

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



"The Prowl Before the Pounce"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Numbers 22-25; 31:16; 1 Peter 5:18; Deut. 2:9; Is. 43:1-2, 13; 1 Jn. 4:4; Jas. 4:7; Jas. 1:14-15

Peter writes, *"Stay alert! Watch out! Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, searching for someone to devour"* (1 Pet. 5:8). The enemy "prowls". The enemy does not announce himself through obvious attacks. He circles quietly. He watches. He studies. He waits. He looks for an opening. And when one strategy fails, he looks for another.

That is what we see in the story of Balak and Balaam. The enemy first prowls through deceptive voices—through someone who sounds spiritual, knows the language, and appears to have access to God, but whose heart is compromised. And when the curse cannot land, the enemy pounces through compromise. What cannot destroy God's people from the outside can begin to destroy them from within, if they allow it. So the call is not to panic, but to wake up. We stay watchful, but we do not tremble. We stay alert, but we do not live afraid.

1. THE PROWL: THE ENEMY STALKS THROUGH DECEPTIVE VOICES

One of the most devious ways the enemy attacks God's people is by twisting the Word of God through voices that sound spiritual but have missed the heart of God. Balaam knew the name of ADONAI. He knew how to speak religiously. He could sound like an insider. But when God told him, *"Do not go with them! Do not curse them, for they are blessed!"* (Num. 22:12), Balaam only repeated *part* of the message. He told Balak's men that ADONAI would not let him go, but he left out the part that Israel was blessed and must not be cursed.

That is dangerous. A half-truth leaves the door open to deception. Balaam heard the Word of the LORD, but he did not fully surrender to it. He knew the right words, but he resisted the heart of God. And we have to be watchful of the same thing today. Not every voice using biblical language is leading us toward obedience. Not every person who says "God" is speaking from the heart of God. We need to know the Word, study the Word, and stay close to the heart of Scripture so that we are not led astray by voices that tickle our ears while slowly pulling us away from surrender.

2. THE POUNCE: THE ENEMY STRIKES THROUGH COMPROMISE

When Balaam could not curse Israel, the attack came another way. In Numbers 25, just after the encounter between Balaam and Balak, many of the sons of Israel are drawn into sexual immorality and compromise with the Moabite and Midianite women in worship of the Baal of Peor. As a result of their sin, the LORD struck them and 24,000 died. Later, Moses reveals that it was *"because of Balaam's advice"* that Israel was drawn into

unfaithfulness at Peor (Num. 31:16). This is the tragedy of the story. The enemy could not remove Israel from under the blessing of God by a direct curse, but Israel could “curse” itself by choosing to walk out from under that blessing through compromise, idolatry, and sin.

That is why we cannot be naïve. We do not need to live in fear of demons or darkness, because *“the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world”* (1 Jn. 4:4). But we also cannot pretend that compromise is harmless. The enemy may prowl, but he cannot force obedience to sin. James says, *“But each one is tempted when he is dragged away and enticed by his own desire. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is full grown, it gives birth to death”* (Jas. 1:14–15). The enemy looks for weakness, but compromise becomes powerful when we agree with it, excuse it, hide it, or keep giving it room.

CONCLUSION

What are the voices you have been listening to. Are they drawing you closer to the heart of God, or are they simply using spiritual language while leading you away from obedience? The Lord wants us to wake up to the places where we have been bargaining with God. Has ADONAI already spoken clearly, but you keep coming back hoping He will give you a different answer? Wake up to the compromises you have been excusing. Is there an area of your life where the enemy has been circling because he knows there is an open door?

And hear this with the mercy of God: sometimes ADONAI blocks the road before destruction gets there. Sometimes He brings correction. Sometimes He sends a warning through someone unexpected. Sometimes He confronts us, not because He is against us, but because He is saving us. So the invitation is simple: come back under the blessing. Come back under surrender. Come back under obedience. If there is a deceptive voice you need to stop listening to, lay it down today. If there is a compromise you need to repent of, bring it into the light today. If there is an area where you have been pressing God for permission to do what He already told you not to do, surrender it today. *“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you”* (Jas. 4:7).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it important to recognize that the enemy often “prowls” before he “pounces”?
2. Balaam knew spiritual language, but his heart was compromised. How can we discern whether a voice is truly aligned with the heart of God?
3. Have you ever been tempted to keep asking God for a different answer after He had already made His will clear?
4. What are some modern forms of compromise that believers may excuse, hide, or minimize?
5. How can correction from ADONAI actually be an expression of His mercy and protection?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Avinu Malkhenu, Our Father, Our King, open our eyes to the places where the enemy has been prowling. Give us discernment to recognize deceptive voices, even when they sound spiritual. Help us love Your Word, know Your truth, and stay close to Your heart.

Father, expose the compromises we have excused and the areas where we have resisted surrender. By the power of Messiah Yeshua and the filling of the Holy Spirit, teach us to submit to You, resist the enemy, and walk faithfully under the blessing You have spoken over Your people.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.