

Balaam: Devourer Of people. (THE FIRST VISIT TO BALAAM)

1. BALAAM mentioned three times in the New Testament. Each time it is covered with reproach.
 1. 2 Peter 2:15; "Which have forsaken the right way and have gone astray, following the way of Balaam, the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness."
 2. Jude 11; "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam...."
 3. Revelation 2:14; "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there (in the church at Pergamos) them that hold the doctrine of Balaam..."
2. Balaam's root sin:
 1. Was the ancient (today too) inveterate vice of human nature: Selfishness.
 2. Balaam knew God but he did not love God: He "loved the wages of unrighteousness"
 3. He did not follow God's voice but followed the voice of reward.
 4. God taught Balaam divine truths but Balaam taught Balak base arts of seduction.
3. Two ways were open before Balaam.
 1. God's way.
 1. He might get God to change his mind.
 2. On the first visit of Balak's men Balaam told them, "the Lord refuseth to give me leave to go with you." Num. 22:13
 2. Balaam's way.
 1. He made effort to get God to change his mind. He wanted to get permission from God to do what was at present a sin.
 2. He struggled to conquer God but finally had to admit to Balak: "God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent..." Num. 23:19
 3. Numbers 22:19; "Now therefore I pray you, know tarry ye also here this night that I may what the Lord will say to me more."

4. EVENTS ON THIS FIRST VISIT.

1. Balak seems to have had some notion of what would be most acceptable to Balaam.
 1. "Every man has his price," no doubt Balak reasoned.
 2. The poor man who cannot pay that price must go to the wall. But Balak could pay and was willing to pay.
2. Balaam's Reception of the Messengers.
 1. He had no immediate answer. "Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the Lord shall speak to me." Num. Numbers 22:8
 2. God did not wait for Balaam's request but he went immediately to Balaam; "What men are these with thee?"
 1. Balaam tells God who they are.
 2. God said, "thou shalt not go with them thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed." Num. 22:12
3. Balaam's answer to the messengers.
 1. He sets himself in opposition to God when he says, "the Lord refuseth to give me leave to go with you." Num. 22:13
 2. As to Balak's request God settles everything with a brief but to the point answer:
 - 1; Thou shalt not go with them;
 2. Thou shalt not curse the people, Num.
 3. The reason: "For they are blessed." 22:12
 3. If Balak had come in the right spirit to Balaam...
 1. If Balaam had gone in the right spirit to God...;
 2. Then the messengers could have gone back cheerfully and in welcome to Balak.
 4. They could have said:
 1. The people that you want to curse and destroy are God's people.
 2. Being God's people they are a blessed people.
 3. Being God's people they are not going to hurt us.
 5. God said, "Thou shalt not go with them,"
 1. "For they are blessed,"
 6. Balaam said, "The Lord refuseth to give me leave to go with you." Why didn't Balaam tell them plainly what God had said?

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BALAK... Numbers 22:1-14 August 1, 1976

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