

"LET ME DIE THE DEATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS"

Sunday Morning 9-12-76  
Johnson City, Texas

BALAAAM'S REQUEST:

1. "Let me die the death of the righteous..."
2. "Let my last end be like his!"
  1. This was the request of Balaam made about five hundred years before Christ was born.
  2. This was an unusual request yet such is the desire of rational being.

WHY AN UNUSUAL REQUEST?

1. By the best of evidence as stated in the Bible Balaam would have nothing to do with righteousness:
  1. As a state and condition of heart.
  2. As a habit of conduct.
  3. As a standard in all dealings with God and with men.
2. Balaam cared nothing about the cause of righteousness if only in some way he could get the effects of righteousness.
  1. He desire what he saw to be the pleasant, enviable effects of righteousness.
    1. He loved the vine because it produced the luscious grape.
    2. He loved the fig-tree because of the delicious fig it produced.
  3. BUT:
    1. If he could have gotten the luscious grape and fig from the bramble of thorn and thistles he would have loved the thorn and thistle just as much.
    2. He cared nothing about the cause, only the good effects of a righteous cause.

BALAAAM'S GREAT LOSS

1. He had trifled with God's word and lost God's favor.
2. He had sold himself for reward and lost that reward.
3. He sought honor at the price of loyalty to God and that honor is now gone.
  1. Based upon his request, "let me die the death of the righteous, let my last end be like his", Balaam knew that he was going to die.

"Let me die the death of the righteous,"

Continued: Johnson City, 9-12-76

BUT THE QUESTION: HOW DID BALAAAM DIE;

1. He died unwept and unhonored.
2. He died on the battle field fighting with and aiding God's enemies. Numbers 30:8;
  1. They slew Evi, Rekhem, Zur and Hur, and Reba, identified as five kings of Midian.
  2. Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.

THE QUESTION RECURS, "HOW DIE THE RIGHTEOUS?"

1. He realizes that he is gradually sinking to rest. He has knowledge of two wonderful thoughts:
  1. As the outward man decays and wastes away the inward man is renewed day by day." 2 Cor. 4:16
  2. That to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. 2 Cor. 5:8
2. Again:
  1. The righteous may pillow his head on the bosom of Jesus, and await the summons to call him home.
  2. In that hour when death is imminent he may listen for the rustle of the angel's wings about his couch having come to carry his soul home to God.
  3. He may look upon death as standing with one hand outstretched to crown the temporal life of the righteous, and with the other opening to him the pure fullness of eternity.
  4. Finally, the righteous may look upon death as being "but the going from one room to another more beautiful room: HEAVEN.

