

Now! Vember

- Breaking free of the classic enemies of the people of God

Numbers 24:15-19

Last Week: Breaking free of our Past

Today: No Compromise

Breaking free of Balaam's trick

Who's Balaam?

- An un-godly prophet
(used spiritual power to get rich)
- Hired by the king of Moab
(area Israel had to cross through)
to curse the people of Israel

3 Chapters are given to his attempts to
pervert the destiny of the people of God
- Numbers 22-24

Mentioned in 3 places in the New Testament
- 2 Peter 2:14-16
- Jude 1:10-13
- Revelation 2:12-17

Famous for
having his donkey
rebuke him.



hope central

He was offered money to curse God's people,
but couldn't.

Number 22:6-7, "Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed." So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the fees for divination in their hand. And they came to Balaam and gave him Balak's message."

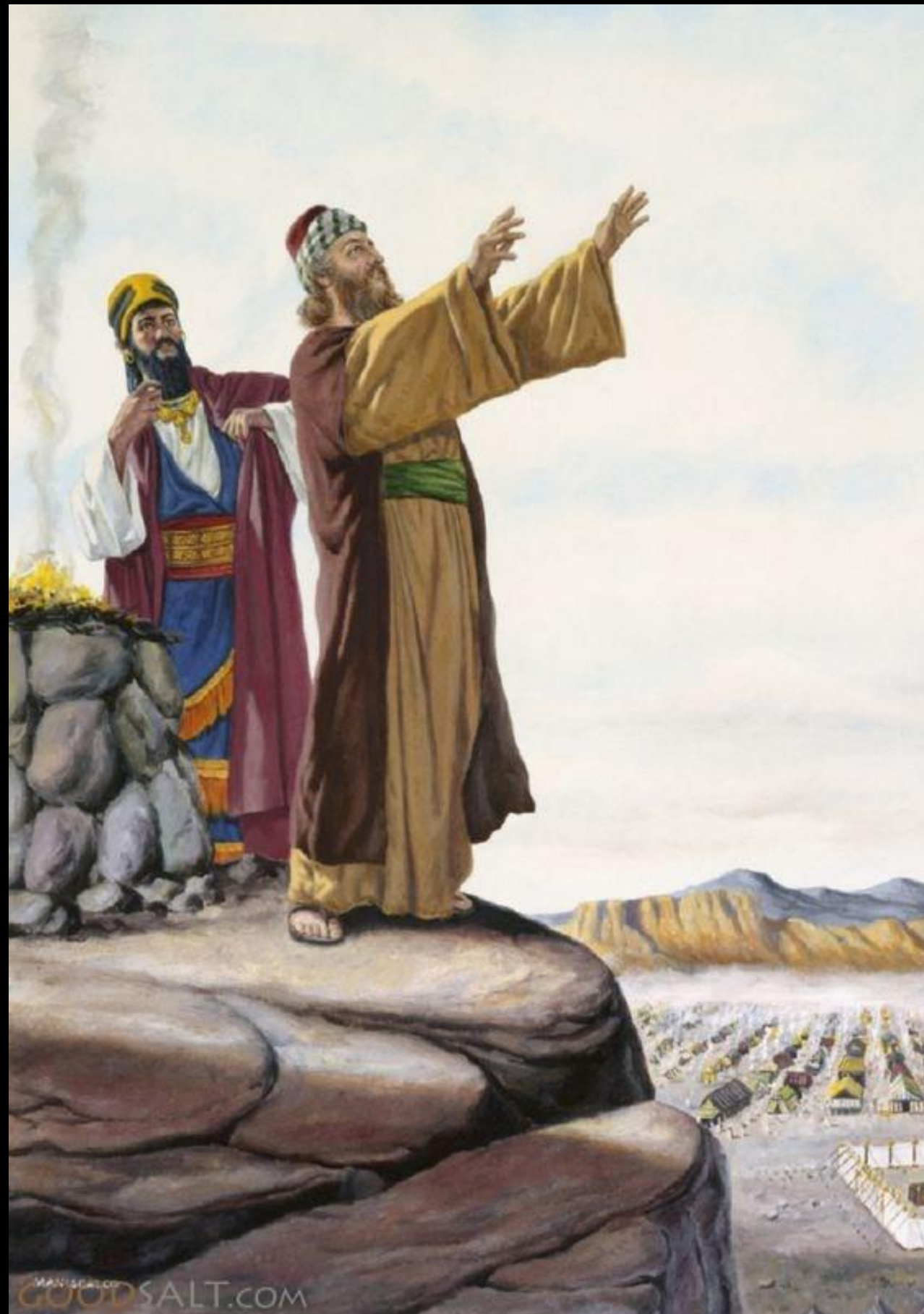
He was offered money to curse Gods people, but couldn't.

Numbers 22:12-13, "God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed." So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go to your own land, for the LORD has refused to let me go with you."

He is bribed 3 times and ends up blessing the people of God 3 times instead.

Numbers 24:10-11, “And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he struck his hands together. And Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have blessed them these three times. Therefore now flee to your own place. I said, 'I will certainly honor you,' but the LORD has held you back from honor.”

Numbers 24:15-19



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God prophesies blessing on His people through Jesus

Numbers 24:17-18, “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth. Edom shall be dispossessed; Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed. Israel is doing valiantly.”

We are irrevocably blessed through Jesus

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.”

Galatians 3:13-14, “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.”

So Balaam failed, right?

Those you can't curse you...

Weird Bible war tactic #27: Send in the pretty ladies!

Numbers 25:1-3, “While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to (1) whore with the daughters of Moab.

These invited the people to the (2) sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and (3) bowed down to their gods. So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.”

- Where's Balaam?

Revelation 2:14, “But I have a few things against you:
you have some there who hold the teaching of
Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block
before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food
sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.”

The Devil cannot touch us,
But He can deceive and distract us.

Principle: Compromise kills faith.

Mark 4:14-16, “The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.”

Compromise kills faith.

Mark 4:17-19, “And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”

The Devil gets us off track.

Romans 16:17-18, “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naïve.”

The Devil gets us off track.

Galatians 5:7-9, “You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”

What's wrong with a little bread?

Matthew 4:1-4, "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Yes, God said, but...

- Why shouldn't you
- It won't hurt

1John 3:7, "Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous."

We live in a distracting world.

Temptations:

Gossip

Lust

Alcohol

Money

Vanity

Popularity

Pride

Selfishness

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Gossip
Lust
Alcohol
Money
Vanity
Popularity
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Human Concerns:

Conflict, Arguments
Fear, Worry, Anxiety
Prejudice, Racism,
Religion,
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Religion
Politics

Neglected Training:

Prayer Time
Bible Reading
Church Attendance
Serving others
Helping the Poor
Character growth

Get your head in the game!

1Corinthians 9:24-27, “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”

“A little _____ won’t hurt.” No, It will just dominate you.

1Corinthians 6:11-13, “And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.”

Ephesians 5:15-18, “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.”

What is being stolen from you?



**Time to draw a line in the sand
(It may be behind you)**