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~ We're going to take a final look at Balaam in this report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. We will, actually, see Balaam again later in Peter's epistle and in Jude's, as he becomes the prime example of an apostate in the Word of God - but that will be much later in our safari. That will become more than clear by the time Jude concludes writing his epistle. In our last report we examined Balaam's final prophecy against the nation Israel. Remember, Balak has offered Balaam a huge sum of money if Balaam will only come out and curse Israel. Well, Balaam wanted the money, and he was willing to do whatever it took to get it.

Remember, God told Balaam not to go to the king of Moab in the first place. Balaam persisted, and quickly found himself in the permissive will of God. God was angry that Balaam didn't obey the first time. When the Lord said, "you shall not go" - that should have been the end of this story; but Balaam went anyways. God then told Balaam he could not curse Israel. The very first prophecy of Balaam was "... how shall I curse whom God hath not cursed?" See, even though Balaam is now saying what the Lord had commanded him to say, he's prostituting his office as a prophet for material gain. Well, Balak didn't like that very much. So, these two went to the second and third mountain and, here, they have made a circle around the entire camp, and they have come up on the fourth mountain view now....

XXIV

15 And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

16 He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:

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17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

~ That is a remarkable prophecy - and Balaam was considered an outstanding prophet amongst the children of Israel. Roughly fifteen hundred years after this, we will see the wise men asking, “.... where is He that is born the King of the Jews?” The wise men said they saw a star in the east and they had come to worship. So, where in the world did they get that information? How was a star associated with a king coming out of Israel? Well, the ‘Star out of Jacob’ would be the star they saw in the east; a scepter always speaks to rule and kingship. It would have been natural for the wise men to say they had seen a star in the east and were looking for a king....

18 And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.

19 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

~ If you put this together with the prophecy of Daniel, the Word of God reveals the approximate time the Messiah was to arrive; and He did arrive at that time. Daniel also spells out clearly that it would be natural for these wise men, who were astrologers, to come out of the east with questions concerning the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ! As a nation, Israel was not expecting their Messiah. The very nation that had all the prophecies and the promise of the coming of the Christ was not interested in Jesus at all. Hannah and Simeon were seeking God, but they are the silent minority - the rest of the people had nothing to say; the nation Israel was just not looking for the Lord Jesus Christ to arrive on the scene when they should have been. Well, those wise men came to Jerusalem, but they had no idea which way to go from there. Only after the scribes gave them the full prophecy did they head down to Bethlehem. This totally fits the Christmas

account we saw in Matthew, and we spent so much time with it there that we should just keep moving now....

20 And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever.

21 And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is thy dwellingplace, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock.

22 Nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive.

23 And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this!

24 And ships shall come from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever.

25 And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

~ Well, none of that satisfied Balak the King of the Moabites, to be sure. It's a very strange statement that is made about Balaam rising up and that he 'went to his place.' Only one other man in Scripture is said to have 'gone to his place' – and that is Judas! We were told Judas 'went to his place' and then the Word of God is deafeningly silent about it – as it is here, also. And with that, we have the end of the man that was a prophet known as Balaam. Later, in a battle, we'll see Balaam is killed. Numbers chapter thirty-one verse eight tells us he was slain with a sword while fighting against Midian....

XXV

1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

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2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

~ Friends, this is a direct result of the hellish, subtle, satanic effect this man, Balaam, really had on the nation Israel. The way of Balaam was covetousness. Balaam was after the dollar, and he was willing to sacrifice all of his principles for wealth. Jude tells us of the 'error of Balaam' and Balaam made the mistake of doubting that God could save sinners or see those through who have trusted Him. Most people standing or sitting in a pew and singing the halleluiah chorus today are completely unaware that God is in the business of justifying sinners by declaring them righteous by their simple faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ! That isn't license, though; when realized in truth and love for God, it is motivating to humble ourselves before Him. Only then can we begin to esteem others better than ourselves and consider the welfare of others above our own.

However, the most damnable thing Balaam did is revealed in Revelation chapter two verse fourteen. There, we see Jesus has "a few things against those who hold the doctrine of Balaam; who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication!" See, when Balaam refused to curse Israel, he was, by de facto, teaching Balak how to curse them. Balak, when he realized he couldn't fight them, he joined them. That made it particularly easy to corrupt from within. Balaam had shown Balak that he could communicate with the children of Israel, intermarry and integrate society with them and that was the avenue to introduce idolatry and turn them away from the True and Living God - and that is exactly what happened.

I'm sure the Moabites had a few tricks up their sleeves that the Israelites had never seen before. The Moabites told Israel, "... don't be so square and narrow-minded - love God but don't be too Godly." Have an open and broad mind about things is what they said to the children of Israel. Well, the children of Israel really liked some of the things the Moabites and Midianites had invented. An atheistic world will generally tolerate a Christian who will sit down and compromise with sin. Nobody cares that we

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believe in Christ as long as we don't get too "Christiany!" The Moabites wanted Israel to come over and worship with them; but the Moabites never went over to worship with Israel!

See, that's the way it works today in the liberal church, friends. They all want me to worship and agree with them, but they'll be damned before they worship or agree with me! Of course, the liberal is supposed to be the open-minded man, and they view me as the narrow-minded man. Well, either way – the natural tendency of mankind is always down and away from God! Religious racketeering prospers because of this precise thing. Today, we have radio religious frauds and internet television religious garbage; we have organizations and schools that are nothing in the world but religious rackets, friends. Those false ministries are heavily funded and donated to because the things they espouse appeal to the natural man; and they appeal to the natural man because they are not Biblical.

Let's be real, most people think I am a fool doing what I am doing and just trusting the Lord with every minute of my life. Many people tell me I have too much time on my hands and that I should get a job and all those other insults. They say these things because there is always a tendency to introduce something into the mix other than the Word of God! I'll be very frank, friends – it's very easy to prosper in a religious racket – trust me – I could start one tomorrow, and I would be very successful. However, it would have little or nothing to do with the Word of God. This world does not support proper, complete and correct Bible teaching, friends - and most do not want it at all. Some say the Lord has let me down, but this just happens to be what the Bible says will happen to the man that believes God! They walk alone. To me, my societal status is an indication that the Word of God is true. I am very sorry to have to tell you that this is the way it is, and anything else is simply corrupting people and prostituting the Lord Jesus Christ...

3 And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

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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.

5 And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor.

~ It is an extreme remedy because the Lord acts in an extreme manner when our disease is fatal. This will turn a man from God and send them to hell; so, what we really have is an act of mercy by the Lord God! He took a few lives to save a nation; and He just so happens to do it that way today, too. Friends, let's be serious – when we see natural disaster and man-made heartache, those things are likened unto the judgment of God. Further, this wasn't just a few lives; it was some twenty-four thousand people! So, this doctrine ends up being the way Balaam cursed Israel; and Jude and Jesus both say this got into the church! Well, it's sure in the church today. My viewpoint is that the work of the Lord – or a church – typically cannot be hurt from an outside force. However, a church can be decimated from within overnight! The same can happen to a nation, by the way. Rome didn't fall from being conquered – they fell from within. Judas was what we would call an "insider." There wasn't a single Roman in the city that night who cared about the Lord Jesus Christ teaching and healing. Jesus was betrayed from within His own group of disciples, and this is the damnable doctrine of Balaam....

6 And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

7 And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;

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8 And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

9 And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

10 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

11 Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.

12 Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:

13 And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

14 Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites.

15 And the name of the Midianitish woman that was slain was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian.

16 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

17 Vex the Midianites, and smite them:

18 For they vex you with their wiles, wherewith they have beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Peor's sake.

XXVI

1 And it came to pass after the plague, that the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, saying,

~ So, after the plague, we see a new generation on the rise. From here to the end of Numbers we are going to really move fast. I encourage you to read all of the Bible text. This is the census of that new generation in this chapter. We find now that the numbers of the children of Israel have declined dramatically. We're not doing the math as we did in chapter one – feel free to do so if you would like. What is important is that you read the Bible. The parts that seem like they are meaningless may have some encrypted secret spiritual code that sends a signal of healing to your brain – who knows? At any rate, the number of the children of Israel has gone down now....

2 Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, throughout their fathers' house, all that are able to go to war in Israel.

3 And Moses and Eleazar the priest spake with them in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying,

4 Take the sum of the people, from twenty years old and upward; as the LORD commanded Moses and the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt.

5 Reuben, the eldest son of Israel: the children of Reuben; Hanoch, of whom cometh the family of the Hanochites: of Pallu, the family of the Palluites:

6 Of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites: of Carmi, the family of the Carmites.

7 These are the families of the Reubenites: and they that were numbered of them were forty and three thousand and seven hundred and thirty.

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8 And the sons of Pallu; Eliab.

9 And the sons of Eliab; Nemuel, and Dathan, and Abiram. This is that Dathan and Abiram, which were famous in the congregation, who strove against Moses and against Aaron in the company of Korah, when they strove against the LORD:

10 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, what time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men: and they became a sign.

11 Notwithstanding the children of Korah died not.

12 The sons of Simeon after their families: of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites: of Jamin, the family of the Jaminites: of Jachin, the family of the Jachinites:

13 Of Zerah, the family of the Zarhites: of Shaul, the family of the Shaulites.

14 These are the families of the Simeonites, twenty and two thousand and two hundred.

15 The children of Gad after their families: of Zephon, the family of the Zephonites: of Haggi, the family of the Haggites: of Shuni, the family of the Shunites:

16 Of Ozni, the family of the Oznites: of Eri, the family of the Erites:

17 Of Arod, the family of the Arodites: of Areli, the family of the Arelites.

18 These are the families of the children of Gad according to those that were numbered of them, forty thousand and five hundred.

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19 The sons of Judah were Er and Onan: and Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan.

20 And the sons of Judah after their families were; of Shelah, the family of the Shelanites: of Pharez, the family of the Pharezites: of Zerah, the family of the Zerahites.

21 And the sons of Pharez were; of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites: of Hamul, the family of the Hamulites.

22 These are the families of Judah according to those that were numbered of them, threescore and sixteen thousand and five hundred.

23 Of the sons of Issachar after their families: of Tola, the family of the Tolaites: of Pua, the family of the Punites:

24 Of Jashub, the family of the Jashubites: of Shimron, the family of the Shimronites.

25 These are the families of Issachar according to those that were numbered of them, threescore and four thousand and three hundred.

26 Of the sons of Zebulun after their families: of Sered, the family of the Sardites: of Elon, the family of the Elonites: of Jahleel, the family of the Jahleelites.

27 These are the families of the Zebulunites according to those that were numbered of them, threescore thousand and five hundred.

28 The sons of Joseph after their families were Manasseh and Ephraim.

29 Of the sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the family of the Machirites: and Machir begat Gilead: of Gilead come the family of the Gileadites.

30 These are the sons of Gilead: of Jeezer, the family of the Jeezerites: of Helek, the family of the Helekites:

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31 And of Asriel, the family of the Asrielites: and of Shechem, the family of the Shechemites:

32 And of Shemida, the family of the Shemidaites: and of Hopher, the family of the Hopherites.

33 And Zelophehad the son of Hopher had no sons, but daughters: and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, and Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

34 These are the families of Manasseh, and those that were numbered of them, fifty and two thousand and seven hundred.

35 These are the sons of Ephraim after their families: of Shuthelah, the family of the Shuthalhites: of Becher, the family of the Bachrites: of Tahan, the family of the Tahanites.

36 And these are the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the family of the Eranites.

37 These are the families of the sons of Ephraim according to those that were numbered of them, thirty and two thousand and five hundred. These are the sons of Joseph after their families.

38 The sons of Benjamin after their families: of Bela, the family of the Belaïtes: of Ashbel, the family of the Ashbelites: of Ahiram, the family of the Ahiramites:

39 Of Shupham, the family of the Shuphamites: of Hupham, the family of the Huphamites.

40 And the sons of Bela were Ard and Naaman: of Ard, the family of the Ardites: and of Naaman, the family of the Naamites.

41 These are the sons of Benjamin after their families: and they that were numbered of them were forty and five thousand and six hundred.

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42 These are the sons of Dan after their families: of Shuham, the family of the Shuhamites. These are the families of Dan after their families.

43 All the families of the Shuhamites, according to those that were numbered of them, were threescore and four thousand and four hundred.

44 Of the children of Asher after their families: of Jimna, the family of the Jimnites: of Jesui, the family of the Jesuites: of Beriah, the family of the Beriites.

45 Of the sons of Beriah: of Heber, the family of the Heberites: of Malchiel, the family of the Malchielites.

46 And the name of the daughter of Asher was Sarah.

47 These are the families of the sons of Asher according to those that were numbered of them; who were fifty and three thousand and four hundred.

48 Of the sons of Naphtali after their families: of Jahzeel, the family of the Jahzeelites: of Guni, the family of the Gunites:

49 Of Jezer, the family of the Jezerites: of Shillem, the family of the Shillemites.

50 These are the families of Naphtali according to their families: and they that were numbered of them were forty and five thousand and four hundred.

51 These were the numbered of the children of Israel, six hundred thousand and a thousand seven hundred and thirty.

52 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

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53 Unto these the land shall be divided for an inheritance according to the number of names.

54 To many thou shalt give the more inheritance, and to few thou shalt give the less inheritance: to every one shall his inheritance be given according to those that were numbered of him.

55 Notwithstanding the land shall be divided by lot: according to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.

56 According to the lot shall the possession thereof be divided between many and few.

57 And these are they that were numbered of the Levites after their families: of Gershon, the family of the Gershonites: of Kohath, the family of the Kohathites: of Merari, the family of the Merarites.

58 These are the families of the Levites: the family of the Libnites, the family of the Hebronites, the family of the Mahlites, the family of the Mushites, the family of the Korathites. And Kohath begat Amram.

59 And the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, whom her mother bare to Levi in Egypt: and she bare unto Amram Aaron and Moses, and Miriam their sister.

60 And unto Aaron was born Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

61 And Nadab and Abihu died, when they offered strange fire before the LORD.

62 And those that were numbered of them were twenty and three thousand, all males from a month old and upward: for they were not numbered among the children of Israel, because there was no inheritance given them among the children of Israel.

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63 These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho.

64 But among these there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.

65 For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

~ God informing His children that they will die in the wilderness is a little different from "be fruitful and multiply," don't you think? Well, when God was blessing them, they did multiply; but the wilderness march revealed the children of Israel moving and acting outside of the will of God. If we get out if His will, our numbers will decrease, also, friends. Verse sixty-four reveals a startling fulfillment of prophecy and a new generation. Every single one of the old generation's bones was now bleaching out there in the dessert. Those who were under twenty-one of that generation were not held accountable; and that may give us another peek of insight into the age of accountability. I do not mean to suggest that age of accountability is twenty-one; I suspect it is much, much older - and different - for different people. Of course, there are two exceptions to this rule of death the Lord has issued - Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun ~

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