

*Baal, Balak, Balaam,
and Blessings.*

The main subject is the Blessings of God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ and our Father through Christ, but in order to appreciate how God instructed Moses and Aaron to bless His children, we must first see some obvious realities of this world. (Just remember as we do that God had already told Moses how to bless His children in Number 6, long before Balak, Balaam, and Baal became involved in Numbers 22.) Baal, Balak, and Balaam are listed in order of power: Baal first who although a nothing and a nobody since only a dumb idol, because Baal represents all the gods of worship and service that men of all generations use as a substitute for the only true God, substitutes for the only true God, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator the Universe, and the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses--the great "I am". You know how to tell false gods from the only real God, "to Whom is power and glory forever", any god is not real that: (1) that does not have for a Son the Lord Jesus Christ, and (2) any god without the Bible as the Word of God. {Don't kid yourselves, we all know which book that is in spite of the Mormons, the Masons, and the Muslims. It is the book of 66 books that has been preserved by this God of the Universe, and is recognized as words of God to all humanity by the Christian world.}

Balak is second in power because that king of Moab during the time God's people were marching from Egypt to their home in the promised land of Canaan represents all the ungodly men of land, power, and wealth of all generations. Surely you do not think that we have gone beyond the "no more or no less of the word of

Baal, Balak, and Balaam

the LORD" of which the Prophet Balaam spoke several times before his madness, and if a reminder is needed of how all the stories, histories, and personalities of the Bible are given to us of this present generation for EXAMPLES, recall the words of I Corinthians 10:11:

"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." (I Corinthians 10:11)

So...Baal represents any substitute for the true God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, Balak represents ungodly men of all generations with power, land, and wealth; and lastly Balaam represents all Prophets and men of God who for years spoke for the true God but who later "loved the wages of unrighteousness." (II Peter 2:15) The Balaams of today like of old are so dangerous because they are inside the God movement, once spoke with conviction for God, and had and have good reputations. Balak knew to send from Moab near the Jordan River all the way over to Mesopotamia for Balaam, "for I know whom you bless is blessed and whom you curse is cursed (Numbers 22:6). {Parenthetically notice that here in the words from King Balak of the Moabites or Midianites, there was no mention of God, a god, or even of Baal who was the god of the Moabites, Midianites, and much of the people of Canaan. Balak recognizes only the power and world-wide reputation of Balaam because it was a known fact from Syria to Assyrian to Moab by the Jordan that the ones Balaam blessed were blessed and the ones who Balaam cursed were cursed¹.}

9-1: Our Bible lesson or example here is to be leery of the Prophet of God with a world wide reputation when it seems he could have sold out to the "wages of unrighteousness." (II Peter 2:15) In other words, if personal profit, reputation, and gain dominate².

1. Do not be deceived by the professionally religious of popularity today, for Balaam was a Prophet of God with a good prayer life, for he spoke often to God and with extensive discourses. {Of course, this was on occasions and we must

1. First of all any reputation in and of the world is not the reputation of God in heaven!

2. However let's give them a break, what they really do is become one with the majority world around them, where to make personal profit is the norm and where greed is justified as the American way of life.

Baal, Balak, and Balaam

remember than even though Balaam's donkey saw the angel of the LORD God about to kill them, Balaam himself did not at first recognize this danger from God.} Read and study carefully Numbers 22-25 and you will see that almost everything Balaam did was right, three times blessing the people of God of Israel in spite of pressures, threats, and the anger of King Balak who had brought here over to Moab in the first place and while on per diem {the diviner's wages in the words of Balak and Numbers, which were paid to Balaam before he ever left Mesopotamia.}

NOTE: It would seem that the message here is also well known, that the spokesmen for God, be it pastors, teachers, evangelists, or prophets {these are the only four groups authorized to hold offices by the Ascended Christ in Ephesians 4:11}, have their "treasure in earthen vessels" (II Cor 4:7). However, obviously there is a disappointing point in the life of the false prophet or false teacher, when he comes to love the wages of unrighteousness more than he loves the wages of righteousness, and this love becomes unfortunately the dominant new habit of his way and life. He can still have the reputation, but something has gone wrong inside which Jesus might call, "because sin will abound, the love of many will wax cold". Or in the case of fallen prophets of God, the heart waxes warmer for the wages of unrighteousness than for the wages of righteousness, at least for part of their life. Actually, they become victims of the most subtle of all lusts, not the lust of the flesh or the lust of the eyes, but the "pride of life". Most justifiable and practiced among believers and leaders is the forbidden "Pride of Life", mentioned by the Apostle John in I John 2:15-17 as not of the Father but of the world. By the way as we battle with Baal, we are today battling with the world and the prince of the world who is Satan. {And there is nothing so dangerous to the people of God than a professed Christian or leader without the possession of inward power and righteousness that wraps self-righteous robes of total rightness about them--you know perfect, the purity of an iceberg, and all the answers--like the hypocrites of Jesus' day that operated on appearance rather than to "judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24)}

2. The reason we know for certain that Balaam was a Prophet of God is because Balaam, in the words of the Apostle Peter, was first going the "right way" but went astray, after some good service for God "forsaking God".

"They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was

Baal, Balak, and Balaam

rebuked for his iniquity, a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet." (II Peter 2:15)

NOTE: Also that Peter in this writing of the Word of God, and our habit of "no more and no less than the words of the LORD" calls in the very last word of the verse, Balaam a "prophet". And less you think this was a prophet of Baal, or some other idol of men like the priest of Midian that was Moses' father in law during the 40 years between Egypt and rescue of the people, simply because prophet is spelled with a little letter, think again; for when the ascended Christ set up only 4 positions of authority for the church, that is in Ephesians 4:4, all four positions--apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, are spelled with little letters, perhaps one reason being that no one single position, as has happened in the doctrinal history of Christianity, should exercise power and authority over all the other with the capital letter. Many of these Christian fables of today causing the great apostasy of the Falling Away can be traced to the same points in history where both the office of the New Testament prophet was minimized as a gift of Christ to the church, and some other office of authority was maximized.

9-2: *Read carefully who this "they" is of II Peter 2:15--"they have forsaken the right way and gone astray"--in the total context of this second chapter of II Peter.*

1. There have always been "false prophets" (2:1) among the people of God in the OT just like there are now "false teachers" in NT churches, and to deny their presence is to deny reality, to allow the extreme toleration of the American Democratic faith to overwhelm all convictions of sound doctrine! Of course, there is generally the exercise of some discrimination today as church members always point to other churches and denominations as the hotbeds of false prophets and teachers, refusing to look to their own. You know, it is much like my is the only school, my is the only city and state, etc!

2. These false teachers secretly¹ bring in heresies. (2:1b)

1. Have you not noticed how the Bible Baptists were so secretive about the secret rapture until they had gained political control of the SBC, now they have come out and wish to gain doctrinal control.

Baal, Balak, and Balaam

3. These destructive ways of false teachers cause the very truth itself to be blasphemed (2:2), leading the church and churches and denominations down the path of the steps of the Falling Away of II Timothy 4:3,4 through an intolerance toward sound doctrine, motivations by personal desires, the heaping up of teachers with itching ears, and finally like today the "turning away from truth, and the being turned into fables".

3. Covetousness or greed, another way to say "the wages of unrighteousness" leads them to the "deceptive words" of unsound doctrine and itching ears teachings.

4. They think they are getting away with it, and just reward will never come, since they are not killed shortly after the dastardly deeds like Balaam was when he was found living in Midian. {Of course living in the wealth and honor and reputation of the world of Midian had sort of a deadening comfort to it that lead to ignoring eternal consequences, or even the significance of what Balaam did as he caused 24,000 people of God to be killed, even as today living in professionalism, the smugness of degrees, comfort and reputation forbids a good look at their currently existing and sure RESERVATIONS FOR ETERNAL JUDGMENT.} They think their judgment has been idle, but it has been active; in the very picturesque words of the Apostle Peter, "for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber" (II Peter 2:3).

9-3: RESERVATIONS FOR THE UNJUST UNDER PUNISHMENT HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE. "God knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment" (II Peter 2:9) {Please read the epistle of II Peter for yourself.}

Reservations have already been made, and they just do not see it. Much like the donkey saw the angel of the LORD ready to kill them, and this prophet Balaam did not until the dumb donkey talked with the voice of a man. It is settled in heaven, the only place eternity counts, and only remains to be worked out at the real Second Coming, when all Balaks, Balaams, and Baals of power and position lose all control, and their eternal fate is completely determined by their previous reservations. It is immutable, there will be no changing of reservations on that great and notable day of the LORD and Lord!

Baal, Balak, and Balaam

9-4: *How God has instructed His leaders to bless His children.*

We need not mess with a diviner of misguided but popular prophet of God, to see how the real blessings come from the great God of this Universe. Like He did in giving us so many examples in the Bible of individuals and groups, He Himself gave Moses divine advice on how to bless the people of God. {If you want to bless your own children or the people of God under your care, then get serious--far more than a formality for the end or beginning of worship--with Numbers 6:22-27:

"And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you will bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

So they shall put my name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them." {Numbers 6:22-27)

Oh, how great it is when we "no more or no less" heeds the words of God, without hypocrisy and ulterior motives down deep in the heart for "the wages of unrighteousness". It is one thing to have and express the Bible convictions of literalism, then it is still another matter to have diverting ulterior motives in the heart that is motivated by the wages of unrighteousness. You don't see any gospel of prosperity here that includes the unrighteous wages. What you see from our great God is SECURITY {as He keeps and protects you}, GRACIOUSNESS, and PEACE. Now, some Bible Baptist Fundamentalists that now control the SBC through political means and desire doctrinal control, would justify their efforts at the gospel of prosperity that quickly saying this is what they mean by prosperity from God, then the next week they bring in a money matters expert to teach you how on the wages of unrighteousness. And don't ever forget that what it comes down to is that Balaam, our bad example for a Prophet of God, is that "he loved the wages of unrighteousness". (II Peter 2:15)

Granted it is important to make a living for yourself and family, but how dangerous it becomes when those good intentions turn to a love of money, the root of all evil. The Bible warns against riches and wealth as the trap of the devil, or even the desire to be wealthy is a trap, because so quickly an over abundance

Baal, Balak, and Balaam

of efforts and love for wealth turns to the same problem Balaam had of falling into the trap of becoming a genuine LOVER of the wages of the ungodly and unrighteousness. You know, the world and the Balak's of the world never do wealth, success, and money in moderation; but loving these things themselves with all "their heart, mind, and soul", the ungodly also motivate and guide you in the same paths of unrighteousness. Even as Jesus taught "you can not serve God and mammon" at the same time, for "you will either love the one and cling to the other", or vice versa. Even if you wanted to in moderation love the world a little and love God a little, with balance, the Balaks and Balaams of the world today will not allow you to do that. The worldly philosophy of this world that tells us "how to win friends and influence people" for gain without moderation, also tells us what success is and how to obtain it without any moderation. A favorite saying of the world and worldly is "anything you do is worth doing well"¹, and the well bespeaks of a love and lack of moderation.

9-5: Bible stories like those about Baal, Balak, and Balaam {mainly about the blessings of God and from God} were given to us as "examples, upon whom the end of the ages have come".

While this Bible study series on "Christian Fables and the Balaam Doctrine" is far from over--there is so much yet to cover from the Bible, you should be reminded that you may not have much more time to work it out! It would seem that time, time, and more time is always the cure all for the scientists including the social scientists and evolutionists; but, well, according to the Bible, you are the generation on which the end of the ages has come. You may have time to work out your heart felt commitments and then again you may not. If the end of the ages have come on Peter and his readers, at the beginning of what the Bible calls the last days, how far along do you think God's plan for the termination of this old earth is now! When you see a vast increase in sin, unrighteousness, and lack of awareness of judgment, then consider that the Holy Spirit has already been withdrawn from earth, after the Falling Away and a visual on the man of sin; and further consider that the Pentecostals of the PP may not even know the difference. What happens when the Holy Spirit is withdrawn from earth: (1) the rising tide of sin and lawlessness becomes a flood (II Thessalonians); (2) sin and lawlessness turns into murder and terrorism; (3) sin is no longer seen as sin, righ-

1. Whatever your hand finds to do in all good Christian conscience is worth doing well, not for the wages of unrighteousness, but as a servant of the LORD and for the "glory of God in the Christian calling".

Baal, Balak, and Balaam

teousness is no longer seen as right and righteous, and judgment awareness disappears; and (4) religion turns to murder, terrorism, suicide, sexual immorality, and worship of the Baals of power and control.

"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." (I Corinthians 10:11)