

“The Pentateuch”
Numbers 25
Wednesday March 16, 2011

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

Numbers 22 – Balaam and God’s Will:

Numbers 23-24 – Balaam Speaks 4 Oracles Regarding Israel:

We have discovered that Balaam’s name is mentioned in the NT and his ways are exposed. The Way of Balaam; The Error of Balaam; The Doctrine of Balaam

The Way of Balaam: 2 Peter 2:15

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

The Error of Balaam: Jude 11

“The error of Balaam” is thinking that one can get away with this kind of rebellion. His error was that he was not aware of the fact that God could declare righteous those sinners who trust in Him.

Satan didn’t quit or give up, he waited for an opportunity. 1 Peter 5:8

Luke 4:13

What Satan could not do through the attempted curses of a false prophet, Israel destroys itself through temptation and lust.

1. Verses 1-6 – The Sin of Israel

2. Verses 7-15 – The Courage of Phinehas

3. Verses 16-18 – The Judgment of Midian

1. Verses 1-6 – The Sin of Israel:

Num 25:1

Numbers 24:25

Num 31:8

Demonic Counsel - Numbers 31:16

The Doctrine of Balaam: Rev. 2:14

"You can violate your separated position; You are God's chosen people, certainly a little friendship with your neighbors will not hurt you! Turning the grace of ... God into lasciviousness"

Opposition From Within: (Lust of the flesh)

James 1:13-16

1 Tim 6:6-10

He had suffered disgrace from the King Balak. Numbers 24:10-11

Israel Fell In 3 Areas:

1. Fall Of Israel Through The Temptation With Immorality: "the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab."

Num 25:2

2. Fall Of Israel Through Sacrificing To False gods: "For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods,"

This is the first recorded occasion in Scripture of Israel worshipping Baal, but it certainly isn't the last.

Baal – was the chief of the Canaanite gods and was especially responsible for rain and fertility.

The Canaanite fertility rites involved both male and female temple prostitutes and encouraged all kinds of sexual immorality.

The enticement:

Message to the Church of Pergamum: Rev 2:14

Balaam counseled Balak to tempt Israel to sin against their God thus bringing His judgment upon his own people – it worked perfectly!

3. Fall Of Israel Through Bowing To False gods: "and the people ate and bowed down to their gods."

Num 25:3

Hosea 1-3

Num 25:4

(KJV) Numbers 25:4 – “And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.”

Deut 21:23

Num 25:5

What an enemy could never accomplish against Israel, Israel could do to itself – through its disobedience:

Num 25:6

Numbers 25:14

Numbers 25:15

2. Verses 7-15 – The Courage of Phinehas:

Num 25:7-9

1 Corinthians 10:8 says that 23,000 died

Num 25:10-11

God is always looking for someone, a single person to stand in the gap, to turn away His judgment!

Ezekiel 22:23-31

He was motivated by his zeal for the honor of God and the authority of His law.

Verses 12-13 – Phinehas was rewarded for his stand:

Num 25:14

3. Verses 16-18 – The Judgment of Midian:

Num 25:15-17

Numbers 31

Numbers 31:8

Balaam gave his soul away for gold! Matthew 16:26

Num 25:18

Application:

1. Sin is never a Private Thing
2. The Primary Issue in Numbers 25 is Idolatry
3. Wages of Sin is Death
4. The Importance of Discipline