Beware of the Doctrine of Balaam

This study examines the affects of the teachings of Balaam upon God’s people (Rev. 2:7). Here we have an agreement between Balak and Balaam similar to the Beast and the False Prophet – a different type of fellowship, if you will, between false spirits at work.

Balak’s number one goal was to disinherit Israel from their blessing of land and to see them destroyed. We will see that he had heard of Israel’s military fame and feared an engagement in that theatre. He appealed not to military leaders or political advisors for their thoughts, but appeared before the seat of Balaam, the wicked prophet. Balaam had struggles of his own as he tried to please Balak. He would later conceive of a master strategy that could only be fulfilled if Israel compromised their covenant relationship with their God.

There are five tactical strikes that Balaam conceived to wage a different type of warfare which would lead to their downfall. He used the spirit of Greed, spirit of Lust, spirit of Selfishness, spirit of Hatred, and the spirit of Deceit. Through the use of these strikes, Israel found herself engaged in spiritual warfare without knowing, and committed fornication and ate things sacrificed to idols.

It would be wise for us to examine the players in this theatre and arm ourselves with the whole armor of God so that we’re able to stand against the enemy and overcome him (Eph. 6:10-18).

Let begin by examining how the Spirit of Greed surfaced in the theatre.
The Spirit of Greed

Have you ever wanted something that was really more than what was due to you?

Have you ever withheld more than what was necessary for you to keep, or not shared with others?

Have you ever given in to someone’s appeal to do evil on their behalf so that you would “fit in with the group”?

If you answered yes to these questions, then the signs of bearing the fruits of Greed have been born. It is self-serving, as oppose to having concern for the well-being of others. Jesus addressed this issue in the following way:

Matt. 6:24 Jesus set the tone by saying, “You cannot serve two masters”… and You cannot serve God and mammon”...

Matt. 6:33 Jesus wants us to put Him first by “seeking first His Kingdom”, and He will take care of our needs.

Joshua 7:1-5 Achan caused his family and the whole nation to suffer because of his greed – he brought a curse upon his family, and was destroyed.

Acts 5:1-5 Ananias and Sapphira had a Spirit of Greed and deceit regarding their offerings.

Jude 11 Balaam had a love for greed and rewards.

Luke 12:15 Jesus said, “…Beware of covetousness…”

One’s life is not measured by abundance of things.

Do not allow others to lure you into seeking your identity in things created by others – job titles, associations, residence, physical appearance, etc.

Balak appealed to Balaam’s spirit of greed. He offered Balaam fame and promotion if he would curse (speak evil against) Israel. Balaam entertain the temptation as he went to God for advice.
The Spirit of Selfishness

Num 22:15, 37 The enemy entices one to focus on himself -the love of honor, riches and physical things.

Num 24:11 Balak proposed to enrich Balaam if only he would curse Israel. Balaam was promised great honor and recognition in the eyes of Balak and all who honored him.

Matt. 4:8-9 Satan the devil used the same strategy against Jesus (appealing to ego, physical appetite, riches and power, etc).

Think about it. Jesus came to die for our sins so that we can be reconciled to God the Father. He endured the shame and pain of the penalty of sin so that we could become like Him, members of the Godhead – the very family of God (Heb12:1-4, Eph. 1:23, Col. 1:19, 2:9). Yes, our Savior chose to focus on the joy set before (foreseeing each of us as a Spirit Being, Glorified with Power, looking just like Him), rather than on the temporary shame and pain of sin.

Jesus was not selfish, he “emptied himself of divinity and conquered sin (Phil 2:6-11).

Heb 12:1-4 Let us lay aside the things that so easily upset us and fight the flesh, and seek God’s will for us. Let us show love and concern for each other as we grow in the Lord.

Gen 3:1-5 Satan the devil used the same strategy against Adam and Eve. He persuaded them to sin against God and lose their dominion.
Num. 23:23 No wicked work can prevail against us as long we abide in Jesus Christ.

Num. 24:1,11 The Spirit of Lust leads one to advocate that God is wrongfully withholding something from you. Balak is playing the “guilt trip” on Balaam.

Gen. 3:1-7 The Serpent tempted Eve to sin by appealing to her physical appetite.

Num. 25:1-5 The anger of the Lord comes upon those who engage in lust against Him. God’s desire is for us to worship Him in Spirit and in truth according to His word.

Jude 11 The Spirit of Lust leads one to seek rewards and physical things.

The Spirit of Hatred

Num. 22:1,6-7 The enemy’s fear led to his action to speak against and discredit Israel. Balak saw Israel as a pending threat to be eliminated (Moab became distressed when he saw Israel).

They became afraid of losing their place in history.

Have you ever had others to speak evil of you?

Have you spoken evil of others and/or held them back from accomplishing a mission or using their talent?

Proverbs 26:28 “A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.
The Spirit of Deceit

Num. 31:15-16  Israel followed false teaching
Gen. 3:1-5    Adam and Eve faced false teaching, and disobey God. They did not overcome the enemy.
Matt. 4:1-8   Jesus had to fight false counsel and teaching constantly. Yet, he remain true to His father’s words, and set the example for us.
Matt. 24:4-5  Jesus warned us to beware of false doctrine and teachers.
Luke 4:4-8    Jesus used God’s Spirit and Word to overcome.
We must take heed to what Jesus said to the disciples:

- Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod – hypocrisy. We cannot claim to be followers of Jesus Christ and yet bear the image of the world, and expect to escape the wrath of His judgment.


- We must put on and keep on the whole armor of God so that He can work through us His purpose – keep your covenant relationship with Him pure and clean.