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

**Stumblingblock II, Numbers 22-25**

 **I. Introduction and Review**

 **II. Divine Commentary Against False Teachers**

 **III. Don’t receive the grace of God in vain**

**Stumblingblock – Part II –** II Corinthians 6:17

**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****)**

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| **I.** **Introduction and Review**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); yet God used him and the Spirit of God spoke prophetic parables through him (Numbers 23-24). 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).  |
| 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). 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; Jude 4-11) 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) but Balaam was defeated by the Israel and killed by the sword. (Numbers 31:8) |  |
| We see that Balaam was a false teacher and Revelation 2 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 in our review. We may remember from chapter 21, Israel 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. Previously Og had beaten Edom in battle and occupied some of Edom’s land. Now, Balac was afraid of Israel because God gave them victory over Og and the Ammonites - The LORD was guarding Israel and “setting up His Old Testament Classroom.

Today, we will go to the New Testament to see this same “The LORD” continue his curricula concerning false teachers that tend to destroy God’s congregation from the inside – the “gates of Hell” can not prevail against the church which Christ will establish through His Apostles and the power of the Holy Ghost. As long as the people of the LORD continue walking with the LORD, Satan cannot stop the church, but if they give into the false teacher, there will be divisions and apostacy. (Ephesians 5; II Timothy 3; Galatians; I Corinthians; II Corinthians 11 6; Jude; and many more New Testament teachings)

**II. Divine Commentary 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 condemning Jesus’ and His disciple’s actions:**

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

**Matthew 15:1** 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** 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
**Matthew 15:7** *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** 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** 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** 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** 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** 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** 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** 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** 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** 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** 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** 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 and II Peter 1

**Who is still alive on earth that heard Jesus’ Words and will see Him coming in His Kingdom?**

**Matthew 17:1** And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,
**Matthew 17:2** And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
**Matthew 17:3** And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.
**Matthew 17:4** Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.
**Matthew 17:5** While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.
**Matthew 17:6** And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.
**Matthew 17:7** And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.
**Matthew 17:8** And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

**The Apostle Paul warns the church at Corinth first, in chapter five, concerning the judgment Seat of Christ; now in chapter six, what this new church should do because of false teachers:**

**III. Don’t receive the grace of God in vain – Do you think Paul was giving an altar call?**

**II Corinthians 6:1** We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.
**II Corinthians 6:2** (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)

**Now, how does the LORD want us to do in this day****II Corinthians 6:3** Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:
**II Corinthians 6:4** But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,
**II Corinthians 6:5** In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;
**II Corinthians 6:6** By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,
**II Corinthians 6:7** By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,
**II Corinthians 6:8** By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and *yet* true;
**II Corinthians 6:9** As unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;
**II Corinthians 6:10** As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.
**II Corinthians 6:11** O *ye* Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged.
**II Corinthians 6:12** Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.
**II Corinthians 6:13** Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto *my* children,) be ye also

enlarged.

**What fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? God’s people are His temple**
**II Corinthians 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
**II Corinthians 6:15** And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?
**II Corinthians 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
**II Corinthians 6:17** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,
**II Corinthians 6:18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

**IV. Divine Instruction before Babylon attacked – A type of antichrist’s power during the trib –**

**When the LORD called Ezekiel to Service: (Ezekiel was beholding the glory of God leaving the temple)**

**Ezekiel 3:20** 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>