianity, let's take a look at the Doctrine of Balaam identified in the Word of God. Please note Revelation 2:4:

"But I have a few things against thee (Church in Pergamos), because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication." [Emphasis added]

The Latin word "doctrine" means teaching; and as we identified in the Parable of the Sower, the Word is likened to "seeds" that are planted in our hearts by our Father God or "seeds" planted by the devil — his motive being to produce mass deception. So the first question we ask is this: "Who is this character identified as "Balaam," and what was the history behind him that caused Jesus to rebuke the Church of Pergamos for allowing this doctrine to be held? In order to answer this question and expose this Doctrine of Devils, it will be necessary to take a close look at the pagan prophet identified as Balaam in the Old Testament. However, before we do this, note Jude 1:11.

"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." [Emphasis added]

All that is associated with the "Doctrine of Balaam" will be connected with excessive lust, consuming error, and for those who will not repent and turn away from this erroneous doctrine — ultimate destruction. One very important fact that I want you to be aware of is that the error that is released by this doctrine is controlled by a demonic spirit as identified in 1 John 4:6. Please note:

"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." [Emphasis added]

This is the primary reason that Jesus told His disciples that the number one outstanding sign that would reveal that the end was near would be DECEPTION. [See Matthew 24:4; Mark 13:5; and Luke 21:8] The deception that Jesus is exposing in these verses is clearly implemented, released, imparted, and controlled by the spirit of error. The motive and design of this deception, found also in the Doctrine of Balaam, is to release mass confusion, mass persecution, mass idolatry, and a mass falling away from the truth of God's Word.

It is quite easy to see that this is exactly what is taking place in our day and time; however, many have been blinded and are unable to discern what is taking place just as the Word of God declared would happen in the last days. Read especially Jeremiah 5:20-31; Zephaniah 3:1-20; and Malachi 4:1-8. These scriptures not only reveal the things that would take place against Natural Israel, but also furnish us with a prophetic look at what would take place in Spiritual Israel — The Church. The scriptures that are identified in Jeremiah 5 clearly reveal the spirit of error operating in the midst of the people in the following ways.

- The revolting and rebellious hearts of the people had removed their ability to understand, blinded their eyes, and caused their ears to be unable to hear the truth of God's Word. [Verses 21-33]
- The people no longer walked in the Fear of the Lord; were no longer seeking the Lord, their God, for the former and latter rain; and because of their sins and iniquities, the good things of the Lord had been withheld. [Verses 24-25]
- Wicked men were in the midst of God's people — men who operated with the evil motive of setting traps and snares that would place the people under their domination and control. [Verses 26-27]
- Wicked men in the midst of God's people had become great in the sight of man as well becoming rich; but they had no desire to help those that were truly in need, yet they continued to prosper. [Verse 28]
- God declared that He would visit the wickedness that was taking place and would judge the nation that allowed these things to take place. [Verse 29]
- God declared that a wonderful and horrible thing was taking place in the midst of His people: "The prophets speak lies and the priests (Ministers) lead the people by their own fleshly human ability; and the people love to have it done this way. [Verses 30-31]

Now just in case your religious mindset is trying to convince you that this is not an accurate description of what is taking place in the church today, just note the following scriptures in Zephaniah 3:

- God's people would no longer obey His voice, would not submit to His corrections, no longer trusted in God, and did not draw near to Him. [Verse 2]
- The leaders in the midst of God's people were likened to roaring lions (1 Peter 5:8) and hungry wolves (Matthew 7:15), who feasted on His children. [Verse 3]
- The prophets in the midst of the people were insolent (arrogant) and treacherous; the priests (Ministers) had polluted the sanctuary and had done violence by

attempting to destroy or remove God's Law. [Verse 4] [See also Acts 20:28-29]

The final description what God is going to do in the last days concerning what had taken place in the midst of His people is fully revealed in Micah 4:

- God's true house would be established in the last days, and His people would flow back to it. [Verse 1]
- God would restore to the people His true ways and His true paths; His Law would be restored, and His Word would go forth with purity. [Verse 2]
- True peace would be restored on the earth, and nations would no longer enter into war and destruction. [Verse 3]
- Fear and terror would be removed from the midst of His people, for what God had previously declared would surely come to pass. [Verse 4]
- God's people would walk in His true name forever because revelation of what God's true name is would be restored to His people in the last days. [Verse 5]
- The remnant of God's people would return and be restored, and God would reign over them forevermore. [Verses 6-8]

These are all prophetic declarations of what is about to take place in the last days — not what has already taken place in times past. Therefore, the need for God's truth is more urgent in our day than ever before.

Now let's journey to Numbers 22 and take a look at the pagan prophet named "Balaam". To fully appreciate the Doctrine of Balaam, review and study the following facts.

- The King of Moab, Balak, and the Moabites were exceedingly afraid of the children of Israel, for they had heard of the great conquests that Israel had achieved throughout the land. [Verses 1-4]
- Balak, the king of the Moabites, sought out a pagan prophet by the name of Balaam to put a curse on Israel with the hope that the Moabites would then be

able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. [Verses 5-6]

- Balaam was a pagan prophet who was famous among the people. He used animal divination, sorcery, and other idolatrous methods to work his “powers” in return for money, riches, and wealth. [Verses 7-8]
- God specifically instructed Balaam not to go with the Moab and Midian elders to curse the people of Israel because they were blessed by God. [Verses 8-12]
- Balaam refused the first request to go with the elders to curse the children of Israel. However, when the princes of Balak returned a second time requesting Balaam's help and offering greater riches and honor, he proceeded to ask God once more what He had to say to him. [Verses 13-19]

Now Verse 20 is where it really starts to get interesting:

“And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, “If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the Word which I speak to you - that you shall do.”

Now why would God seem to change his mind and allow Balaam to go with these people when he had specifically instructed this pagan profit not to go? The answer to this question (as well as the answer to why the predominant message of greed, riches and material gain is being preached in our day) is found and Ezekiel 14:1-5:

"Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me. And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 'Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of the iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, "Thus saith the Lord God; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the Lord will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;' That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart; because they are all estranged from me through their idols."

**Now hear the Word of the Lord.** This is exactly the principle that was in place concerning the pagan prophet Balaam. Balaam's idols were greed, money, riches, and honor; and he would prophesy and do or say anything for “reward.” God answered him according to *the idols of his heart*, but He restricted what could come forth from his mouth. If you doubt that this is the case, just read Numbers 22:22-35 to see that:

- God's anger was inflamed against Balaam because he went with the men. The idols of greed, reward, and money would cause him to do or say anything in order to “get paid.”

- God dispatched an angel that was prepared to slay Balaam, but the donkey was able to see the angel and thus prevented Balaam from being slain.
- God allowed the donkey to physically speak in order to expose the spiritual blindness of Balaam and to show him that God has all ultimate Power.
- God opened Balaam's eyes; and when he finally saw the angel, the angel revealed that Balaam was a perverse man; and only because of what the donkey had done was Balaam still alive.

Now you may ask, "What does any of this have to do with today's Church as it relates to the Doctrine of Balaam?" Well, because of a perverse spirit that has been released in the midst of God's people in the Church in America, the idols of material wealth; the consuming, excessive focus on prosperity and riches; and the driving desire to be accepted by the world's standards and ideas have perverted the mindset of many of God's children as to what the true blessings of God really are. Because the idol of greed and the love of money are so predominant in many circles in the Body of Christ, many Ministers of the Gospel are receiving and teaching messages and sermons according to the idols in their own hearts; and they are now leading others astray by insinuating through their sermons that "GAIN IS GODLINESS." However, 1 Timothy 6:3-6 reveals that this mindset is based on the "Perverse disputing of men of corrupt minds;" from which we are instructed to withdraw. This is exactly the same spirit that controlled Balaam; and Jesus revealed to the church of Pergamos in Revelation 2:14 that this was a stumblingblock to His people. Anywhere you find Balaam mentioned throughout Scripture, he is revealed as the essence of evil, wickedness, and corruption because he perverted not only his own pathway, but he was also responsible for the corruption and destruction of others as well. [See Deuteronomy 23:4-5; Joshua 13:22; Joshua 23:9-10; Nehemiah 13:2; and 2 Peter 2:14-16]

Now before we leave Numbers, I want you to see a few other things about the Doctrine of Balaam that have great bearing on what is taking place in the Body of Christ today. The record will show that Balaam could not curse God's people and that God actually used this pagan prophet to pronounce blessings on Israel in that time, as well as in the future. [See Numbers 23:7-12; 13-26; 24:3-14; 15-24] Numbers 24 ends by saying that Balaam rose, departed to his place, and could not curse the children of Israel; but Revelation 2:14 reveals that "Balaam taught Balak to case a stumbling block before Israel by eating things sacrificed to idols and committing fornication."

This is exactly what took place in Numbers 25:1-16, and the result of this perverted act was a plague that was released against the Children of Israel which resulted in twenty-four thousand (24,000) deaths. Just think - Balaam teaching Balak how to entice and seduce the Children of Israel into idolatry and sexual fornication had the devastating effect of releasing a curse and a plague in the midst of God's people. This is the very reason that God released vengeance on the Midianites in Numbers 31 and had Balaam killed with the sword. [Verse 8] Balaam's perverted counsel released the spirit

of error and a perverse spirit amid the children of Israel, and the Holy Spirit is using this example as a warning to the Body of Christ in our time. [See Verse 16]

When we look at the scripture in 2 Peter 2:14-16, and we see that it parallels exactly how the Doctrine of Balaam is working in today's generation. These scriptures expose the abundance of adultery, willful and premeditated sin, and the fact that many of God's children had been beguiled with covetous practices that released curses upon them. They are described specifically as following the way of Balaam, who loved the wages of unrighteousness and operated in a spirit of madness.

As in the days of old, the influence of "spiritual imposters" is once again leading many in the Church into error and down the path of destruction. Literally thousands in the Body of Christ are now being destroyed by adultery, fornication, lesbianism, homosexuality, pornography, and other works of the flesh. In many circles preachers and teachers refused to confront sin and wickedness and have grasped the attitude and spirit of pleasing everyone by preaching a so-called gospel of "social acceptance." In other circles, the main emphasis and preaching is on how to get more money, have more material things, and the self-motivation of becoming a success according to the standards of the world.