

Study Guide  
Numbers 22-24  
Big Idea: The Blessing is Knowing God

1. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:1-35)

- a. What was Balak afraid of? What was he asking of Balaam (v. 1-7)
- b. What was God's answer? (v. 12)
- c. Discuss how Balaam reengages God when he sees there is a ton of money involved. (v. 15; 18-19). How do we at times "pray" for things that we want, without really wanting to know God or his will? Share scenarios of how we do this.
- d. The donkey! (v. 22-35). What happened?  
Discuss the fake way Balaam 'repents' (v. 35). What would real repentance have looked like?
- e. Read 2 Peter 2:15. What was the error of Balaam's way? How we can all be vulnerable to doing Christianity for our own gain. Discuss.

2. The Power of Blessing (Numbers 22:36-24:25)

Notice how Balaam is not able to curse Israel because God has blessed them!

- a. Oracle 1: Read Numbers 23:8-10. How does Balaam describe Israel?
- b. Oracle 2: Read Numbers 23:20-21. 'misfortune' means iniquity. How could God see Israel as sinless?
- c. Oracle 3: Read Numbers 24:5-7. How could God see Israel as a fountain of blessing in such a desert?  
Share a time when you were encouraged, knowing that God sees you through eyes of grace. Discuss.

Application

Discuss the following three suggestions that will help us avoid being like Balaam.

1. Surrender your life to God. (Romans 12:1)
2. Prioritize knowing God. (Phil. 3:10)
3. Stay connected to the family of God (4:11-13)

Numbers 22-24

Big Idea: The Blessing is Knowing God.

I. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:1-35)

Then the people of Israel set out and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan at Jericho. <sup>2</sup>And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. <sup>3</sup>And Moab was in great dread of the people, because they were many...<sup>5</sup> sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River.

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#### I. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:1-35)

<sup>6</sup> "Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed." <sup>7</sup> So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with fees for divination in hand.

<sup>12</sup> God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."

#### I. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:1-35)

<sup>18</sup> But Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the command of the Lord my God to do less or more. <sup>19</sup> So you, too, please stay here tonight, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me."

<sup>20</sup> And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men have come to call you, rise, go with them; but only do what I tell you." <sup>21</sup> So Balaam rose in the morning and saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab.

#### If You Will Ask- Oswald Chambers

*"As long as we get from God everything we ask, we never get to know Him. We look upon Him as a blessing machine that has nothing to do with His character or ours."*

#### I. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:1-35)

<sup>22</sup> But God's anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the way as his adversary.

#### I. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:1-35)

<sup>28</sup> Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" <sup>29</sup> And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you." <sup>30</sup> And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?" And he said, "No."

#### I. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:1-35)

<sup>32</sup> And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me."

<sup>34</sup> Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood in the road against me.

1. Outwardly Dramatic- Guilt is for sin.

<sup>34b</sup> "Now therefore, if it is evil in your sight, I will turn back."

2. Inwardly Hardened- ...not evil in my sight.

I. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:1-35)

2 Peter 2:15

"They have followed the way of Balaam, ... who loved gain from wrongdoing..."

Jude 1:11a

"Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error..."

Rev. 2:14

"But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality."

I. The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:1-35)

John 11:49-51

"...Caiaphas, ... being high priest that year ...prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation."

Matthew 7:22-23

<sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Big Idea: The Blessing is Knowing God.

Dealing with the 'Balaam' within:

1. Surrender your life to God.
2. Prioritize knowing God.
3. Stay connected to the family of God.

II. The Power of Blessing (Numbers 22:36-24:25)

<sup>36</sup> When Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab... <sup>41</sup> And in the morning Balak took Balaam and brought him up to Bamoth-baal, and from there he saw a fraction of the people.

A. Oracle 1: Bamoth- Baal (Numbers 23:7-10)

<sup>8</sup> How can I curse whom God has not cursed?

How can I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?

<sup>9</sup> For from the top of the crags I see him,  
from the hills I behold him;

behold, a people dwelling alone,  
and not counting itself among the nations!

<sup>10</sup> Who can count the dust of Jacob  
or number the fourth part of Israel?

B. Oracle 2: Pisgah (Numbers 23:18-24)

<sup>20</sup> Behold, I received a command to bless:  
he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it.

<sup>21</sup> He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob,  
nor has he seen trouble in Israel.

The Lord their God is with them,  
and the shout of a king is among them.  
... horns of the wild ox.  
... as a lion it lifts itself;

C. Oracle 3: Peor (Numbers 24:3-9)

<sup>5</sup> How lovely are your tents, O Jacob,  
your encampments, O Israel!

<sup>6</sup> Like palm groves that stretch afar,  
like gardens beside a river,  
like aloes that the Lord has planted,  
like cedar trees beside the waters.

<sup>7</sup> Water shall flow from his buckets,  
and his seed shall be in many waters;

<sup>9b</sup> Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you."

Genesis 22:18

"...and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

D. Oracle 4: The Latter days (Numbers 24:15-24)

<sup>17a</sup> a star shall come out of Jacob,  
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;

Edom- 'dispossessed'

Seir- 'dispossessed'

Amalek- 'destruction'

Kenite- 'nest in the rock' ... 'taken captive by Asshur'

Asshur- 'ships... from Kittim'

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