

Memory Verse: Phil 2:14

Text: Numbers 22

Words to Define:

Divination (22:7) _____

Perverse (22:32) _____

Questions

1. Where had the Israelites stopped to camp? (v1)
2. Who was the king of the Moabites? (v4)
3. Why were the Moabites scared of the Israelites? (v2-3)
4. Do you think Balaam was a true prophet of God? (v6) (2Pet 2:15-17, Duet 23:4-6)
5. What did Balak ask Balaam to do to the Israelites? (v6)
6. Did the Moabites offer something for payment to Balaam? (v7)
7. What did the Lord tell Balaam? (v12)
8. What happened when the Moabite leaders returned to Balak? (v15-17)
9. Did Balaam go to God again about putting a curse on the Israelites? (v19) Do you think the things they were offering Balaam tempted him?
10. What was God's answer? (v20)
11. Was God angry with Balaam? (v22)
12. What did God send? (v22)
13. Where was the angel standing? (v22) Did the donkey see it?
14. Where was the angel at next? (v24) Did the donkey see it? What was the angel holding? (v23)
15. What did the donkey do as Balaam after it had seen the angel? (v28) Who was actually speaking?

16. Did Balaam ever see the angel? (v31) Who revealed it to him?
17. If the donkey hadn't turned away three times, what would have happened to Balaam?
(v33)
18. Did Balaam continue? (v35)

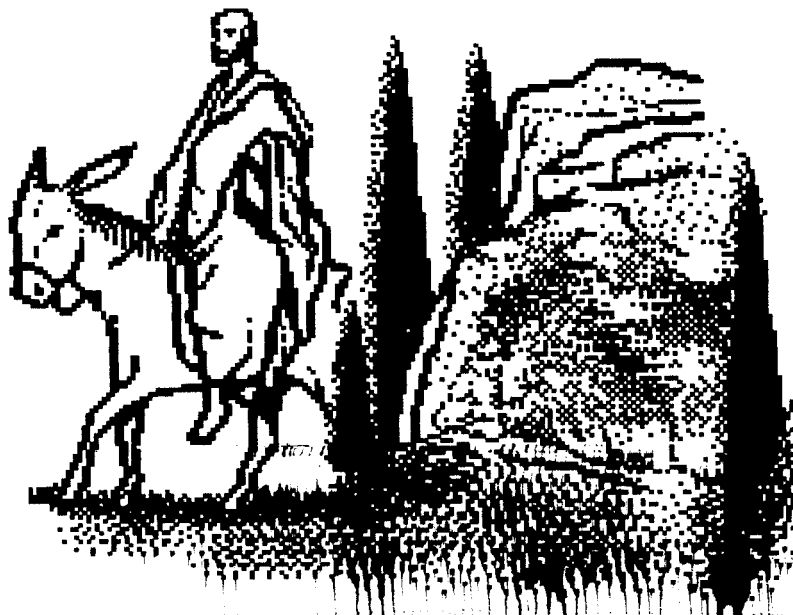
53. BALAAM (NUMBERS 22-24)

C	L	Y	N	G	E	A	J	T	B	A	C	M	R	B	U	V	M	U	B
O	U	L	B	D	L	V	I	N	Z	N	U	N	R	P	T	B	Q	N	E
Q	Y	P	L	P	V	M	C	D	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	G	N	U	H
L	Y	U	K	A	D	C	A	R	Z	M	J	A	W	P	O	C	Y	D	T
R	R	Y	O	K	N	A	T	A	N	T	K	Y	P	Y	M	Z	M	L	L
H	F	F	J	S	D	G	K	A	L	A	B	Q	N	Y	E	K	N	O	D
I	H	K	Q	P	Z	L	E	A	K	A	S	B	K	M	J	H	A	U	U
D	E	T	S	P	Z	O	C	L	O	Q	B	Q	B	O	D	K	S	F	W
Y	L	G	P	R	O	Z	J	Z	O	H	M	T	C	E	E	K	V	L	Q
E	M	E	M	X	W	M	W	E	B	F	J	H	S	J	S	R	Y	Y	N
D	G	Y	B	O	H	F	Y	M	H	A	T	R	D	W	S	E	K	H	I
P	M	G	B	S	J	M	J	D	M	B	U	H	W	S	E	N	W	X	S
U	B	M	O	L	Q	E	T	W	V	C	T	T	E	S	L	C	L	O	V
G	P	Q	H	K	I	Q	R	Q	I	U	A	K	K	L	B	V	W	I	U
I	M	H	S	W	L	S	N	I	O	T	A	C	I	I	O	C	W	R	U
C	W	V	S	V	H	Q	A	M	C	T	M	U	E	A	K	R	Z	F	A
E	N	V	R	J	E	V	S	I	N	H	E	R	P	G	G	C	D	Y	D
U	G	G	V	E	T	P	L	T	H	D	O	T	I	W	H	H	O	X	D
M	K	S	R	M	Y	B	P	A	I	D	N	S	Y	A	G	R	A	D	W
M	B	T	N	W	O	Q	U	L	U	Q	Q	T	B	F	D	E	K	F	T

ANGEL OF THE LORD
BALAK
BALAAM
BLESSED

CURSE
DONKEY
JERICHO

PROPHET
STRUCK
TREE



Class:

Date:

Lesson #: 111-10

Text: Numbers 22

Teacher:

Memory Verse: Phil 2:14

Concept development

Balak Sends for Balaam (Faith. Abhorring
lack of faith.)

Lesson

Words to define: divination 22:7, perverse 22:32 (reading)

Body: takes place outside of Israel - not part of
Israel's story - core of Israel

Balak wanted Balaam to curse Israel

Balak - King of Moab - Deut 2:25 (put fear in heart)

this was needless fear by Moab

King wanted to defeat them (Israel) instead of befriending them.
and out to defeat us - lesson for today

Balaam - Josh 13:22 ^(soothsayer) Num 24:1 (auguries) - what kind of person

Nothing good is said about Balaam in bible, either
he was prophet (Pet 2:15-17, gone astray or he

Activities: was a bad prophet God overpowered to use
as good (Deut 23:4-6)

Questions: Balak offered him money and power. God will
not allow him to go - Balaam was acting like a child.

Balak came back again with more - Balaam tried God
again. Balaam wasn't satisfied with God's answer.

22:20 if ~~know~~ calls you, God allows him but God
was angry. (As he went God's anger kindled, v22)

Balaam was trying to find another way to curse people.

His motives was bad - this is why God's anger was kindled.

Balaam was spiritually blinded by his own lust (he 22:21 see angel,
ordered to kill him)

Balaam was also very mean to his donkey. This tells a lot about him. He reported, but his was either false, or he turned back to sin.

Balaam's actions do not follow his words by his lust.

He's driven

V31 Lord opened his eyes (spiritually blinzed)

he was after glory, fame, honour

V7 rewards of divination - paid money

Bad prophets:

prophets misquoted God, Balaam wanted Balaam to manipulate the Gods

True Prophets:

~~spoke only what~~ spoke only what God wanted them to say

MD 4-1 (Use again) **The Israelites begin to praise God**

From the moment the children of Israel began to trust the Word of God, as they did when they looked at the brazen serpent on the pole, things began to look better for them. They stopped their murmuring and grumbling and began to march on in joyful victory. As soon as their complaining stopped, their singing began, the first singing and praise we have heard from them since they crossed the Red Sea. (*Locate the crossing of the Red Sea on the map.*) Have you ever noticed that you cannot grumble and sing at the same time? Only when we stop complaining and begin trusting the Lord can we live a life of joy and victory.

After many travels, the Israelites came to the country of the Amorites, an idol-worshipping people who lived west of the Jordan River in the Promised Land. Moses asked Sihon, the king of the Amorites, for permission to pass through his country. Even though Moses promised that the Israelites would not bother his fields or wells but would stay on the "king's highway," Sihon refused them permission to pass through and actually sent his army to attack Israel.

God gave Israel a great victory in this battle, and they swept on through the land to take the Amorites' cities

and villages. Og, king of Bashan, was the next to come against Israel. He was a giant, and his people lived in a rocky mountain fortress. But Israel defeated him and took his land.

MD 6-1 **Balak sees the Israelites camped**

Now, Israel was camped in the "plains of Moab on this side of Jordan by Jericho." They were just outside their promised inheritance with its green hills, beautiful valleys, and fertile soil, and they could hardly wait to go into the land. They had no idea, as they camped down in the plain, what evil plans were being hatched on the mountain above them.

By this time Balak, king of the Moabites, knew that his country was in deadly peril if the Israelites were not defeated, but he also knew that these strange people could not be defeated by ordinary means. As Balak stood on a high hill and looked down upon the Israelite encampment in the land of the Amorites, an evil idea came to him. Perhaps he and his friends, the Midianites, could get some false prophet to come and put a curse on Israel so that they would become weak and he could defeat them. Balak knew of a man named Balaam who lived far away in Mesopotamia and was supposed to be able

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Balaam lived in Bethor -
 this was a city of 5000 layers
 he belonged to a family of magicians
 Balaam's name means - devourer

to put a curse on people. (To help your memory of Balak and Balaam, remember that Balak was the king.)

MD 6-2 Balak's messengers ask Balaam to curse the Israelites

King Balak sent messengers to Mesopotamia with a large sum of money to persuade Balaam to come and curse Israel. The message read: "The Israelites have come from Egypt to the border of my country. There are so many of them they cover the face of the earth. Please come and curse them for me so that I can drive them out of my land. You are very wise. It is said that if you speak against a people, they become weak and are doomed; and if you bless them, they become strong."

Balaam listened to what the messengers had to say, but he refused to go with them because God told him, "Do not go with the men from Moab and Midian. You must not speak against the Israelites, for I have blessed them." So the messengers traveled all the way back to Moab and gave Balaam's message to King Balak, who became very upset when he heard that Balaam would not come. Then Balak chose some of the most important men in his country and sent them to Balaam in Mesopotamia with more money than before and with promises of great honors if Balaam would only come and curse Israel.

MD 6-3 Balaam rides his donkey

This time Balaam heard their request, saw the great gift of money, and decided that he could not pass up all that money, no matter what God said. So he saddled his donkey, and with two of his servants and the messengers, he began the long, hot journey to the land of Moab. Unknown to him, an angel had been sent from heaven to stop him from going to curse Israel.

Now Balaam did not see the angel, but the donkey did. So to avoid running into the angel, the donkey ran right off the road and into a field, annoying Balaam very much. It made Balaam look foolish to his two servants and the men of Moab. So he struck the poor donkey and forced it back onto the road.

Some distance farther on, the donkey balked again. The donkey had seen for the second time an angel with a drawn sword in the road before them. This road came to a narrow path through a vineyard with a wall on either side. Suddenly, as the donkey shied, it crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. This made Balaam so angry that he struck the donkey another cruel blow.

After a while, they came to a very narrow place in the path, and there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. Here the donkey saw the angel again and fell right down under Balaam. This made Balaam more angry than ever, and he started beating the donkey with a stick.

MD 6-4 Balaam's donkey speaks

Suddenly, to his astonishment, Balaam heard a voice nobody had ever heard before or since. The donkey was speaking! God had given the donkey a voice to speak so that Balaam could understand!

"What have I done that you should hit me these three times?" the donkey asked Balaam.

In a fit of anger, Balaam answered back, "You have made me look so foolish. I wish I had a sword with me. I would kill you." Balaam was furious because his animal had behaved so badly before such important people.

"Have I ever done anything like this before in all my life?" the donkey replied.

"No," Balaam admitted, still so angry that he failed to get the impact of the donkey's talking.

MD 6-5 Balaam repents

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel standing in the roadway with a drawn sword, and he fell flat on the ground before the angel. "Why did you beat your donkey those three times?" the angel demanded. "I have come to warn you because you are headed for destruction. Three times the donkey saw me and shied away from me; otherwise I would certainly have killed you by now and spared her."

Then Balaam confessed, "I have sinned. I didn't realize you were there. I will go back home if you don't want me to go on."

But the angel told him, "Go on with the men, but say only what I tell you to say." So Balaam continued with the men to the land of Moab.

Just as God allowed the people of Israel to have meat in the wilderness when they were determined to have it, so God let Balaam continue to Moab since his heart was set on going. Balaam loved the money he was promised, even if he did wrong; but God warned him by using his donkey to scold and rebuke him.

After the long journey, Balaam finally arrived in Moab; King Balak rushed to meet him. "Why didn't you come sooner?" Balak asked. "Don't you know I am able to honor you greatly?"

Balaam answered, "I cannot promise to help you even though I have come, for I can only speak the words that God gives to me."

MD 6-1 (Use again) Balak takes Balaam to a mountain-top

The next day, Balak took Balaam up to the high mountaintop where they could both look down on the camp of Israel. Of course, Israel was very much unaware of the strategy that was brewing on top of the mountain. But their God was watching over them; and although Satan and all his hosts sought to curse Israel, God would not allow a breath to harm His people! King Balak, waving his arm over the whole camp, told Balaam, "Now curse them for me!"

MD 6-6 God turns a curse into a blessing

Balaam told the king to build seven altars and offer an ox and a sheep on each altar. So Balak followed his instructions. Balaam went farther up the mountain and came back to the king and princes and opened his mouth to curse the people of Israel. But King Balak was astounded at the words that came out of Balaam's mouth! The prophet whom he had brought to curse Israel blessed them and told how great they would become! The king, very much annoyed, thought he would try again. So he took Balaam to another place where he could see only a part of the camp of Israel. Here again Balak built seven more altars and offered more sheep and oxen. After Balaam spoke to God the second time, he told the king, "What the Lord has promised, He will do. He commanded me to bless the Israelites, and I cannot change it. God brought them out of Egypt and made them strong."

Then Balak said, "Balaam, if you can't say evil of them, don't say anything at all."

Still the king, hoping he could change Balaam's mind, took Balaam to a third place where he would try once more. Again he built altars and offered sacrifices as

before. At last Balaam finally realized that the Lord truly planned to bless Israel, so he said, "How good are your tents, O Israel! Your land will be rich and beautiful, and your kingdom will be exalted."

King Balak, livid with anger, said, "I had planned to give you riches and honor, but your God has kept them from you. Now get away from here as fast as you can!"

During all the time that King Balak was plotting against

Israel, the Israelites were totally unaware that they were in danger from evil forces. They were like us, who are so often unaware of the powerful plots that Satan has against us. How wonderful to know that God realizes what is going on and that He will protect us from all the designs of Satan, just as He protected Israel, even to the extent of causing a donkey to talk! □

For older students

Although Balaam had spoken only the *words* of the Lord, yet in his heart he wished he could please King Balak so that he could get Balak's gold, which he was determined to have. Quickly, he thought of another way to help King Balak. He counseled him to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel by inviting them to join in the vile, impure worship of the Moabites' gods. Balaam knew that if the Israelites worshiped idols, their God would not bless them.

The Moabites and the Midianites made friends with the Israelites, and soon the young men of Israel were invited by the young women of Moab and Midian to come to their heathen feasts. When the Moabites and Midianites worshiped their idols and sacrificed to their gods, the Israelites also bowed down and also worshiped the heathen idols. Because God could not have His people worshiping idols and false gods, He commanded Moses to have all those who had done so to be killed.

Later God gave Israel victory over the Moabites and Midianites in a big battle that took place. In this war, Balaam, "who caused the children of Israel to sin," was killed. Poor, wretched, self-willed, covetous Balaam! Balaam had tried hard to gain his own ends by cursing Israel, but God would not allow anyone to curse His people. Many times God had to deal with them and teach Israel hard lessons in private, but He would not allow another to "move his tongue against them."

Balaam spoke many marvelous prophecies (God's words), even though they were delivered through a very unworthy, disobedient man. Those prophecies were God's thoughts concerning the future of Israel.

God, through Balaam, prophesied that Israel, a separated people among whom God dwelt, would be God's channel of blessing to all peoples of the world because of the Deliverer who would come from Israel—the Star out of Jacob and Scepter out of Israel—the Lord Jesus Christ.