

Balak and Balaam.

Numbers 22:1-41 Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan across from Jericho.



(2) Now **Balak (the Annihilator)** son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. (3) And Moab was **exceedingly afraid** of the people because they were many, and **Moab was sick with dread** because of the children of Israel. (4) **So Moab said to the elders of Midian**, "Now this company **will lick up everything around us**, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.

A) Balak's fear was unwarranted because the Israelites were told by God:

Deuteronomy 2:9 And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for **I will not give thee of their land for a possession;** because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession.

B) Balak may or may not have known that, but his reaction caused him to act. We, on the other hand, should not allow fear to lead us to react in ways that will only hurt us.

(5) Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are **settling next to me!** (6) Therefore please come at once, **curse this people for me,** for they are **too mighty for me.** Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom **you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.**" (7) So the **elders of Moab** and the **elders of Midian** departed with the **diviner's fee** in their hand,

and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak.

A) Balaks knew that the Israelites were way too many, too powerful, and too blessed. So his resolution is to call Balaam to curse them.

B) We do not know much about Balaam other than that God did speak to him. He was considered a prophet of Yahweh, but ultimately his greed destroyed him.

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 Korah.

(8) And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the LORD speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam. (9) Then God came to Balaam and said, "**Who are these men with you?**" (**What men are these with thee?**) (10) So Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, (11) 'Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they

cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out.' " (12)

And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; **you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.**"

A) God knew exactly who these men were? What did they want? Just like God knows what you are all about?....

B) God's response was "You will not curse them, for they are blessed."

Revelation 3:7 ...He who is true, "HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID, HE WHO OPENS AND NO ONE SHUTS, AND SHUTS AND NO ONE OPENS":

(13) So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land, for the LORD has **refused to give me permission** to go with you."

A) Just because you may have the power, you may not have permission.

(14) And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refuses to come with us." (15) Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they. (16) And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: 'Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me; (17) for **I will certainly honor you greatly**, and I will **do whatever you say to me**. Therefore please come, curse this people for me.' "

A) Balak was enticing Balaam with more money and fame. This is the ploy of the enemy; it always was.

In Genesis Eat and you will be like God. In Matthew and Luke, Bow down and worship, and I will give it to you all.

No matter how much the enemy entices you, you must resist. (What does it profit a man...)

(18) Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give

me his house full of silver and gold, **I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.** (19) Now therefore, please, you also **stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD will say to me."** (20) 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."**

(21) So Balaam **rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went** with the princes of Moab. (22) Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him.

A) If God told him to go, why was God angry?

1) Balaam violated the first condition.

2) Balaam's motives were wrong.

B) You must understand that when you go against God, you will have God against you.

James 4:5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

And he was riding his donkey, and his two servants were with him. (23) Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the **donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field.** So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. (24) Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. (25) And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, **she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall;** so he struck her again. (26) Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where **there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.** (27) And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, **she lay down under Balaam;** so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. (28) Then the LORD **opened the mouth of the donkey,** and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three

times?" (29) And Balaam **said to the donkey,**
"Because you have abused me. I wish there
were a sword in my hand, for now I would
kill you!" (30) So the donkey said to Balaam,
"Am I not your donkey on which you have
ridden, ever since I **became yours, to this day?**
Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he
said, "No." (31) Then the LORD opened
Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the
LORD standing in the way with His drawn
sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and
fell flat on his face.

A) I love this because sometimes everyone can
see the problem you are having except you but
you think they are all wrong and you are alright.
In this case a donkey was smarter than Balaam.

"God has chosen the foolish things of the world
to put to shame the wise."

(1 Corinthians 1:27)

Sometimes we attack the people who love us
because they are telling us the truth and want to
protect us. It is only when God open our eyes
are we able to see the truth.

(32) And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, **because your way is perverse before Me.**

(33) The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live."

A) Perverse Before Me.... Yârat yaw-rat'

A primitive root; **to precipitate or hurl (rush)** headlong; (intransitively) to be rash.

"To precipitate" means something to happen suddenly or prematurely.

This again confirms that Balaam eagerness to curse and get paid was exposed to God.

B) Balaam may have believed that what he was doing was all right with God, but his motive for doing it was wrong. God is deeply concerned not only with what we do, but why we do it. Our motives should be pure and holy before God.

(34) And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back." (35) Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, **but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak.**" So Balaam went with the princes of Balak. (36) Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory. (37) Then Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?" (38) And Balaam said to Balak, "Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak."

A) Balaam's response to Balak was, look I am here, right. Disclaimer though... I can only speak what God puts in my mouth.

Summary:

- A) Moab feared the Israelites even though there was nothing to fear.
- B) This fear against Israel caused Moab and Midian to call for the curse on Israel. What God has blessed you cannot curse.
- C) Balaam's desire for profit caused him to be hindered and his life to be almost taken.
- D) When we decide to reject God's command, we will find ourselves in opposition to Him. God's grace and mercy for you are what saved you, and they may even come from places you do not realize.

In conclusion,

Pay attention to the small signs in your life.

They may be God trying to protect you from doing something stupid!