



Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations” (Matt 28:19)

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Survey Of The Bible I

Genesis-Deuteronomy



Num 22-23

A Summary Of Balaam

1. BALAAM(S) appears 66x in the Bible
 2. BALAAM= Heb. *Bilam* = “not of the people”
 3. Some equate him with BELA, the first Edomite king (Gen 36:32), whose father’s name was also BEOR (this is unlikely though)
 4. He was from PETHOR (22:5), which was located in ARAM (i.e.- Syria) (23:7), by the RIVER (i.e.- Euphrates) of the LAND (i.e.- Mesopotamia) (Deu 23:4) of the children of his people
 5. He was renowned for the accuracy of his divine oracles (22:6)
 6. He knew the covenant name of the true and living God (22:8; Exo 6:3) and professed him as HIS God (22:18) and the source of his oracles- he may have been a genuine Gentile prophet at one time
 7. God spoke to him like he did any other prophet (22:9; I Kin 19:9)
 8. He initially refused the temptation and was willing to obey the Lord, but in his response to the elders of Moab and Midian he left out that Israel was blessed of the Lord (22:12-13)
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Num 22-23

A Summary Of Balaam (cont'd)

9. He was enticed by the blank check offer as evidenced by his response to consult the Lord to see what more he would say (22:18-19)- he already knew the Lord's PERFECT will (22:12), why would the Lord change his mind because he was being offered more money?
 10. His love for the wages of unrighteousness was clearly revealed by his going with the princes of Moab the next morning even though they did not come to call him first (22:20-21)- when the Lord revealed his PERMISSIVE will to Balaam, he did not hear the condition for going with them, all he heard was, "...rise up, and go with them"; because that is what he WANTED to hear
 11. His lust so blinded him that he became oblivious to God's dealing (22:22-31)
 12. He professed that he would turn back from going with the princes of Moab if the Lord told him to (22:34)
 13. He was willing to go to the high places of Baal and have altars to the Lord erected there (22:41-23:1)
 14. He besought the Lord to allow him to curse Israel (Deu 23:5) even though he KNEW the Lord's will on the matter (22:12)
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Num 22-23

A Summary Of Balaam (cont'd)

15. He wanted and tried to curse Israel anyway, but the Lord put a blessing in his mouth instead (Deu 23:5)
 16. He took an apologetic tone for preaching the truth of the word of God (23:12,26; 24:12-13) because he did not want to do it but was forced to
 17. He made a blatant attempt to get out of blessing Israel a third time (24:1)
 18. He returned home empty handed (24:25), but was determined to find a way he could get his money, and he did (25:1-3; 31:16; Rev 2:14)
 19. He took up residence among the Midianites shortly after his diabolical counsel and was slain with them by the Israelites (31:8)
 20. He is categorized as a SOOTHSAYER (Jos 13:22) and FALSE PROPHET (2 Pet 2:1, 15) in the end
 - ✓ The WAY of Balaam (2 Pet 2:15)= sell your spiritual talents for personal profit; sell out the truth for money
 - ✓ The ERROR of Balaam (Jude 11)= it is possible to get God to change his mind about his word
 - ✓ The DOCTRINE of Balaam (Rev 2:14)= the ungodly can overcome the people of God through INTERMARRIAGE and IDOLATRY (“if you can’t beat them, join them”)
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Num 22-23

- Balak attributes to Balaam a quality the Lord attributes to himself (22:6) cf. (Gen 12:3)
 - LET NOTHING (22:16)= including the Lord
 - I WILL PROMOTE THEE...I WILL DO WHATSOEVER THOU SAYEST= Balak offers Balaam a blank check; Satan makes the same offer to teens to keep them from serving the Lord, and to preachers to keep them from preaching the truth
 - The Lord was angry with Balaam because he went with the men even though they did not come to call him first (22:20-22); and he went with them in spite of KNOWING the perfect will of God (22:12)
 - The ass's eyes did not have to be opened to see the angel of the Lord (22:25) but Balaam's did (22:31)- can animals sense the spirit world better than people?
 - The princes of Moab did not witness what happened between Balaam and his ass because the ass went off the main road when he saw the angel of the Lord the first time (22:22-23)
 - Balaam did not express any surprise that his ass spoke (22:29), nor does he tell anyone about his experience when he arrives in Moab (22:38-39)
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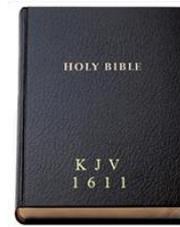
Num 22-23

- This is the second of three instances of talking animals in the Bible cf. (Gen 3:1; Rev 5:13)
- The Lord cares about the mistreatment of animals (22:32) cf. (Pro 12:10)
- I HAVE SINNED= the second of 11 people to state this cf. (Exo 9:27)

A PICTURE OF THE UNHOLY TRINITY (22:41) cf. (Rev 16:13)

1. Balak= corresponds to the beast, the false CHRIST
 2. Balaam= corresponds to the false prophet, the false SPIRIT
 3. Baal= corresponds to the dragon, the false GOD
- Balak tries three times to have Balaam curse Israel (22:41-23:12; 23:13-26; 23:27-30)
 - Balaam invites Balak to build seven altars and offer a bullock and a ram on each altar three times (23:1, 14, 29), as if this might cause God to change his mind about cursing Israel
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Num 22-23

- How does (Num 23:19) reconcile with (Gen 6:6)? Whenever the Lord “repents” (i.e.- changes his mind or actions) it is only because it appears that way from man’s standpoint- his eternal plan and purpose is fixed, there is no “plan B” with the Lord
- The Lord testifies of his people’s STANDING (23:21) cf. (Mic 6:5)

Characteristics Of The Unicorn

1. It is an animal of great strength (Num 23:22; 24:8; Job 39:1)
 2. It is a domesticated animal; a beast of burden (Job 39:9-11)
 3. It is a horned animal (Psa 22:21) (UNI= “one”; CORN= “horn”)
 4. It’s young is a calf (Psa 29:6)
 5. It is associated with bullocks (Deu 33:17; Isa 34:7)
- The Biblical UNICORN is not the mythological winged horse with a single horn protruding from it’s head, but a beast of burden, now extinct, from the oxen family whose horns were situated in a way it appeared as a single horn (some say it is the aurochs)- the rhinoceros is a “unicorn”

