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Balaam The Prophet
Num. 22-25, 31

The Bible is a record of God's word that was uttered by individuals who were called prophets, those who spoke forth the word of God, secondly they revealed future things.

There are true prophets as well as false prophets within the scriptures and among them there is one in particular that is of great interest because of his perplexing character, his name is Balaam.

This morning we want to look at three things regarding Balaam.

- I. The man Balaam.
- II. The message to Balaam.
- III. The mistake of Balaam.

I. The man Balaam.

- A. His place of origin. 22:5
 1. He was the son of Beor.
 2. He was from the region of the Euphrates River.
* The River in the land refers to the Euphrates River in the scriptures.
 3. He was from the area of Mesopotamia. Deut. 23:4
- B. His reputation. 22:6
 1. He was known for his ability to bless people.
 2. He was known for his ability to curse people.
- C His conflicting character.

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1. He was a diviner through magical arts of soothsaying. 22:7, 24:1, Josh. 13:22
 2. He was a prophet of God.
 - a. God came to him and conversed with him. 22:8
 - b. God's word was obeyed by him. 22:18
 - c. God's word was put in his mouth. 23:5
 - d. god's Spirit came upon him. 24:2
- D. His prominence in the scriptures.
1. He is mentioned in both the Old and the New Testament., a total of 60 times.
 2. He is mentioned 50 times between chapter 22-25, 31.
 3. He is named 7 other times in the Old Testament. Deut. 23:4, 5, Josh. 13:22, 24:9, 10, Neh. 13:2, Mic. 6:5
 4. He is named three times in the New Testament under three perspectives to warn the believer.
 - a. The way of Balaam. 2Pet. 2:15,
 - b. The error of Balaam. Jude 11
 - c The doctrine of Balaam. Rev. 2:14

The man Balaam!

II. The message to Balaam.

- A. He was sought out by King Balak because he feared Israel. 22:1-3
 1. Israel was at his back door, in the plains of Moab, across from Jericho. vs. 1
 2. Israel were feared by him because of what they had done to the Amorites. vs. 2-3
- B. He was sought out by an alliance of Moab and Media. 22:4

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1. The Moabites were descendants of Lot through his incestuous relationship with his daughters. Gen. 19:37
 2. The Mediamites were descendants of Ishmael. Gen. 37:25, 27-28
 3. The message to the Medianites was load and clear, they would not stand a chance against Israel, as an ox licks up the dust.
- C. He was sought out to curse the children of Israel. 22:6-7
1. His reputation had proceeded him. 22:6
 2. His remuneration was customary, the diviner's fee. 22:7
 3. His offer was three-fold. 22:17-18
 - a. Balak would honor him before men, prestige.
 - b. Balak would honor him with money, power.
 - c. Balak would honor him with complying with anything he said, authority.
- D. He was sought out by the Lord to obey Him. 22:12-13, 19-20, 35
1. God denied him from going the first time. vs. 12-13
 2. God described the condition on which he was to go. vs. 19-20
 3. God defends the boundaries of his words. 22:35

The message to Balaam!

III. The mistake of Balaam.

- A. He tempted himself by putting himself in the predicament. 22:21-22

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1. God gave him the conditions, it is possible he did not wait? vs. 21
 2. God became his adversary. vs. 22
 3. God declared his way was contrary to His. vs. 32
- B. He prostituted his gift of prophecy.
1. The incentive was money. 22:7, 18
 2. The nature of his heart was covetousness. 2Pet. 2:14
 3. The loved of his heart was the wages of unrighteousness. 2Pet. 2:15
 4. The madness of the prophet was rebuked by his donkey in his attempt to restrain him. 22:23-30, 2Pet. 2:16
* This is known as the way of Balaam according to Peter!
- C. He attempted to circumvent the will of God for Israel.
1. The source of his power was sorcery except the last time. 24:1
 2. The motive again is declared to be for profit. Jude 11
 3. The act is equal to the rebellion of Cain and Korah who sought to do their own will after knowing God's will.
* This is known as the error of Balaam according to Jude!
- D. He counseled Balak on how to defeat Israel.
1. The advice was a stumbling block before the children of Israel, something that would cause them to fall into sin.
 2. The advice was to introduce the manner of worship of the Medianites, eating things

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sacrificed to idols and sexual immorality. Rev. 2:14

3. The account is recorded in chapter 25.
 - a. The appeal was to their sensual appetites. vs. 1-2
 - b. The consequences were executed by God and man. vs. 3-5
 - c. The temptation was so blinding that the consequences did not stop some. vs. 6
 - d. The number of the slain was great, 24,000. vs. 7-9
* This is known as the doctrine of Balaam according the message of John the beloved to the church of Pergamos!

- D. He thought he could get away with his sin.
 1. The mind and will of God was known to him. 22:12
 2. The prophecies confirmed the will of God. 23:8, 19-20, 24:9
 3. The repentance and life desire of Balaam was after the model of the world. 22:34, 23:10c-d
 4. The council of Balaam became his destruction.
 - a. The Medianites were judged by God. 31:1-2
 - b. The prophet was judged by God. 31:8, 16

The mistake of Balaam!

IV. The message to the Balaam's of the present and future.

- A. The act of compromise rather than complete obedience will place you on the path of subtle but sure destruction.

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1. Saul compromised at saving the King of the Amalekites cost him the kingdom and his life. 1Sam. 15
 2. Samson's compromising life resulted in the loss of his life. Judges 13-16
- B. The reputation of man is worthless if character is lacking.
 1. The sermon on the Mount clearly shows the contrast between character and mere reputation of the Pharisee's and scribes. Math. 5-7
 2. The story of Job focuses on Jobs character in contrast to the bad reputation he had aquired. Job. 1-2
- C. The love of money brings many sorrows and much destruction.
 1. What will a man profit if he gains the whole world and looses his own soul, the scriptures state. Math. 16:26
 2. The love of money is the root of all evil for which some have starved from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with with many sorrows. Tim. 6:10
- D. The attempt to circumvent God's will is to fight against God.
 1. The gates of hell will not prevail against His church. Math. 16:18
 2. The treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid in Christ Jesus. Col. 2:3
- E. The thought of getting away with sin is a fatal mistake.
 1. The source is pride which leads to destruction. Prov. 16:18

2. There seems to be a way that is right to a man but the way there of is the way of destruction.
Prov. 14:12
3. The promise is that man's sin will find him out.
Num. 32:23, Gal. 6:7-8

The message to the Balaam's of the future!

Conclusion

Balaam the prophet.

- I.** The man Balam: He chose to exercise his will contrary to God's!
- II.** The message to Balaam: He knew the mind of God.
- III.** The mistake of Balaam: He thought he could get away with his sin.