



BALAAAM

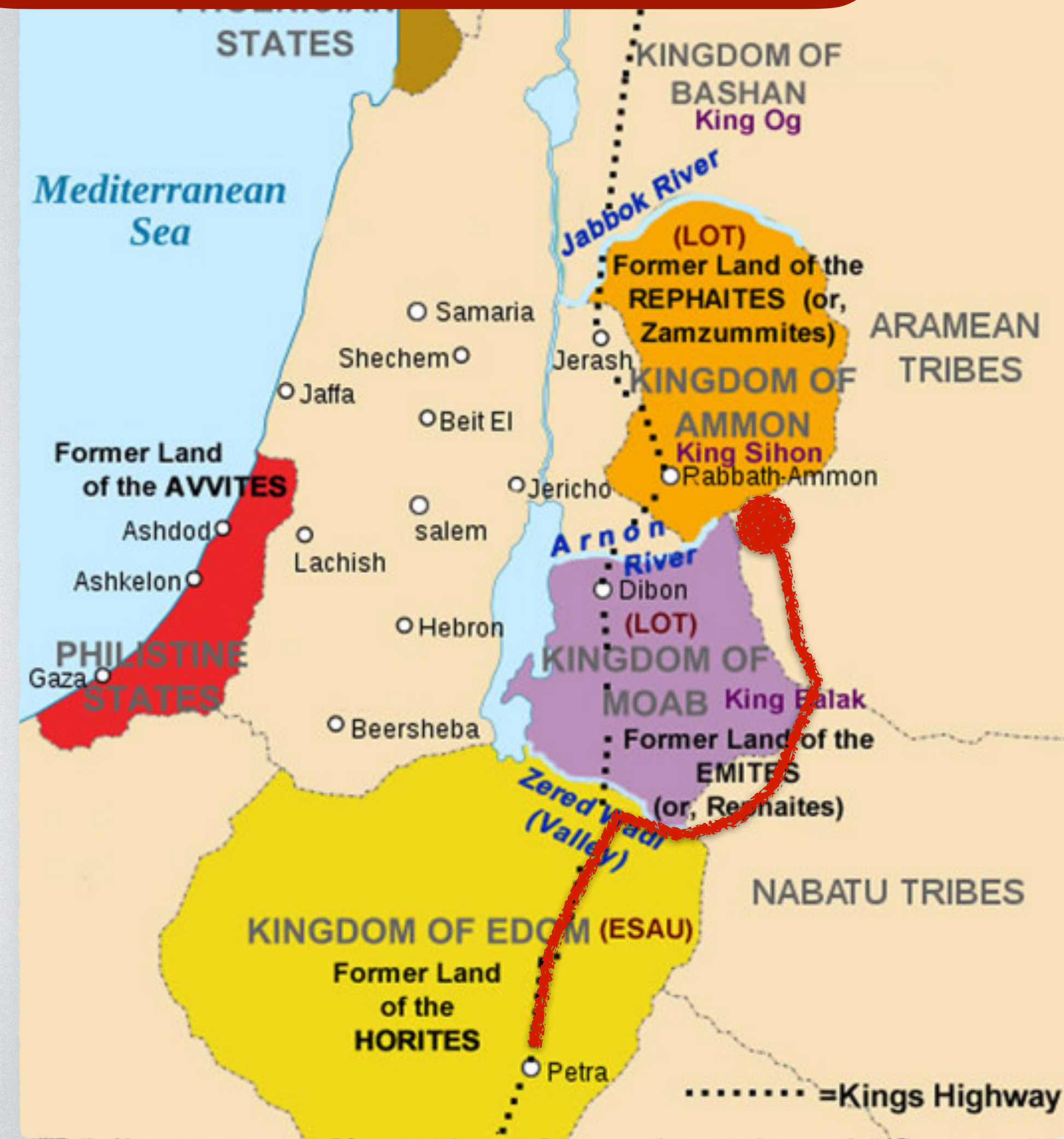
LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET



Numbers 22-25; 31:16; Jude 5-16; 2 Pet. 2:15-16; Rev. 2:14

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

THE SETTING



- 👁 The final year of the Israelites' journey from Egypt to Canaan,
- 👁 They had conquered the Amorites and their mighty kings (Num 21:21-35).
- 👁 Balak, the king of Moab, and the Moabites were "exceedingly afraid," . . . and "sick with dread" - (Num 22:2,3).
- 👁 He calls on Balaam to come and curse them.

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

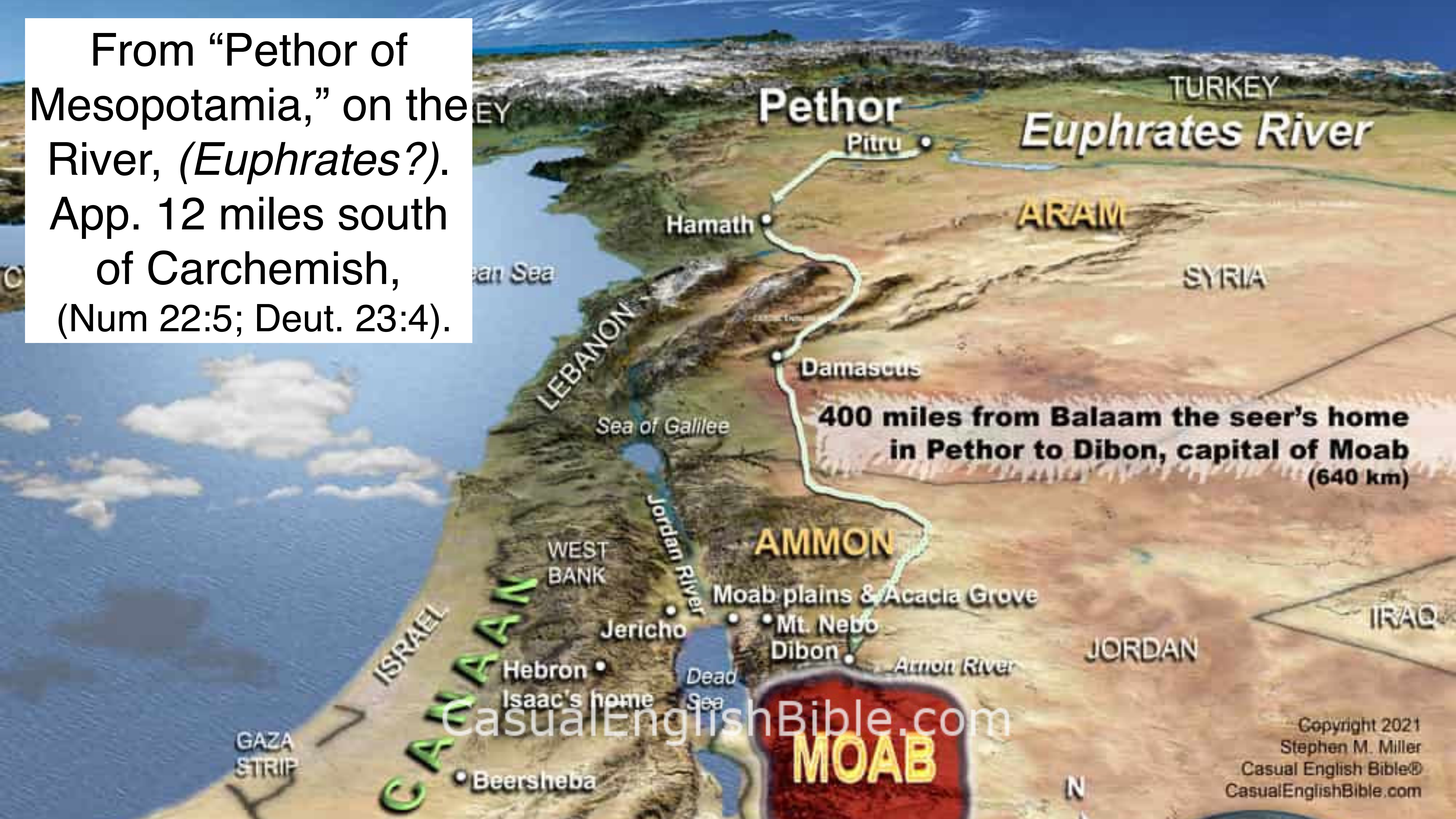
THE SETTING



Numbers 22:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which *is* near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: “Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! ⁶ Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they *are* too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless *is* blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”

From “Pethor of Mesopotamia,” on the River, (*Euphrates?*). App. 12 miles south of Carchemish, (Num 22:5; Deut. 23:4).



Pethor

Pitru

Euphrates River

TURKEY

ARAM

SYRIA

Hamath

Damascus

400 miles from Balaam the seer's home in Pethor to Diban, capital of Moab (640 km)

AMMON

Moab plains & Acacia Grove

Mt. Nebo

Diban

Arnon River

JORDAN

IRAQ

Sea of Galilee

Jordan River

WEST BANK

Jericho

Hebron

Isaac's home

Dead Sea

Beersheba

ISRAEL

CANAAN

GAZA STRIP

MOAB

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LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

About Balaam

Pethor ?

Journey would take an estimated 20-25 days.

Moab

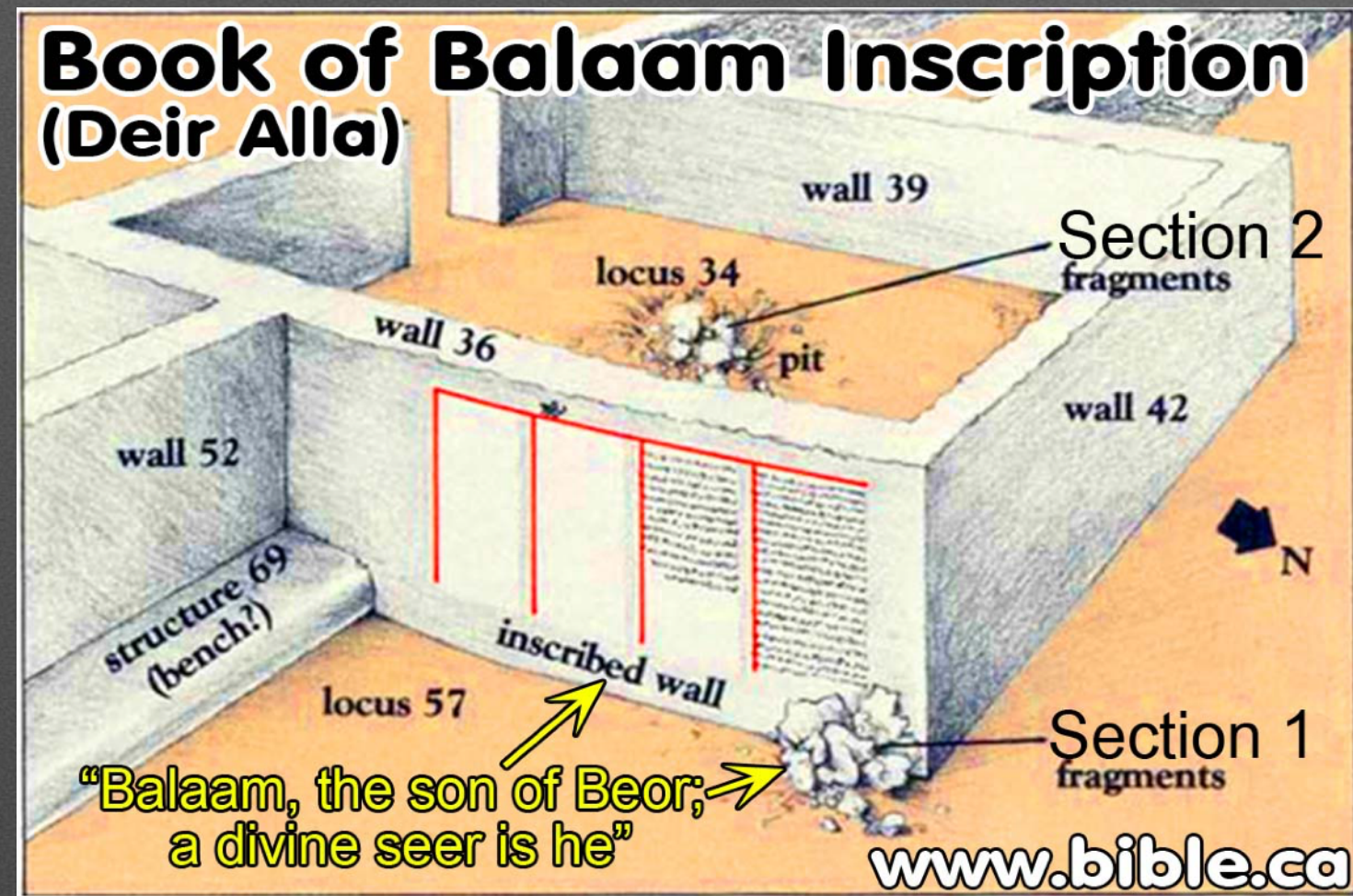
- ▶ “Known” as a prophet, soothsayer, or diviner (*used sorcery or enchantments*) (22:6; 24:1; cf. Josh 13:22)
- ▶ Knew who the true God is - refers to God several times as “the LORD (YWH) my God” or “The LORD (YWH) (22:18; 23:8,12; etc.)”

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

About Balaam



- 🌀 His connection with Israel & death are recorded in the book of Numbers,
- ▶ His dealings with Balak, king of Moab, are recorded in 22:1-24:25
- ▶ Balaam is killed by the Israelites when they defeated the Midianites in 31:8.



▶ The Deir 'Alla Inscription was discovered during a 1967 excavation in Deir 'Alla, Jordan. The excavation revealed a many-chambered structure that had been destroyed by earthquake.

▶ The inscription is datable to 840–760 BCE;

▶ It was painted in inks on fragments of a plastered wall - red and black inks were used, apparently to emphasize the text. In all, 119 pieces of inked plaster were recovered.

▶ Since 1972, the fragments are on display at the Archeological Museum in Amman Jordan.



Book of Balaam (Deir Alla)

In red ink it is written

“Balaam,
the son of Beor;
a divine seer is he”

www.bible.ca

“Warnings
from the
Book of
Balaam the
son of Beor.
He was a
seer of the
gods.”

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

About Balaam



- 👁️ 8 books of the Bible mention Balaam
 - Numbers 22:5-24:25; 31:8,16
 - Deuteronomy 23:4, 5
 - Joshua 13:22; 24:9, 10
 - Nehemiah 13:2
 - Micah 6:5
 - 2 Peter 2:15
 - Jude 11
 - Revelation 2:14
- 👁️ The Holy Spirit intended for us to learn some lessons from this man's life.

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

About Balaam



- At first glance Balaam appears to be worthy of admiration & respect.
- ▶ He appears to seek God's will (22:8)
- ▶ He obeys God initially by saying no (22:12,13)
- ▶ Balak counters / Balaam is given permission / Balaam informs Balak he can say **ONLY** what the Lord commands him (22:18,19).

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Lessons & Applications



- God will not keep you from doing what you truly want to do (22:20,21)
- Many insist on flirting with sin, they want what they want, they keep searching for a way to justify what God has forbidden, until they “find it!” (Deut. 24:1-4; Mat. 19:8)
- We need to learn that when God says No, it’s no.

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Lessons & Applications



- Is our love and commitment to God complete if we are willing to give it up for a price? (Num. 22:18,38; 23:10,12, 26; 22:18; 24:13).
- Satan doesn't stop just because we say no, (Mat. 4:1-11; Job 1:9; 2:4).
- If our commitment to God is not complete, we give Satan an opportunity to destroy us (2 Th. 2:10-11; Mt. 16:23-26; Eph. 4:27; Prov. 23:23)

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Balaam Resists Warning ...



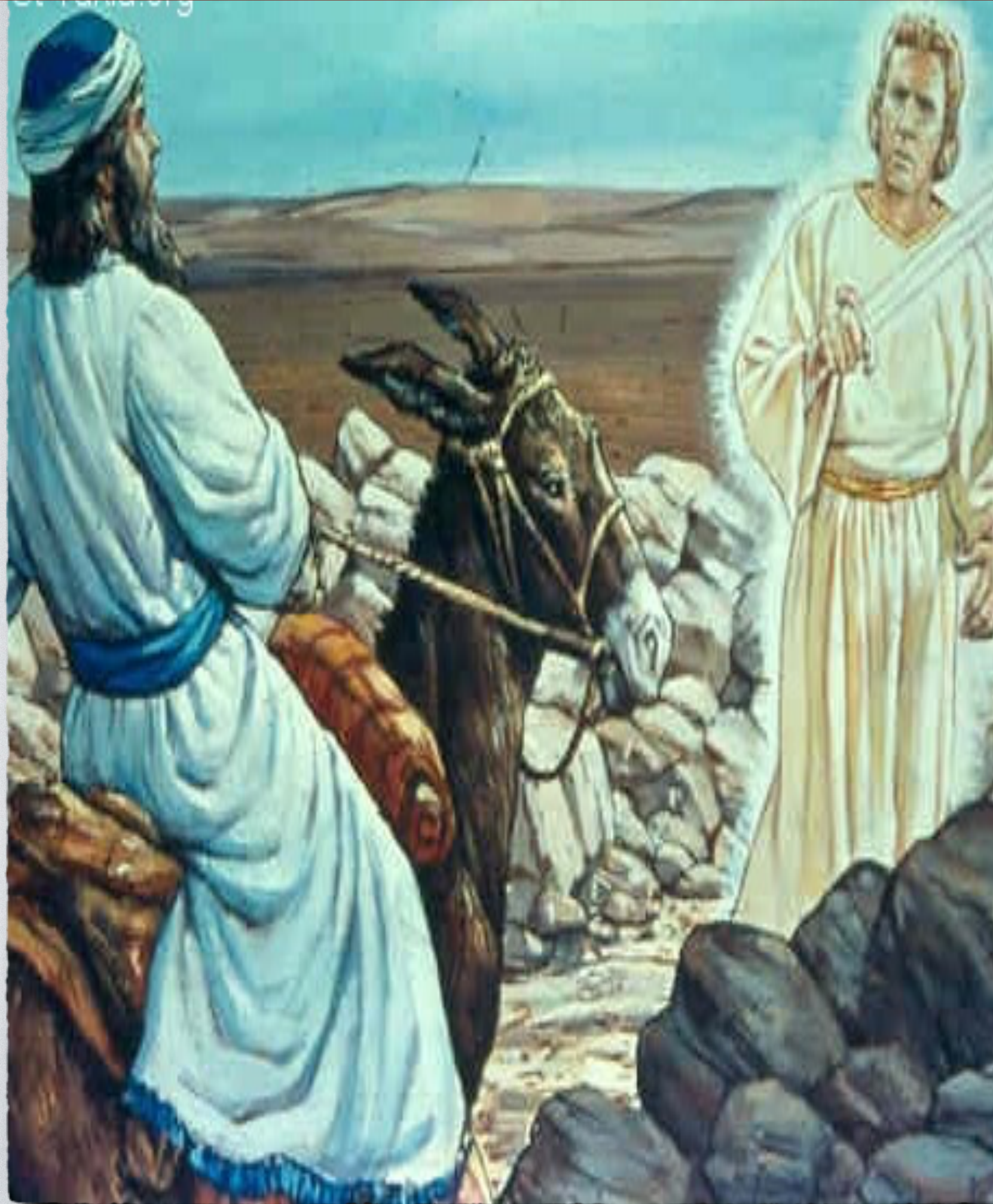
- God sent His angel to hinder Balaam's way (22:22).
- The donkey saw the angel and avoided him, angering Balaam - so he strikes the donkey (22:23).
- The Angel of the Lord again obstructed Balaam's way - this time the donkey hurts Balaam's leg - so Balaam strikes the donkey again (22:24,25)

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Balaam Resists Warning ...

Numbers 22:26–28 (NKJV)

²⁶ Then the Angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. ²⁷ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. ²⁸ Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"



LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Balaam Resists Warning ...



- Balaam is FURIOUS with the donkey (22:29).
- The donkey, tries REASONING with Balaam (22:30)
- The Lord opens Balaam's eyes, he sees the Angel of the Lord with sword drawn - Balaam is ashamed for striking his donkey (22:31-33).

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Balaam Resists Warning ...



- The Angel of the Lord says to Balaam, “I have come out to stand against you, because *your way is perverse before Me*” (Num. 22:32)
- Instead of turning back, he has the gall to say, “if it displeases You, I will turn back” (Num. 22:34).

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Balaam Resists Warning ...



- Balaam didn't want to turn back - Balaam wanted to get paid - Balaam's heart wanted what it wanted - therefore God allowed Balaam to do what he wanted.
- Even so - God used Balaam for His purpose (22:35; 23:1-12; 13-26; 23:27-24:14)

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Lessons & Applications ...



- God allows us to do what we truly desire to do, but He continues to provide warnings, hinderances and a way of escape (2 Pet 3:1-9; Gen 20:1-6; 1 Cor 10:13)
- Why do we sometimes resent, and even become angry, when someone tries to help us, correct us, preventing us from bringing harm to ourselves? (Gal 4:16; 1 Kings 18:17; Prov 9:8; Jn 8:45)

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

God's Protection of His people ...



- Balaam blessed God's people 3 times instead of cursing them (23:1-24:9).
- Balak is angry with Balaam (24:10-11)
- Sadly - this is not the end of the story (25:1-3; Num 31:8,16).
- God protected His people from outside forces - the only way harm could come upon them was if they were unfaithful to God (Num 31:16; Rev 2:14).

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Lessons & Applications



- God provides security & protection for His people today in Christ (John 10:27-30; Rom 8:28-39).
- This protection & security is conditioned on us remaining faithful (2 Pet 1:5-11; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb 3:12-4:11; Gal. 5:1-4)

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

THE WAY, ERROR & DOCTRINE of BALAAM



Numbers 31:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And Moses said to them: “Have you kept all the women alive? ¹⁶ Look, these *women* caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord.

Numbers 25:9 (NKJV)

⁹ And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

2 Peter 2:14–16 (NKJV)

Jude 11 (NKJV)

Revelation 2:14 (NKJV)

THE WAY, ERROR & DOCTRINE of BALAAM

15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of **Balaam** the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of **Balaam** for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of **Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.





BALAAAM

A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET



Then, there is Balaam's fourth oracle ...

Numbers 24:10–19 (NKJV)

¹⁵ So he took up his oracle and said: “The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened; ¹⁶ The utterance of him who hears the words of God, And has the knowledge of the Most High, *Who* sees the vision of the Almighty, *Who* falls down, with eyes wide open: ¹⁷ “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult. ¹⁸ “And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession, While Israel does valiantly. ¹⁹ Out of Jacob One shall have dominion, And destroy the remains of the city.”

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Matthew 16:24–26 (NKJV)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”



LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Lessons & Applications



Do we consult with the word of Christ superficially, not truly seeking what is pleasing to God, but seeking for a way to justify what we want to do?

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Lessons & Applications



We can lie to ourselves, we can lie to others, we can try to lie to God - but the true desires of our heart will always win out.

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Lessons & Applications



Let us RESOLVE to be wholly,
completely & TOTALLY
committed to serving & obeying
the will of God - genuinely, &
diligently striving to please Him!

Colossians 1:9-12

LESSONS FROM A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

Lessons & Applications



We are free to choose, but we are not free to choose the consequences.

BALAAAM

A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

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Jude 5-16; Numbers 22-25; 31:16; 2 Pet. 2:15-16; Rev. 2:14

Jude 5–11 (NKJV)

⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Jude 5–11 (NKJV)

⁸ Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. ⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” ¹⁰ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.