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|  | **LightHouse Ranch**  **Bible Study** |

**Stumblingblock, Numbers 22-25:9**

**I. The Fear of Balak, son of Zippor, King of Moab**

**II. Disobedience Kindles God’s Anger**

**III. Prophetic Parable Number 1**

**IV. Prophetic Parable Number 2**

**V. Prophetic Parable Number 3**

**VI. Prophetic Parables Number 4**

**VII. Israel Commits Whoredom**

**VIII. Divine Application Against the Doctrine of Balaam**

**Stumblingblock –** [Numbers 22-25:9](swordsearcher://bible/num22-25.9)

**But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.** **(**[**Revelation 2:14**](swordsearcher://bible/rev2.14)**)**

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| Balaam, son of Beor, is a strange character in the Bible of whom many think was a prophet. I see no where in the Bible that he is called a prophet, but he is called a soothsayer ([Joshua 13.22](swordsearcher://bible/jos13.22)); yet God used him and the Spirit of God spoke prophetic parables through him ([Numbers 23-24](swordsearcher://bible/nu23-24)). Now the prophet Micah exhorts us to “*remember what Balak, King of Moab, consulted and what Balaam, son of Beor, answered him*”. And why? “…*that ye might know the righteousness of the LORD*” ([Micah 6:4-5](swordsearcher://bible/micah6.4-5)). | |
| When we read about Balaam, first we may begin to think of him as God’s prophet, but as the drama unfolds, it becomes obvious that Balaam’s way is to forsake the right way and to go astray because he loved the wages of unrighteousness as he had a big problem with covetousness. ([II Peter 2:9-15](swordsearcher://bible/2pe2.9-15)).  Balaam’s error is that of disobedience by only thinking in the natural therefore corrupting himself with the spiritual. Balaam went the “way of Cain”, running greedily after reward, and “perished in the gainsaying of Korah”. So, the way of Balaam is covetousness - idolatry. ([Colossians 3:5](swordsearcher://bible/col3.5); [Jude 4-11](swordsearcher://bible/jude4.11))  But the most damnable thing is Balaam’s doctrine. To the church of Pergamos, John, by inspiration of God, talked about some of the congregation holding to the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel (to fornication and idolatry). ([Revelation 2:14](swordsearcher://bible/rev2.14)) but Balaam was defeated by the Israel and killed by the sword. ([Numbers 31:8](swordsearcher://bible/num31.8)) |  |
| We see that Balaam was a false teacher and [Revelation 2](swordsearcher://bible/rev2) tells us that in our day the doctrine of Balaam is still alive to cast a stumbling block in front of God’s people in the church. In this study we will examine Balaam’s way, error, and doctrine then and now; while going to the Divine Commentary on False Doctrine, so we do not go the way of Balaam. | |

**Let’s consider a little context first. We may remember from** [chapter 21](swordsearcher://bible/nu22), **camps east of Jordan, on the boundary between Edom and Moab called Arnon by Mount Hor; the incident of the fiery serpent occurred here were the children of Israel repented, and also here the children of Israel had a great victory over Sihon, King of the Amorites and King Og, the giant, of Bashan. Edom was the brother country descending from Jacob’s brother Esau; while the Moabites descended from Moab, and the Ammonites, located north from Moab both the sons of Lot – also a relative countries.**

**I. The Fear Balak, King of Moab, Because of the size of Israel encamped so close**

[**Numbers 22:1**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.1-3) And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan *by* Jericho.  
**Numbers 22:2** And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.  
**Numbers 22:3** And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they *were* many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel.

**Balak sends for Balaam, son of Beor, from Aram (North part of Euphrates River)**  
[**Numbers 22:4**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.4-7) And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all *that are* round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor *was* king of the Moabites at that time.  
**Numbers 22:5** He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which *is* by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me:  
**Numbers 22:6** 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.  
**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.

**Balaam says he will consult the LORD – And God does visit him**  
[**Numbers 22:8**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.8-9) 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.  
**Numbers 22:9** And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men *are* these with thee?

**Balaam’s answer to the LORD**  
[**Numbers 22:10**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.10-11) And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, *saying*,  
**Numbers 22:11** Behold, *there is* a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out.

**God’s Word to Balaam**  
**Numbers 22:12** And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they *are* blessed.  
**Numbers 22:13** 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.

**The princes of Moab tell Balak of Balaam’s refusal to go along with them.**  
[**Numbers 22:14**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.14) And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said, Balaam refuseth to come with us.

**Balac sent other princes with a better deal for Balaam**  
[**Numbers 22:15**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.15-17) And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.  
**Numbers 22:16** And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me:  
**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.

**Why does Balaam talk about a room full of gold and silver? – This is his covetous mind at work**

[**Numbers 22:18**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.18) And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If 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.

**Balaam says he will pray about this and answer tomorrow**  
[**Numbers 22:19**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.19) Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more.

**God again speaks to Balaam – God tells Balaam to do what the LORD said – (Two silent infinitives)**  
[**Numbers 22:20**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.20) And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, 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.

**But Balaam left on his donkey with his two servants**  
[**Numbers 22:21**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.21) And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.

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| **II. Disobedience Kindles God’s Anger – The angel of the LORD prevents the “way of Balaam”** | |
| [**Numbers 22:22**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.22-26) 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. **Numbers 22:23** 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. **Numbers 22:24** 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.  **Numbers 22:25** 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. **Numbers 22:26** 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. | This contains an image of: |

**With nowhere to go, the donkey falls down under the angry Balaam**

[**Numbers 22:27**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.27) 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.

**Blind Balaam and the donkey have a “conversation”**[**Numbers 22:28**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.28-30) 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?  
**Numbers 22:29** 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.  
**Numbers 22:30** 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.

**The LORD opened Balaam’s eyes to see the Angel of the LORD**[**Numbers 22:31**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.31-33) 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.  
**Numbers 22:32** 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:  
**Numbers 22:33** 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.

**Balaam repents – or it may sound like repentance**  
[**Numbers 22:34**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.34) 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.

**The Angel of the LORD tells Balaam to continue, but do what the LORD says! –** [Psalm 106:15](file:///D:\College%20Courses\Numbers2024\ps106.15)  
[**Numbers 22:35**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.35) 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.

**Balac rides out to meet Balaam in a city of Moab – Don’t you think I can promote you?**  
[**Numbers 22:36**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.36-37) And when Balak heard that Balaam was come, he went out to meet him unto a city of Moab, which *is* in the border of Arnon, which *is* in the utmost coast.  
**Numbers 22:37** And Balak said unto Balaam, Did I not earnestly send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour?

**Balaam says he can only say the Words the LORD gives him**[**Numbers 22:38**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.38) And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.

**Balaam and Balak ride to Kirjath-Huzoth**  
[**Numbers 22:39**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.39-40) And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kirjath-huzoth.  
**Numbers 22:40** And Balak offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that *were* with him.

**Balak takes Balaam to the first high place overlooking the Israelite encampment**  
[**Numbers 22:41**](swordsearcher://bible/num22.41) And it came to pass on the morrow, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal, that thence he might see the utmost *part* of the people.

**Balaam wants seven altars and seven oxen and 7 rams**

[**Numbers 23:1**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.1-2) And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven oxen and seven rams.  
**Numbers 23:2** And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on *every* altar a bullock and a ram.

**Balaam goes to meet the LORD**  
[**Numbers 23:3**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.3) And Balaam said unto Balak, Stand by thy burnt offering, and I will go: peradventure the LORD will come to meet me: and whatsoever he sheweth me I will tell thee. And he went to an high place.  
**The LORD gives Balaam a Word**

[**Numbers 23:4**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.4-6) And God met Balaam: and he said unto him, I have prepared seven altars, and I have offered upon *every* altar a bullock and a ram.  
**Numbers 23:5** And the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak.  
**Numbers 23:6** And he returned unto him, and, lo, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab.

**III. Prophetic Parable Number 1, God separated Israel – Let me die the death of the righteous**  
[**Numbers 23:7**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.7-10) And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, *saying*, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel.  
**Numbers 23:8** How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, *whom* the LORD hath not defied?  
**Numbers 23:9** For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.  
**Numbers 23:10** Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth *part* of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!

**Balak is disappointed**  
[**Numbers 23:11**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.11-12) And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed *them* altogether.  
**Numbers 23:12** And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?

**Balak takes Balaam to High Place number 2**  
[**Numbers 23:13**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.13-15) And Balak said unto him, Come, I pray thee, with me unto another place, from whence thou mayest see them: thou shalt see but the utmost part of them, and shalt not see them all: and curse me them from thence.  
**Numbers 23:14** And he brought him into the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bullock and a ram on *every* altar.  
**Numbers 23:15** And he said unto Balak, Stand here by thy burnt offering, while I meet *the LORD* yonder.

**The LORD meets Balaam again and gives him a Word**  
[**Numbers 23:16**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.16-17) And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus.  
**Numbers 23:17** And when he came to him, behold, he stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said unto him, What hath the LORD spoken?

**IV. Prophetic Parable Number 2**  
[**Numbers 23:18**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.18-23) And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor:  
**Numbers 23:19** God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?  
**Numbers 23:20** Behold, I have received *commandment* to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.  
**Numbers 23:21** He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God *is* with him, and the shout of a king *is* among them.

[Matthew 2:15](swordsearcher://bible/matt2.15); [Psalm 92:8-15](swordsearcher://bible/ps92.8-15)  
**Numbers 23:22** God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.  
**Numbers 23:23** Surely *there is* no enchantment against Jacob, neither *is there* any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

[**Numbers 23:24**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.24) Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat *of* the prey, and drink the blood of the slain.

**Balak speaks to Balaam**  
[**Numbers 23:25**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.25) And Balak said unto Balaam, Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.

**Balaam’s answer**  
[**Numbers 23:26**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.26) But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?

**Balak takes Balaam to High Place number 3 overlooking Israel’s encampment**  
[**Numbers 23:27**](swordsearcher://bible/num23.27-24.2) And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto another place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence.  
**Numbers 23:28** And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward Jeshimon.  
**Numbers 23:29** And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven bullocks and seven rams.  
**Numbers 23:30** And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bullock and a ram on *every* altar.

**⇨Numbers 24:1** And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness.  
**Numbers 24:2** And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding *in his tents* according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.  
**V. Prophetic Parable Number 3**

[**Numbers 24:3**](swordsearcher://bible/num24.3-8) And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:  
**Numbers 24:4** He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:  
**Numbers 24:5** How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, *and* thy tabernacles, O Israel!  
**Numbers 24:6** As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, *and* as cedar trees beside the waters.  
**Numbers 24:7** He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed *shall be* in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.  
**Numbers 24:8** God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce *them* through with his arrows.

[Genesis 49:8-12](swordsearcher://bible/gen49.8-12); [Revelation 5:5](swordsearcher://bible/rev5.5)  
[**Numbers 24:9**](swordsearcher://bible/num24.9) He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed *is* he that blesseth thee, and cursed *is* he that curseth thee.

**Now Balak’s anger is kindled**  
[**Numbers 24:10**](swordsearcher://bible/num24.10-11) And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together: and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed *them* these three times.  
**Numbers 24:11** Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour.

**Balaam speaks to Balak**  
[**Numbers 24:12**](swordsearcher://bible/num24.12-14) And Balaam said unto Balak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying,  
**Numbers 24:13** If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do *either* good or bad of mine own mind; *but* what the LORD saith, that will I speak?  
**Numbers 24:14** And now, behold, I go unto my people: come *therefore, and* I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.

**VI. Prophetic Parables Number 4**

**Israel and Edom**

[**Numbers 24:15**](swordsearcher://bible/num24.15-19) And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:  
**Numbers 24:16** He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, *which* saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:

[Matthew 2:2](swordsearcher://bible/matt2.2),[11](swordsearcher://bible/matt2.11); [Luke 2:1-12](swordsearcher://bible/lu2.1-12); [Daniel 2:27-45](swordsearcher://bible/dan2.27-45); [9:24-27](swordsearcher://bible/dan9.24-27); [Luke 19:28-44](swordsearcher://bible/lu19.28-44);   
**Numbers 24:17** I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.  
**Numbers 24:18** And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.  
**Numbers 24:19** Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

**Amalek**  
[**Numbers 24:20**](swordsearcher://bible/num24.20) And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek *was* the first of the nations; but his latter end *shall be* that he perish for ever.

**Kenites -**   
[**Numbers 24:21**](swordsearcher://bible/num24.21-25) And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is thy dwellingplace, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock.  
**Numbers 24:22** Nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive.  
**You will be attacked from the West**

[**Numbers 24:23**](swordsearcher://bible/nu24.23-25) And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this!  
**Numbers 24:24** And ships *shall come* from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever.

Balaam returned to his place  
**Numbers 24:25** And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

**VII.** **Israel Commits Whoredom With The Women Of Moab**

[**Numbers 25:1**](swordsearcher://bible/num25.1) And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.  
**Numbers 25:2** And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

**Was it Balaam’s counsel to Balak that caused Israel to turn away from God?**

Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD. [**(Numbers 31:16)**](swordsearcher://bible/nu31.16)

**And in the New Testament to the church at Pergamos:**

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. **(**[**Revelation 2:14**](swordsearcher://bible/rev2.14)**)**

**Balaam could not curse Israel with words**

**But he could counsel Balak to make Israel stumble**

**The anger of the LORD is kindled upon Israel**  
[**Numbers 25:3**](swordsearcher://bible/nu25.3-9) And Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.  
**Numbers 25:4** And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.  
**Numbers 25:5** And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baal-peer.  
**Numbers 25:6** And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who *were* weeping *before* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.  
**Numbers 25:7** And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw *it*, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;  
**Numbers 25:8** And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.  
**Numbers 25:9** And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.  
**Balaam’s Death**

And they warred against the Midianites, as the LORD commanded Moses; and they slew all the males. And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; *namely*, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword. [**(Numbers 31:7-8)**](swordsearcher://bible/nu31.7-8)

**VIII. Divine Application Against the Doctrine of Balaam**

**When Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been beheaded and the disciples had buried the body, Jesus had compassion on the people assembled and healed their sick. Then Jesus fed 5,000 with five loaves and 7 fishes with the remaining food of 12 baskets. We read in the Gospel of John, that He then taught the people about the bread from heaven; and back in Matthew that He walked on the water and calmed the storm assuring the disciples that He was Messiah. The Pharisees, after hearing of the miracles, are going to question Jesus’ actions:**

**The Scribes and Pharisees accuse Jesus of breaking the tradition of the elders**

[**Matthew 15:1**](swordsearcher://bible/matt15.1-2) Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,  
**Matthew 15:2** Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

**Jesus’ answer**[**Matthew 15:3**](swordsearcher://bible/matt15.3-6) But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

**Matthew 15:4** For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.  
**Matthew 15:5** But ye say, Whosoever shall say to *his* father or *his* mother, *It is* a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;  
**Matthew 15:6** And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free*. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

**Isaiah prophesied about you –** [Isaiah 29:1-16](swordsearcher://bible/isa29.1-16)  
[**Matthew 15:7**](swordsearcher://bible/matt15.7-11) *Ye* hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,  
**Matthew 15:8** This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.  
**Matthew 15:9** But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.  
**Matthew 15:10** And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:  
**Matthew 15:11** Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

**The disciples tell Jesus that He offended the Pharisees – (Does Peter realize they are false teachers?)**  
[**Matthew 15:12**](swordsearcher://bible/matt15.12-14) Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?  
**Matthew 15:13** But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.  
**Matthew 15:14** Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

**Peter asks for an interpretation**  
[**Matthew 15:15**](swordsearcher://bible/matt15.15-20) Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.  
**Matthew 15:16** And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?  
**Matthew 15:17** Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever gendereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?  
**Matthew 15:18** But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.  
**Matthew 15:19** For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:  
**Matthew 15:20** These are *the things* which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

**Jesus Departs and deals with a Canaanite woman**  
[**Matthew 15:21**](swordsearcher://bible/matt15.21-28) Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.  
**Matthew 15:22** And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.  
**Matthew 15:23** But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.  
**Matthew 15:24** But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.  
**Matthew 15:25** Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.  
**Matthew 15:26** But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs.  
**Matthew 15:27** And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.  
**Matthew 15:28** Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great *is* thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

**Great multitudes are healed**  
[**Matthew 15:29**](swordsearcher://bible/matt15.29-32) And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.  
**Matthew 15:30** And great multitudes came unto him, having with them *those that were* lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:  
**Matthew 15:31** Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

**Jesus calls His disciples – Multitude fed with 7 loaves and a few fishes with 7 baskets remaining**[**Matthew 15:32**](swordsearcher://bible/matt15.32-39) Then Jesus called his disciples *unto him*, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.  
**Matthew 15:33** And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude?  
**Matthew 15:34** And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes.  
**Matthew 15:35** And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.  
**Matthew 15:36** And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake *them*, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.  
**Matthew 15:37** And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken *meat* that was left seven baskets full.  
**Matthew 15:38** And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

**Matthew 15:39** And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.

**Pharisees want to see a sign from heaven**

[**Matthew 16:1**](swordsearcher://bible/matt16.1-4) The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.  
**Matthew 16:2** He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, *It will be* fair weather: for the sky is red.  
**Matthew 16:3** And in the morning, *It will be* foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O *ye* hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not *discern* the signs of the times?  
**Matthew 16:4** A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

**To His disciples, Jesus warns: Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees**  
[**Matthew 16:5**](swordsearcher://bible/matt16.5-12) And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.  
**Matthew 16:6** Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.  
**Matthew 16:7** And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have taken no bread.  
**Matthew 16:8** *Which* when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?  
**Matthew 16:9** Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?  
**Matthew 16:10** Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?  
**Matthew 16:11** How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?  
**Matthew 16:12** Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

**Prophecy of the church – Christ’s death, Resurrection, the church, the Second Coming**  
[**Matthew 16:13**](swordsearcher://bible/matt16.13-14) When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?  
**Matthew 16:14** And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

**But whom say ye that I am?**  
[**Matthew 16:15**](swordsearcher://bible/matt16.15-20) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?  
**Matthew 16:16** And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.  
**Matthew 16:17** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.  
**Matthew 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.  
**Matthew 16:19** And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.  
**Matthew 16:20** Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

**Jesus from that time on taught that He was to die, resurrect, the third day.**  
[**Matthew 16:21**](swordsearcher://bible/matt16.21-26) From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.  
**Matthew 16:22** Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.  
**Matthew 16:23** But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.  
**Matthew 16:24** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.  
**Matthew 16:25** For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.  
**Matthew 16:26** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

**Jesus will return in glory and reward every man according to his works**[**Matthew 16:27**](swordsearcher://bible/matt16.27-28) For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.  
**Matthew 16:28** Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom. [Matthew 17](swordsearcher://bible/matt17) and [II Peter 1](swordsearcher://bible/2pe1)

**When the LORD called Ezekiel to Service:**

[**Ezekiel 3:20**](swordsearcher://bible/ezekiel3.20-21) Again, When a righteous *man* doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.  
**Ezekiel 3:21** Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous *man*, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

**Interesting Links:**

**Biblical Mt. Sinai Discovered -** <https://christianforumsite.com/threads/biblical-mt-sinai-discovered-provided-with-pictures-and-bible-verses-please-share.60829/>

**Mount Sinai in Arabia: The Exodus Route Restored -** <https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-route.htm>