

Lessons on Finding God's Will for your life!

Numbers 22:1 And the children of **Israel set**

forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side

Jordan by Jericho. 2 And **Balak** the son of Zippor **saw**

all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

3 And **Moab was sore afraid of the people,**

because they were many: and **Moab was distressed**

because of the children of Israel. 4 And Moab said unto the

elders of Midian, Now shall **this company lick up**

all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of

the field. And **Balak the son of Zippor was**

king of the Moabites at that time. 5 He sent messengers

therefore unto **Balaam the son of**

Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the

children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a

people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of

the earth, and they abide over against me: **6 Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people;** for they are **too mighty for me:** peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: **for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.** **7** And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and **they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.** **8** And he said unto them, **Lodge here** this night, and I will bring you word again, **as the Lord shall speak unto me:** and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam. **9** And **God came unto Balaam,** and said, **What men are**

these with thee? 10 And Balaam said unto

God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying, 11 Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive

them out. 12 And **God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.**

13 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for **the Lord refuseth to give me leave to go with**

you. 14 And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went

unto Balak, and said, **Balaam refuseth to come with us.** 15 And **Balak sent yet again**

princes, more, and more honourable

than they. 16 And they came to Balaam, and said to him,

Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, **Let nothing,**
I pray thee, hinder thee
from coming unto me: ¹⁷ For **I**
will promote thee unto very great
honour, and I will do whatsoever thou
sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse
me this people. ¹⁸ And Balaam answered and said unto the
servants of Balak, **If Balak would give me his**
house full of silver and gold, I cannot go
beyond the word of the Lord my God, to
do less or more. ¹⁹ Now therefore, I pray you,
tarry ye also here this
night, that I may know

what the Lord will say unto me more. 20 And God came unto Balaam at night,

and said unto him, **If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.** 21 And Balaam rose up in the

morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. 22 And **God's anger was**

kindled because he went: and the angel of the Lord stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding

upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. 23 And **the ass saw the angel of the Lord**

standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and **the ass turned aside out of the**

way, and went into the field: and **Balaam smote the ass,** to turn her into the way. 24 But **the angel of the Lord stood in a path** of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. 25 And when **the ass saw the angel of the Lord,** she thrust herself unto the wall, and **crushed Balaam's foot** against the wall: and he smote her again. 26 And the **angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place,** where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 And when the **ass saw the angel of the Lord, she fell down under Balaam:** and Balaam's anger was kindled, and **he smote the ass with a staff.** 28 And the **Lord opened the mouth of the ass,** and she said unto Balaam, **What have I**

done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? **29** And Balaam said unto the ass, **Because thou hast mocked me:** I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. **30** And the ass said unto Balaam, **Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee?** And he said, Nay. **31** **Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, and his sword**

drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. 32 And the angel of

the Lord said unto him, **Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times?**

behold, **I went out to withstand**

thee, because thy way is

perverse before me: 33 And the ass

saw me, and turned from me these three times: **unless**

she had turned from me, surely now

also I had slain thee, and saved her

alive. 34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the Lord, **I**

have sinned; for I knew not that thou

stoodest in the way against me: **now therefore, if**

it displease thee, I will get me

back again. ³⁵ And the angel of the Lord said unto

Balaam, **Go with the men: but only the**

word that I shall speak unto thee, that

thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes

of Balak. ³⁶ And when **Balak heard that Balaam**

was come, he went out to meet him unto a city of Moab,

which is in the border of Arnon, which is in the utmost coast.

³⁷ And Balak said unto Balaam, **Did I not earnestly**

send unto thee to call thee? wherefore

camest thou not unto me? am I not

able indeed to promote thee

to honour? 38 And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I

am come unto thee: **have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.**

39 And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kirjath-huzoth. 40 And Balak offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that were with him. 41 And it came to pass on the morrow, that **Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal,** that thence he might see the utmost part of the people.

1. This chapter is a lesson in spiritual warfare and our walk with God **Ephesians 6:12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

a. In this chapter the enemy of God's people will not attack like he usually does

b. He will seek spiritual help against God's people

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:** **Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your**

brethren that are in the world.

- c. The key person in this story is Balaam
 - i. He is a prophet, soothsayer
 - ii. He is not an Israelite yet he seems to realize that God is supreme
 - iii. Remember everyone believes that each nation has their own god or gods
 - iv. He is famous for his ability to find out things from the gods and cause things to happen
 - v. Obviously Balaam has a reputation of being for hire
- d. Balak the wicked king knows that Israel is too strong to defeat without spiritual intervention **2 And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. 3 And Moab was sore afraid of the people,** because they were many: and **Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel. 4 And Moab said unto**

the elders of Midian, Now shall **this company lick up all** that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And **Balak the son of Zippor was king** of the Moabites at that time. **5** He sent messengers therefore unto

Balaam the son of Beor to

Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: **6**

Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are **too mighty for me:** peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: **for I wot that he whom thou**

**blessest is blessed, and he whom
thou cursest is cursed.**

- e. So we find the enemies of God's people trying any way possible to get a curse put on them so that they will lose
- f. There is a big lesson here. You are not in a physical fight. There is a spiritual war going on around you all the time whether you are aware of it or not
- g. Are you aware of the thoughts and ideas that come to you that are not pleasing to God?

2. The wicked king needs help to defeat God's people 6

Come now therefore, I pray thee,

curse me this people; for they are **too**

mighty for me: peradventure I shall

prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive

them out of the land: **for I wot that he whom**

thou blessest is blessed, and he whom

thou cursest is cursed.

- a. The king wants to destroy Israel before he gets destroyed
- b. He knows that they have been too successful
- c. He is looking for a way to win without just fighting
- d. Balak needs the devils help and Balaam is in touch with him
- e. Balak uses the honorary dignitaries to impress Balaam and the offer of money **II Peter 2:15** Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, **who loved the wages of unrighteousness;**
- f. Satan is at work in our lives also. He is doing whatever he can to deceive us. We must be aware of His devices **II Corinthians 2:11** Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

3. Balaam answers the elders of Moab and Midian correctly **7**
And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and **they came unto Balaam, and spake unto**

him the words of Balak. 8 And he said unto them, **Lodge here** this night, and I will bring you word again, **as the Lord shall speak unto me:** and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam.

- a. He told them that he would tell them whatever God told him
- b. God then came to him and asked him what those men were doing there 9 **And God came unto**

Balaam, and said, **What men are these with thee?**

- i. Pretty obvious by this answer that God is not pleased
- ii. Balaam knew that the God of Heaven was not going to curse His people, Israel
- iii. Balaam explains who they are and that they are there to complain about the people that came up out of Egypt 10 **And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying, 11 Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the**

face of the earth: come now, curse me them;
peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and
drive them out.

c. God gives Balaam strict, straight instructions not to go

with these people **12** And **God said unto**

Balaam, Thou shalt not go with

them; thou shalt not curse the

people: for they are blessed.

d. Balaam tells the men that God told him not to go with

them **13** And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said

unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for

the Lord refuseth to give me leave to

go with you.

e. This is similar to what happens in Matthew when the

people answer correctly but their heart is not in

agreement with what they are saying

f. Are you playing spiritual games? Are you deceiving your

own self into believing that you really are seeking God?

4. Balak proceeds to convince Balaam that he should go
- a. The princes return to Balak to tell that Balaam refuses to come **14** And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said, **Balaam refuseth to come with us.**
 - b. Balak knows something about religious people that are in for the money and prestige **15** And **Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.**
 - c. He shows Balaam that he will be making a big mistake by missing this opportunity **16** And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, **Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me:**

- i. Balak is going to make a big man out of Balaam **17** For **I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me:** come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.
- ii. Balaam basically lets him know he is interested but has to do what God wants him to do **18** And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, **If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more.** **19** Now therefore, I pray you, **tarry ye also here this night, that I may**

know what the Lord will say unto me more.

- d. Remember that Satan, sin, and self want to convince you to do what you know doesn't please God
 - e. You actually want to be convinced. It makes it easier to feel ok about doing what is not God's will
 - f. That is why God's will is so often used to excuse whatever we are doing
5. God gives Balaam permission to go but he is duty bound to only speak what God tells him **20 And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, **If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.****
- a. The stipulation was if the men came to call on him

- b. Balaam doesn't wait for them but gets up and is gone in the morning **21** And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.
- c. You need to remember that God will allow you to do what He doesn't want you to do
- i. They asked and He gave it to them **Psalm 106:15** And he gave them their request; But sent leanness into their soul.
 - ii. He gave them what they wanted but it came with consequences **Psalm 78:29** So they did eat, and were well filled: For he gave them their own desire;
 - iii. Praying for God not to give you something is a foolish way to pray
 - iv. You should find out what God wants and not ask unless it is according to His will
 - v. When you know it is something you can have then ask **I John 5:14** And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: **15** And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. **James 4:2** Ye lust, and have

not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

d. God didn't really want him to go 22 And **God's**

anger was kindled

because he went: and **the angel**

of the Lord stood in the way for an

adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him.

- i. How much does this make you think of really trying to find God's will and not imposing your own on Him
- ii. You may talk God into but in the end you will be sorry
- iii. God was angry. God sent His angel to stand against Him

e. Balaam was blinded to God and His will and a dumb

animal is smarter than him 23 And **the ass saw**

the angel of the Lord standing in the

way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and **the ass turned aside out of the way,** and went into the field: and **Balaam smote the ass,** to turn her into the way. 24 But **the angel of the Lord stood in a path** of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. 25 And when **the ass saw the angel of the Lord,** she thrust herself unto the wall, and **crushed Balaam's foot** against the wall: and he smote her again. 26 And the **angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place,** where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 And when the **ass saw the angel of the Lord, she fell down under Balaam:** and Balaam's anger was kindled, and **he smote the ass with a staff.**

- i. The donkey got off the path to avoid the angel of the Lord
- ii. Then the angel of the Lord hemmed him up and his foot got crushed
- iii. Then when the donkey couldn't move it just fell down
- iv. Every time Balaam sees nothing
- v. He gets angry and punishes the animal
 - 1. The animal has done the right thing every time
 - 2. Balaam has now struck the animal 3 times
- f. God allows the animal to speak and he wants to know why he is being punished **28** And the **Lord opened**

the mouth of the ass, and she said unto

Balaam, **What have I done**

unto thee, that thou hast

smitten me these three

times?

i. Don't forget that the animal can see what Balaam can't see

ii. The animal wants to know why he is being punished for doing right **29** And Balaam said unto the ass,

Because thou hast mocked me: I

would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.

iii. The animal reminds him that he has been a good

servant **30** And the ass said unto Balaam, **Am not**

I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay.

g. God finally tells Balaam that what he is doing is wrong

and God doesn't like it **31** **Then the Lord**

opened the eyes of

Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. 32 And the

angel of the Lord said unto him, **Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times?** behold, **I went out to**

withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me:

h. God tells Balaam that the donkey has saved his life 33

And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: **unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.**

i. Balaam finally recognizes that he has sinned 34 And

Balaam said unto the angel of the Lord, **I have sinned;** for I knew not that thou stoodest in the

way against me: **now therefore, if it**

displease thee, I will get me back again.

6. Balaam persists in his desire to go on with Balak 34 And

Balaam said unto the angel of the Lord, **I have**

sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the

way against me: **now therefore, if it**

displease thee, I will get me

back again.

- a. Well God if you really don't like it I will not go
- b. I know I have sinned but I am not sure if you like me going or not
- c. God again allows him to go. He still has not learned his lesson **35** And the angel of the Lord said unto Balaam, **Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak.** So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.
- d. Balaam wanted to go obviously because he want the honor and the wealth Balak could give him **36** And when **Balak heard that Balaam was come,**

he went out to meet him unto a city of Moab, which is in the border of Arnon, which is in the utmost coast. 37 And

Balak said unto Balaam, **Did I not earnestly send unto thee to call thee?**

wherefore camest thou not unto me?

am I not able indeed to

promote thee to honour?

- i. Balak reminds him that he is able to promote him to honor
- ii. Indicating that a man could do for him what God couldn't do
- e. Balaam continues to pretend that he only wants to do what God wants him to do 38 And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: **have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.**

f. Balak takes Balaam to the place of his false god. **39** And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kirjath-huzoth. **40** And Balak offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that were with him. **41** And it came to pass on the morrow, that **Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal,** that thence he might see the utmost part of the people.

- i. Sacrifices are offered
- ii. Feasting takes place
- iii. Then they go to the place where Baal is worship to plot what Balaam will do to help him against God's people
- iv. Balaam acts like a dumb animal **Psalm 32:9** Be ye not as the **horse, Or as the mule,** which have **no understanding:** Whose mouth must be held in with **bit and bridle,** Lest they come near unto thee.
- v. The animal had been far smarter than Balaam

II Peter 2:16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb

ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

1. It was Balaam who acted like a crazy man
2. God had to take drastic measures to show Balaam His will

7. Great lessons to be learned about God's will

- a. We are constantly in a state of war with sin and Satan
 - i. The battle will primarily be in your mind
 - ii. Learn to recognize when Satan tries to bring wrong feelings and thoughts to your mind
 - iii. Learn to control your thoughts
 - iv. To control your thoughts you will need to know the truth, the sword of the Spirit
 - v. Read and memorize the Word of God, don't miss church services where you can learn more of God's Word
- b. Know that Satan offers honor and money over God and spiritual things. Be aware of this device of his
- c. Don't play spiritual games.
 - i. Talking spiritual but not living spiritual, Facebook gives us a good opportunity to pretend to be who we are not
 - ii. Don't talk like you are seeking God's will if you are not

- iii. Don't draw close to God with your mouth while your heart is far from Him
- d. Once you know what God wants from His Word then obey Him.
 - i. Obedience is better than sacrifice
 - ii. No need to pray when the Scriptures tell you clearly what to do
 - iii. Don't go back and keep insisting to get what you want once God has spoken
- e. Know that Satan knows how to make everything look spiritual and appealing
 - i. However it will usually appeal to your pride, your ego, your comfort
 - ii. Satan doesn't usually talk in terms of dying to self, of cross bearing, of sacrifice
- f. Don't God and His will as an excuse for what you are doing
- g. Remember that you can get God to allow you things that He knows will hurt you
 - i. God doesn't force you to obey Him

- ii. He will give you that loan, if you insist but He knows and you know in your heart that you will end up hurt from it
- h. Learn to wait on God. Do not move until you are supposed to move
- i. Don't into the trap of saying God will not give it to me if He doesn't want me to have it
- j. Why persist when you know what God wants. You are only hurting yourself and your loved ones
- k. When you know you have made a mistake then back up and don't keep trying to do the same thing
- l. Trust God to provide for you what you need and what He wants you to have
- m. Get into the Bible so you can know what God's will is
- n. Do not trust your emotions, your desires, your friends, your logic, but the Word of God