

Lessons From A Donkey

November 29, 2020

November 28-29, 2020

Scene 1: Balaam Is SUMMONED

Numbers 22:4, *The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, "This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." So Balak son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, 5 sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor, who was at Pethor, near the Euphrates River, in his native land.*

Numbers 22:12, *But God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed." 13 The next morning Balaam got up and said to Balak's officials, "Go back to your own country, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you."*

Numbers 22:18, *But Balaam answered them, "Even if Balak gave me all the silver and gold in his palace, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the Lord my God. 19 Now spend the night here so that I can find out what else the Lord will tell me." 20 That night God came to Balaam and said, "Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you."*

Scene 2: Balaam Is CONFRONTED

Numbers 22:22, *But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.*

Numbers 22:23, *When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, it turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat it to get it back on the road.*

Numbers 22:28, *Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" 29 Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a*

fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.”
30 The donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?” “No,” he said. 31 Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.

Numbers 22:35, *The angel of the Lord said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you.” So Balaam went with Balak’s officials.*

Scene 3: Balaam Is USED BY GOD

Numbers 23:8, *How can I curse those whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce those whom the Lord has not denounced?*

Numbers 23:11, *Balak said to Balaam, “What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but you have done nothing but bless them!” 12 He answered, “Must I not speak what the Lord puts in my mouth?”*

Numbers 23:19, *God is not human, that He should lie, not a human being, that He should change his mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?... 23 There is no divination against Jacob, no evil omens against Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘See what God has done!’*

Numbers 24:5, *How beautiful are your tents, Jacob, your dwelling places, Israel!*

Numbers 24:17, *“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth. 18 Edom will be conquered; Seir, his enemy, will be conquered, but Israel will grow strong. 19 A ruler will come out of Jacob and destroy the survivors of the city.”*

3 Lessons From 3 Scenes:

- God’s WORD IS GOOD
- God’s PLANS ARE NEVER THWARTED
- God’s PEOPLE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED

Deuteronomy 23:4, *For they did not come to meet you with bread and water on your way when you came out of Egypt, and they hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram Naharaim to pronounce a curse on you. 5 However, the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam but turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you. (also: Joshua 24:9-10; Nehemiah 13:2)*

Scene 4: Balaam's ERROR

Numbers 31:8, *Among their victims were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba—the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword.*

2 Peter 2:15, *They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness.*

Jude 1:11, *Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.*

Revelation 2:14, *Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.*

Numbers 25:1, *While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, 2 who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. 3 So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord's anger burned against them.*

Numbers 31:16, *"They were the ones who followed Balaam's advice and enticed the Israelites to be unfaithful to the Lord in the Peor incident, so that a plague struck the Lord's people.*

1 Lesson From 1 Scene:

- We MUST TAKE SIN SERIOUSLY

Numbers 25:6, *Then an Israelite man brought into the camp a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole*

assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting. 7 When Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, saw this, he left the assembly, took a spear in his hand 8 and followed the Israelite into the tent. He drove the spear into both of them, right through the Israelite man and into the woman's stomach. Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; 9 but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.

Closing Thought: We Are BLESSED, But We Can't Be A FOOL.

John 10:10, *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.*