

Numbers 22 - 24

Balak and Balaam

Lesson 6

Chapter 21 concluded with the movement and battles of Israel until they settled in the Amorite country (son of Ammon, grandson of Lot). Israel was just across the Jordan River from the Promised Land. Moses sent spies into the land of Bashan and the Lord gave possession of this land to the Israelites.

Balak, Balaam and the donkey - 22:1-41

1. Who was Balak and what was he afraid of? (vs. 22:2, 4)

2. What unique solution did he come up with? (vs. 22:5-6)

3. Who was Balaam? (vs. 22:5, 7)

4. From verse 12, what did God say to Balaam?

5. Balaam seemed to be following God and sent the messengers away. However, they were persistent and returned. How did Balak plan to persuade Balaam this time? (vs. 22:15-16)

6. In verse 18 it appeared Balaam was following God's way. Using 2 Peter 2:15-16, describe how God saw his heart.

7. What did the donkey do? (vs. 22:21-29)

- Do you find this odd? Please comment!

8. What did Balaam finally realize? (vs. 22:31-34)

- Did he appear truly repentant?

9. Balaam continued traveling on. Balak met him with a stern reprimand, "What took you so long!" How did Balaam respond? (vs. 22:38)

Balaam's four oracles - 23:1 - 24:25

10. Describe Balaam's first attempt to obey Balak. (vs. 23:1-10)

11. What was Balak's response? (vs. 23:11-14)

12. Describe Balaam's second attempt to obey Balak. (vs. 23:15-24)

13. What was Balak's response? (vs. 23:25)

14. "Then Balak said to Balaam, "Come, let me take you to another place. Perhaps it will please God to let you curse them for me from there." (vs. 23:27) What was Balak thinking, didn't he get it? Please refresh your memory by stating what God's role was with Israel and who it was Balak was asking to curse them. (See also Exodus 6:6-8)

15. What power was Balaam trying to use prior to this point? (vs. 24:1)

16. What happened that made a difference? (vs. 24:2)

17. How do the remaining two oracles differ from the first two? (vs. 24:3-25)

Think about it!

Balaam, while doing what he thought God wanted him to do, was supernaturally blocked. Yet, he continued to fight to go on until God opened his eyes to see it was God's angel who was blocking the path. As followers of Christ, we ask God to reveal His plan for our lives. We ask God to lead us and to open doors, if it is His will. But how many times do we act like Balaam? What if it doesn't seem to be what we want or thought would happen? What if God closes a door or "blocks" our path?

Take some time to think about your life.

Have there been times you believe God either opened or shut doors in your life?

How did you deal with it?

When it didn't turn out the way you wanted, did you blame God or seek His direction?