

Challenge of Spiritual Warfare Numbers 22-25

I. Compromise of Balaam - 22

1. Moab's concern about Israel – 22:1-4
Multitude of people now in his area
Knew what they did to the Amorites
2. King sent messengers to Balaam - 5-7
A prophet of God, lived near Euphrates - 5
People to be cursed not identified as Israel – 5-6
Balaam would be well paid for his services - 7
3. Balaam seeks direction from God - 8-14
Balaam presented matter to the Lord - 8-11
God said, don't go, don't curse what I bless - 12
Balaam refused to go with messengers – 13-14
4. Balak, King of Moab tried again - 15-20
Men more prestigious; rewards greater - 15-17
He refuses to go without God's permission - 18
But offers to ask God again for permission - 19
God agrees to let him go with restrictions – 20
Can only say what God tells him to say
5. God's will reaffirmed in the donkey - 21-35
God's anger seen as angel blocks the way - 21-24
Donkey saw what Balaam could not see - 25-27
Donkey spoke to Balaam about his acts - 28-30
God allowed Balaam to see the angel - 31-33
Balaam makes a weak offer to return home - 34
Lord gives Balaam limited permission to go - 35
6. Balaam meets with Balak, the king - 36-41
He knows he is limited in what he can do

II. "Curses" of Balaam - 23,24

1. Balaam's 1st "curse" on Israel - 23:1-12
After sacrificing, God spoke to Balaam - 1-6
He pronounces God's blessing on Israel - 7-10
Balak is unhappy with Balaam's "curse" – 11-12
2. Balaam's 2nd "curse" on Israel - 13-26
Balak & Balaam try from another location - 13-17
Balaam again blesses Israel - 18-24
"If you can't curse them don't say anything"
3. 3rd message from God - 23:27-24:14
Moving to new place he changed his method
Did not use enchantments
Set his face toward the wilderness, saw Israel
God's Spirit speaks through Balaam - 24:1-9
Balak so angry he sends Balaam away – 10-11
He refuses to give him what he had promised
Before leaving he has a final message - 12-14
4. His final message about Israel - 15-25
Speaks of the coming Messiah - 15-19
Messiah to rule Israel & destroy enemies - 17-24
Moab, Edom, Amalek, Kenites, etc.
Balaam leaves Balak and returns home - 25

III. Counsel of Balaam - 25

1. Told Moab how to bring a curse on Israel
Appeal to their lustful desires - 31:15-16
Rev. 2:14 speaks of the "doctrine of Balaam"
Israel can be corrupted by idolatry & fornication
2. Moab women entice Israeli men – 25:1-3
Offering sex and idolatry
3. God's anger brought death to Israel – 4-5
24,000 died in the plague - 9
4. Phinehas' action stopped the plague – 6-8
Took action against those who sinned
5. Phinehas is blessed, Midian cursed - 10-18

IV. N.T. and Spiritual Warfare

1. The conflict is real – Eph. 6:12
Against spiritual wickedness in high places
2. God's provision for us – Eph. 6:10-18
Be strong in the Lord – 10
Put on the whole armor of God – 11
Stand in God's armor alert to the challenge – 13
Loins gird with truth -14
Breastplate of righteousness- 14
Feet shod with preparation of Gospel of peace – 15
Over all protected with the shield of faith – 16
With helmet of salvation & sword of Spirit – 17
Praying always with all prayer in the Spirit - 18
3. Trusting in Christ's victory for us – Col. 2:15