



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

At the least this man Balaam was thought to have spiritual powers of being able to place a curse upon the perceived enemy of Moab.

Numbers 22:7 And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.

Another key here seems to be the words rewards of divination. Balaam in *Joshua 13:22* is called "...the soothsayer." So, it seems if he was a prophet that he had allowed the intertwining of cultic practices to infiltrate his life. They have come to ask Balaam to come and curse the children of Israel because of fear. What will be his reply?

III- God's Message to Balaam:

Balaam asked them to spend the night and he would ask God. *Numbers 22:8 And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam.* Remember that in the KJV if it is all caps as it is here for LORD it is the word for Jehovah or Yahweh. So, Balaam says he will enquire of God.

The message from God is plain. Notice *Numbers 24:12 And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.*

This was certainly not, what he wanted to hear. After all, he could earn a hearty sum from these for services rendered but is forbidden to even go with them. *Number 24:13 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you.*

IV- Second Envoy:

The message was delivered to Balak the king. *Numbers 22:14 ...Balaam refuseth to come with us.*

Not to be deterred the Kings sends a second envoy to Balaam that was more prestigious. *Numbers 22:15 And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.*

The promises also were enhanced. *Numbers 22:17 For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.* The reply of Balaam seems to be tainted with a note of sadness. *Numbers 22:18 And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If*



Coordinates:

Numbers 22:1-25:3

Sights to See:

- 1- God's great lesson for the Israelites was that they learn to trust Him. This is a lesson of our lifetime as well.
- 2- We must be careful that we do not allow things into our life that are contrary to Word of God due to our wants and lusts.
- 3- Sometimes, the word that we hear from God is not the word that we wanted. We must learn to be hear Him even when it is not what we expect or want.
- 4- Those that God bless we should never attempt to curse.
- 5- If you ever hear a donkey talk you really should listen.
- 6- If God can make a donkey talk and fill the mouth of Balaam with His words then God can fill our mouths with the right words as needed.
- 7- We should all guard against the doctrine of Balaam and the temptation to tear down from within.
- 8- Balaam's council worked because of the lust of the Israelites. *1 John 2:15-16 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*



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Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

He instructed them to again spend the night and he would seek God's will. This time God tells him to go. Looking at the whole story it seems that God was allowing him to do as he please not as God willed. He had made His will very plain.

Numbers 22:20... If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.

V- You Should Listen to Your Donkey:

In the next few verses we see unfolding the most amazing and humorous, if it were not so sad, event. *Numbers 22:21 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. 22 And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. 23 And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. 24 But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. 25 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again. 26 And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. 28 And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? 29 And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. 30 And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay.*

Balaam had a conversation with his donkey. Imagine how bizarre this would have sounded if we had been standing beside the road or hiding behind a bush and saw this occur. May I say if our donkeys were to talk with us today we should heed their words. God used this animal to preserve the life of Balaam, and we call donkeys stubborn.

God next allows Balaam to see the situation clearly. *Number 22:31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. 32 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: 33 And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. 34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again. 35 And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.*

Balaam goes on to the King of Moab with a new perspective on life. He is to only speak what God tells him to speak. Let us notice the blessings with which God filled his mouth.

