

Kingdom Feature, January 2016

“Unveiling the Revelation in the Book of Revelation”

Chapter 2, Part 2 Doctrine of Devils

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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 prophet 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 stumbling block 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 cause 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.