

October 16th
GOD'S LESSONS FROM NUMBERS 22-25

"And Balaam took up his discourse and said, 'From Aram Balak has brought me, the king of Moab from the eastern mountains: 'Come, curse Jacob for me, and come, denounce Israel!' How can I curse whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced? For from the top of the crags I see him, from the hills I behold him; behold, a people dwelling alone, and not counting itself among the nations! Who can count the dust of Jacob or number the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!'"

NUMBERS 23:7-10

Artificial intelligence. Who would have ever thought even twenty years ago that you type something into a search bar and the computer would do the work for you? Even as people used the phrase: "just Google it," Google wouldn't create an image for you based upon what you tell it to do. It only gave you information in case you were looking for an answer. Indeed, AI can even take words on a page and summarize it for you. I'm going to ask you a question: can you summarize what Numbers 22-25 is all about? Can you explain how these chapters point to our God's glory? James Boice gives a summary to these chapters that can be helpful to us here. Most of what I write today is based upon his "Life of Moses." If you've enjoyed our studies through Moses' life, I encourage you to pick up a copy. It's one of the best books that I've read. It encouraged me when I dealt with depression eight years ago and I just finished it for a second time a few months ago. What is God teaching here?

The biggest truth that comes forward in these chapters is the sovereignty of God. I think most of us would agree. Balak wants to curse the Israelites. Balaam is willing to do it for cash. But God. God's promise to Abraham cannot be stopped. He is in complete control over their destiny. Is it any different with us men? While God holds you responsible for how you live your life this side of heaven, He also acts as the Sovereign King that works all things for His glory. Moments in your life are never accidents. They are ordained by a God that makes all of them matter. Every. Single. One.

A second truth that Boice points out is the reckless sin of loving money. He's right to point out that you don't have a direct command from God here in Numbers about this. However, 2 Peter 2:15 states, "he loved the wages of unrighteousness." This mention in the New Testament uncovers Balaam's sin. No, he was not the innocent prophet. Rather, he led the people to worship the false gods and have sex with foreigners. All because of money. We can also be led down the road of trusting in money rather than the God who gives the money. As someone else once said, "Money is a tool." I would add that it's a tool for God's glory. Throw off the hindrance of holding onto money and follow our King!

A final truth that Boice wisely points out is that God uses unlikely people. Think about it. Even a donkey is used to speak truth. Balaam is a false prophet who only gives blessings on God's people...all because God ordains it. Men, you aren't donkeys. You aren't false prophets. But you are all God's men. Men that He calls to be His light in this dark world. God makes your moments matter. Every. Single. One. You may feel unqualified. Most of us probably are. What can we ever say that would fully describe the greatness of our God? But God. God commissions you to be His servant. To be used as His instrument to bring Him glory. Even an unlikely person like you. Join the club if you think you don't have much to offer. Neither did Moses. Neither did Gideon. Neither did Jeremiah. It was never about them in the first place...and it was never about you. It's always been about your King calling you to His service.

Spend some time praising your King for His gracious call on your life. Thank Him for the privilege to serve Him. Ask Him for wisdom to know what He's called you to today.

For Further Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

