

**“The Pentateuch”
Numbers 23-24
Wednesday March 2, 2011**

Numbers 22:2-36:13 – Repair and Reorganization

Numbers 22:2-36:13 – At Moab

- Moab & Ammon are both descendants of Abraham’s nephew Lot and thus relatives of Israel Gen 19:36-38
- Edom, also relatives of Israel; Their father was Esau, the twin brother of Jacob/Israel

Moab – Deut 2:9

Edom – Deut 2:5

1. The Way of Balaam: 2 Peter 2:15-16

Balaam knew the right way, but deliberately chose the wrong way because he wanted to make money and loved money. He kept “playing with the will of God” by trying to get “a different viewpoint”

2. The Error of Balaam: Jude 11

“The error of Balaam” is thinking that one can get away with this kind of rebellion.

3. The Doctrine of Balaam: Rev. 2:14

“You can violate your separated position and get away with it!” “You are God’s chosen people, Certainly a little friendship with your neighbors will not hurt you! “Turning the grace of ... God into lasciviousness”

Numbers 22 – Balaam and God’s Will:

Numbers 23-24 – Balaam’s 4 Oracles Regarding Israel:

Numbers 22:41-23:6 – Balaam’s Arrival: Numbers 22:41

Numbers 23:1-4

Oracle – “authoritative message, the giving forth of wise counsel, giving forth of divine knowledge”

Balaam gives 4 Oracles Regarding Israel. Balaam is hired by Balak to curse Israel, but every time he opens his mouth, a blessing from the Lord comes to Israel.
Numbers 23:5-12 – The First Oracle: Numbers 23:5-7

Theme: Israel is God's Chosen People Because of God's Love.

Verse 8 – Israel Is Blessed: Numbers 23:8

Gen 12:2-3

Romans 9:3-5

Israel gave the world the knowledge of the true and living God, the written Word of God, and Jesus Christ the Savior of the world.

Verse 9 – Israel Has Been Set Apart: Numbers 23:9

Ex 19:5-6

Campbell Morgan reminded us, "The church did the most for the world when the church was the least like the world."

Verse 10 – Israel Was Numerous: Numbers 23:10

But you don't die the death of the righteous unless you live the life of the righteous:

Num. 31:8

Gen 13:16

Numbers 23:11-12

Numbers 23:13-26 – The Second Oracle: Numbers 23:13-14

This move by Balak has been used for centuries. Let's look at sin from a different point of view!

Numbers 23:15

1 Sam 15:22

Numbers 23:16-18

The Second Oracle Theme: Israel is a Conquering People Because of the Faithfulness of God.

Verses 19-21 – God Is Faithful To His Promises: Numbers 23:19-21

Verse 22 – No Nation Can Stand Against Israel: Numbers 23:22

Verses 23-24 – No Sorcery or Divination can be Used Against Them: Numbers 23:23-24

Isa 54:17

Rom. 8:37

Numbers 23:25-26

Numbers 23:27–24:14 – The Third Oracle: Numbers 23:27-28

Let's look at sinning from a different point of view!

Numbers 23:29-24:4

The Third Oracle deals with the blessings Israel will enjoy in the Promised Land:

Numbers 24:5-6

Verse 7 – The Messianic Kingdom when Jesus Rules and Reigns: Numbers 24:7

Verses 8-9 – The Conquest of the Promised Land: Numbers 24:8-9

Gen. 12:3; 27:29

Numbers 24:10-14

God has one more prophecy – that of judgment upon the people. This prophecy deals directly with Israel's Messiah.

Numbers 24:15-19 – The Fourth Oracle: Numbers 24:15-17

The Star & the Scepter; a reference to Jesus; When He comes, all people will be judged.

Numbers 24:18-25

Numbers 31:8

Application:

1. What God Calls Sin Is Sin; The Location Does Not Matter
2. To Obey is Better than Sacrifice
3. It Is Futile to Fight God; Balaam's Curses Resulted in God's Blessings
4. Balaam wanted to die the death of the righteous without living the life of the righteous