

The Original Shrek – Balak and Balaam

(Part 2)

Review

- Balak, king of Moab, feared Israel and hired Balaam to curse them (Numbers 22).



- God told Balaam, **"You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."**
- Balak offered greater riches and honor.
- God allowed Balaam to go, but only to speak God's words.
- Balaam went before being summoned, revealing his eagerness for reward.

The Talking Donkey (Numbers 22)

The Angel of the Lord blocked Balaam's path three times. The donkey saw the angel while Balaam did not.

What we learned from the donkey:

1. **God gives mercy before judgment.** He warns us before allowing destruction.
2. **Deliverance often comes from unexpected places.** A donkey to saved a prophet.
3. **Creation sometimes obeys God better than people do.**
 - a. **Isaiah 1:2-3** – The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel did not know God.

Balaam confessed his sin, and the Angel allowed him to continue with one condition:

"Only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." (Numbers 22:35)

First Attempt (Numbers 23:8-10)

Balaam declares:

"How shall I curse whom God has not cursed?"

Balak is furious because Israel is blessed instead of cursed.

Second Attempt (Numbers 23:19-20)

Balaam proclaims:

"God is not a man, that He should lie... He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it."

Balak says, "Then don't bless them!"

Balaam replies:

"All that the LORD speaks, that I must do."

Third Attempt (Numbers 24:1-14)

Numbers 24:1-2 Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times, **to seek to use sorcery**, but he set his face toward the wilderness. (2) And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the **Spirit of God came upon him.**

Balak becomes angry

Numbers 24:10 Then Balak's anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and look, you have bountifully blessed them these three times!

Balaam reminds him:

"If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD."

**Fourth Prophecy – The Coming Messiah
(Numbers 24:15-17)**

Instead of cursing Israel, Balaam gives a remarkable prophecy:

Numbers 24:17 "I see Him, but not now; **I behold Him**, but not near; **A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, ..."**

This points forward to Jesus Christ, the coming King.

We have seen Balaam be used by God. We read, God speaks to Balaam, God prophesies through Balaam, and the Spirit of God comes upon Balaam. But what we know later is that Balaam's greed causes him to betray his calling.

Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there **those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.**



Numbers 25:1-9 Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people **began to commit harlotry** with the women of Moab. (2) They invited the **people to the sacrifices of their gods**, and the **people ate and bowed down to**

their gods. (3) So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

(4) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and **hang the offenders before the LORD**, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel." (5) So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "**Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.**"

(6) And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and **presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle** of meeting.

A) This is nothing less than open rebellion.

(7) Now when **Phinehas the son of Eleazar**, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and **took a javelin in**

his hand; (8) and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. (9) And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.

Later, God commanded Israel to execute judgment on Midian

Numbers 31:1-7 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: (2) **"Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel.**

Afterward you shall be gathered to your people." (3) So Moses spoke to the people, saying, **"Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the LORD on Midian.** (4) A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war." (5) So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war. (6) Then Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from each tribe; he sent

them to **the war with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest**, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand. (7) And they warred against the Midianites, just as the LORD commanded Moses, and they killed all the males.

In conclusion,

This story reminds tells us a lot:

What God has blessed no person can curse.

While no person can curse from the outside, it is usually from the inside out that is the problem.

Mark 3:24-25 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. (25) And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

1. Greed, bitterness, rebellion, unforgiveness, hatred, pride, unrepentant sin, open rebellion, will destroy a person, a family, and even a church.

Galatians 5:14-15 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (15)
But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!