

The Error of Balaam

In Jude 11, Jude interjects a **Woe Judgment** upon those who teach false doctrines in the church age.

In Jude 11, Jude used three biblical examples of the Woe Judgment:

- The Way of Cain
- The Error of Balaam
- The Rebellion of Korah.

These are three of the eight biblical examples of opponents of Contenders of the Faith (Jude 3-4) **Woe Judgment** (Matt.11:21-24; 18:7-9; 23:13-32; 24:19; 26:24).

In our last study, we studied the woe judgment of the **Way of Cain**.

**Today we will study six aspects of the woe judgment associated with the
[Error of Balaam] (Num.21:25-30) [Song of Heshbon] (Num.21:29) [Book of Wars] (Num.21:14).**

1. The error of Balaam occurred towards the end of the 40 years of wilderness wandering of the first Exodus generation of Israelites (Num20; Ex.17).

Miriam and Aaron have both DIED (Num.20:1, 24). Moses has been told he will NOT enter the Promise Land (Num.20:12). [Moses didn't let this deter him from God's calling in his life (Eph.4:1-3).]

The Israelites have recently defeated the Canaanites (Num.21:1-3), the Amorites (Num.21:21-31) and Bashan (Num.21:33-35).

2. These three victories have struck fear in the heart of King Balak of Moab.

He is fearful that the Israelites will do the same to the Moabites (Num.22:1-3).
[Cosmos fear occupies the place of divine faith (Rom.10:17; Heb.2:14-15; Rom.6:23).]

- So Balak formed a military alliance with the Midianites against Israel (Num.22:4).
- They sent an envoy to hire a famous Midianite sorcerer known as Balaam to put a curse on the Israelites (Num.22:5-7; 31:3, 7-8).

Victory over this military alliance will be Moses' last great victory before death (Num.34:6).

3. King Balak is an example of the doctrinal principle of false assumption leads to false interpretation leads to false expectation leads to false application.

This false doctrinal principle can lead to unnecessary troubles in life. Cosmos diabolicus (The World's Belief System) blinds the mind to the light of the truth of God's word.

Open blind eyes (Isa.42:7; Acts 26:18 and 2 Cor.4:4).

This why one important piece of your spiritual armor in the Angelic Conflict (AC) is the girdle of truth (Eph.6:13-14; John 8:31-32; 2 Tim.3:7-8).

4. A wise king might have investigated the word of God to understand the Israelites and their God and then consider a war strategy.

(Luke 14:31) “Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with 10,000 men to encounter the one coming against him with 20,000?”

It would have been very beneficial to these nations to have done some preliminary homework.

- **To learn** about their place as well as Israel’s place in the tables of nations and biblical history (Gen.10:15; Deut.32:8-9; Gen.9:25).
- **To learn** some specific biblical history of the Moabites (Gen.19:31-38) Moab means “from father”/ (Gen.19:36).
- **To learn** there was a divine curse upon Lot’s two children (Ammonites and Moabites) stated in (Deut.23:3-6).
- **To learn** about the blessing-curse clause of the Abrahamic covenant of (Gen 12:3) which God was constantly pointing out to Balaam (Num22-24; 22:10; 24:1, 10).
- **To learn** some specific biblical history of the Midianites would have revealed a famous Midianite prophet of God named Jethro; who was the father-in-law of Moses (Ex.2-3, 18).

5. Balaam offered five prayers:

- He had a talking donkey playing a role as prophet of God
- He offered three sacrifices,
- He gave five inspired oracles pertaining to Israel, but only permitted to pronounce blessings and not cursing upon Israel (Num.22-24; 24:10).

In the 2nd Oracle, Balaam learned that sorcery would not be used nor would he curse Israel.

[Listen Church Age Believer: God always has your back [Hedge] (Job1:10; 29:1-25); [Hands] (John 10:28-29) (Num23:13-26; 23:23).

In the 4th Oracle, Balaam was given the messianic prophecy of **Jacob’s star** announcing the birth of Christ, the Savior of the world (Num.24:17; Matt.2:1-12 (Num.24:15-25).

As result of divine intervention, Balaam was unable to fulfill his contract to curse Israel and wasn’t paid (Num.24:10-25). Unfortunately this is **not the end of this story** because such a large amount of money was involved (Num.22:7, 17, 37; 24:11-14; 2 Pet.2:15).

6. Balaam negotiated a new momentary contract with King Balak (Num.25:1-3; 31:16).

(Josh.2:1) “Shittim was the last stop before Israel crossed the Jordan” (NIV, Num.25:1)

Balaam’s counsel was to seduce the Israelites into phallic cult and Baal worship (Ps.106:28-31) [Baal-peor] (Num.31:15-18).

This counsel resulted in 24,000 Israelites dying without firing a shot (Num.25:4-9; 1 Cor.10:8) [23,000 in one day]. [Think of how many funerals Moses conducted during 40 years 603,550 military men (Num.1:46).]

Jude (Jude 11), Peter (2 Pet.2:14-16), John (Rev.2:14-15) and Paul (1 Cor.10:6-8) all used Balaam as an example of the Woe Judgment against false teachers.

During the Midianite war, Balaam was killed (Num.31:7-8; Josh.13:21-22).

The Error of Balaam was Materialistic Reversionism (2 Pet.2:15; 1 Tim.6:9-10; Mark 8:36-38).