

INTRODUCTION

Balaam was a false money-grabbing prophet mentioned in *Numbers 22-25* who was more interested in making money than he was in doing the will of God!

So, **“The Error Of Balaam”** is **making merchandise of the ministry!** (i.e. It is **seeing the ministry through the eyes of a profiteer** serving mammon rather than serving the living God!)

There are actually three New Testament writers who refer to Balaam:

I. PETER CONDEMNS “THE WAY OF BALAAM”.

(2 Peter 2:1-3; 15-16)

So Peter discusses the **motives of false teachers** who **see religion as a profitable business**—i.e. **As a means for gaining wealth!**

Balaam was the typical **hireling prophet** that we still see in our day! Sadly, there are a lot of **hirelings** in the ministry that give both God and the ministry a bad name!

Balaam was only anxious to make money with his gift of prophecy!

II. JUDE SPEAKS OF “THE ERROR OF BALAAM.”

(Jude 11; Numbers 22:1-30)

“The error of Balaam” was that he **became so dominated by greed and gain that doing God’s will was unimportant to him and secondary!**

Those who run greedily after **“The Error Of Baalam”** **only consider God’s will if it doesn’t get in the way of their primary motive—that of making a profit!**

Let’s look at the character of the man of whom both Jude and Peter refer:

- A. Balak, the King of the Moabites, sought out the services of Balaam to curse Israel for him. **(Numbers 22:1-6)**

Note what Balak had to say about Balaam there in vs 6.

- B. To Balaam’s credit, he did seek what the LORD had to say about what Balak was asking him to do. **(Numbers 22:7-11)**

- C. Despite the LORD clearly prohibiting Balaam from accompanying Balak’s messengers **(Numbers 22:12)**, Balaam was so eager for his fee that he sought God again for permission to go. **(Numbers 22:19-20)**

- D. The appearance of **the Angel of the Lord** served as a vivid warning to Balaam to speak only what God wanted Him to speak. **(Numbers 22:21-41)**

But God clearly knew the heart of Balaam and what his intentions were! **2 Peter 2:16**—**“The dumb ass. . .forbad the madness of the prophet.”**

- E. Balaam tried three times to bribe God with sacrifices to let him curse Israel. **(Numbers 23:1-24:9)** In the end, Balaam found himself compelled by God to pronounce God’s blessing on them instead of a curse.

- F. When the furious Balak threatened not to pay Balaam **“handsomely,”** Balaam thought of a clever maneuver by which Moab might corrupt God’s people, supposing that the LORD would then Himself have to curse Israel. **(Num. 24:10-25:18)** *Numbers 31:16 – Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.*

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

THE BOOK OF JUDE

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE APOSTATE (VS 11)

***“FOR THEY. . .RAN GREEDILY AFTER THE ERROR OF BALAAM
FOR REWARD”***

- G. This advice reveals Balaam’s basic attitude of opposition toward God, who had revealed his intention to bless Israel. (i.e. He was saying, *“I know what God said, but maybe He will change His mind.”*)

PETER CONDEMNS THE “WAY OF BALAAM”

JUDE SPEAKS OF THE “ERROR OF BALAAM”

III. JOHN MENTIONS THE ***“DOCTRINE OF BALAAM.”***

(Revelation 2:14)

The ***“Doctrine Of Balaam”*** is an attempt to corrupt God’s people by a combination of immorality and religion.

Balaam’s doctrine is found in his teaching Balak to corrupt the people who could not be cursed.

He corrupted them by tempting them to marry women of Moab, thereby defiling their separation, and abandoning their character.

(Numbers 31:15-16)

Conclusion

Let me give you a few observations:

1. If we are guided by wrong motives, those motives can divert us from the perfect will of God for our lives! What are your motives for serving God? Are you motivated by your love for God or are you just looking for whatever you might get from God?
2. It is wrong to try to bypass the express will of God! That’s because it is impossible to do so without consequences! Don’t have an attitude of *“Well, I know what God’s Word says, but this is what I want.”*
3. Don’t try to bribe God to change His mind about His Word! It will not work!

(Cf. John 2:13-17; Mark 11:15-18; 1 Timothy 6:3-12)