

SESSION #10 (12 Jan 10)

I. INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

Deuteronomy & Suzerainty Vassal Treaties

- _____ document—not the hodge-podge of old 19th “higher criticism”
- _____ document—God “condescends” (comes down to the creature level) to bind Himself to a contract with the nation Israel (unique in history)
- Revelation of God’s historical “_____” into fallen civilization in order to bring about the final Kingdom of God.
- _____ document—example of how the Word of God was taught

1:1-5	Introduction to God’s spokesman, the 1st Prophet Moses
1:6-4:40	1st Exposition of the Torah = <u>motivation</u> to obey from <u>past gracious actions</u> of Yahweh
1:6-3:29	Historical analysis of Israel from Sinai to the Transjordanian victories
4:1-40	Implications for the future of the nation

II. THE BETH PEOR CRISIS (Numbers 22-25, 31)

3:29 Beth Peor. . . .

4:1-4 your eyes have seen. . .you who held fast to Yahweh your God are alive—all of you today!

///// SLIDE #1 /////

Num 22:1-4 Balak. . .Moab sick with fear. . .

Baseless!!

PRINCIPLE: Repeatedly in Scripture disaster after disaster happens when leaders, especially, do not trust the Lord: Abraham, Isaac, Saul, Jeroboam. . . .

Balak’s 1st Try (22:5-14)

22:5-6 Balaam. . .near “the River” [Euphrates]. . .curse this people

Paganism & demonic religion:

- Idols are _____ of demons that appear to occultic priests (1 Cor 10:18-22).
- Mari texts (1933) in Mesopotamia → cultic practices involving divination and séances with animals and cursing/blessing formulas.
- 1967 an 8th century inscription of the prophecies of Balaam discovered in Moab!
- Balaam was a world renowned pagan occult leader who regularly contacted the _____ (demons) for cursing and blessing his clientele.

curse this people. . .bless is blessed and curse is cursed

///// SLIDE #2 /////

22:7 diviner's fee
 22:9-11 God came to Balaam. . .
 22:12 not curse. . .they are blessed. . .
 22:13 Yahweh has refused to give me permission. . .

Balak's 2nd Try (22:15-21)

22:15-17 please come. . .honor you greatly
 22:18-21 house full of silver and gold. . .know what more Yahweh will say to me
 (2 Pet 2:15-16; Jude 1:11).

22:22-30 Balaam's ass!

Gen 3:1; Luke 8:26-39 → vertebrates apparently can be demon possessed via CNS.
 22:30 have I ever shown a habit to do this to you?

22:31-35 Confrontation with the Angel of the Lord

22:33 I would have killed you. . .
 22:35 speak only the word that I speak

22:36-40 Payoff

22:37 honor you?
 22:38 word that God puts in my mouth. . .
 22:40 offered oxen and sheep

Balaam's Oracles: "he took up his oracle and said"

22:41-23:6 Preparation	23:7-10 1 st oracle	23:11-12 reaction
23:13-17 Preparation	23:18-24 2 nd oracle	23:25-26 reaction
23:27-24:2 Preparation	24:3-9 3 rd oracle	24:10-13 reaction
24:14 Preparation	24:15-19 4 th oracle	
	24:20 5 th oracle	
	24:21-22 6 th oracle	
	24:23-24 7 th oracle	24:25 reaction

22:41-23:12 1st Cycle: the uniqueness of Israel

22:41 observe. . .the people
 23:1 seven bulls and rams. . .
 23:5 then. . .
 23:7 *took up his oracle and said*
 Process of a prophet = revelation to his mind & then an artistic (poetic) exposition
 23:9 **for from the hills I behold him**
alone. . .not reckoned among the nations. . .
 23:10 **let my life die the death of the upright. . .and my end as his. . .**
 God-inspired testimony to the election in Abraham of Israel.

Later Islam would claim that God's choice and agent of working would be through Ishmael and Esau, but here a world-renowned prophet from Iraq is forced to testify to Israel's election.

23:11-12 what have you done to me. . .

23:13-26 2nd Cycle: Israel's guaranteed historical destiny

23:13-14 another place

Under the Continuity of Being, there can't be any transcendent truth because all truth derives from finite personalities—whether men or gods and goddesses.

23:15 I meet . . .over there.

Not a real prophet because the “word of God” can be adjusted, manipulated, and made part of a business negotiation.

23:18 took up his oracle and said

Rise up Balak

23:19-20 I cannot reverse it.

23:21 not observed iniquity. . .shout of a king. . .

Gracious aspect to this election + Kingship of Yahweh = theocracy

23:22 strength of an ox

23:23 no sorcery. . .

Demonic manipulation is thwarted like the magicians of Egypt

23:25-26 Balak. . .Balaam. . .

23:27-24:13 3rd Cycle: Blessing and Cursing derives from response toward Israel

23:27 perhaps it will please God. . .

24:3 took up his oracle and said

24:9b cursed is he who curses you.

= Gen. 12:1-3 Ab Cov

24:19-11 go back

24:14-25 4th through 7th Cycles: Doom upon all who molest Israel.

24:15 took up his oracle and said

24:17 I see him, but not now.

Messianic prophecy

24:18 Edom

24:20 took up his oracle and said

Amalek

24:21 took up his oracle and said

Kenites

24:23 took up his oracle and said

afflict Asshur. . .Eber

25:1-18 Disaster for Israel

Apparently Balaam returned with a scheme for undercutting God's protection upon Israel = getting them to forsake Him (cf **Rev 2:14**)

25:1-3 harlotry. . .bowed down to their gods. . .

- Necessity of destruction and chaos in order that (by magic) order will somehow be restored; also true of ancient paganism and modern paganism of neo-Darwinism & Marxism

- Social order and civilization relies upon marriage and family so OT laws on sexual behavior are protections of DI #2 & 3.
- Disciple by Plague & executions

25:6 behold! Interruption in narrative **25:6-9**

25:6-8 in sight of all the congregation

25:9 plague stopped after 24,000 died—apparently 23,000 all in one day (NT)

25:10-13 zealous. . .zeal. . .zeal. . .

25:14-15 name. . .Zimri. . .Cozbi. . .

Bible is careful to document historical acts (like the bed of Og) → real history that is open to empirical checking.

25:16-18 harass

Num 31:1-20 War on Midian

31:7-8 killed all the males. . .leaders. . .Balaam!!

31:14 Moses was angry

31:16 counsel of Balaam = Rev 2:14 Church of Pergamos

31:17-18 kill every woman who isn't a virgin = seducers

III. CONCLUSION

1. Moses refers to the Beth Peor Crisis as another historic example of Yahweh's relationship with the nation: that He means what He says! (**Deut 4:4** "You who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today"!)

- Election means the nation is eternally secure = will accomplish its destiny
- No demonic forces are strong enough to interfere with that destiny
- But they must humble themselves by personal choices to Yahweh's commandments in order to live in that nation [i.e., Yahweh will discipline unto death, if necessary]
- Choice centers on the character of God Himself

2. NT extension of this same truth: Church is elect BUT. . .

1 Cor 10:1-4 all. . .all. . .all. . .

10:5 with MOST of them God was not well pleased

10:8a in one day 23,000

10:12-13 take heed. . .no trial

10:14-22 cup of demons

- Demons cannot break election and God's plan, but they can devastate by personal invitation, by our choices to worship their deceptions.
- Outside of the revealed will of God—disobedience—invites disaster, including physical death

From Bible Works (ver 7)



The Crisis Site

Shall I Bow To My Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- Fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE / CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization