

# BALAM,

Lessons From  
A PROFIT  
SEEKING  
PROPHET



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



# 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.



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## THE SETTING



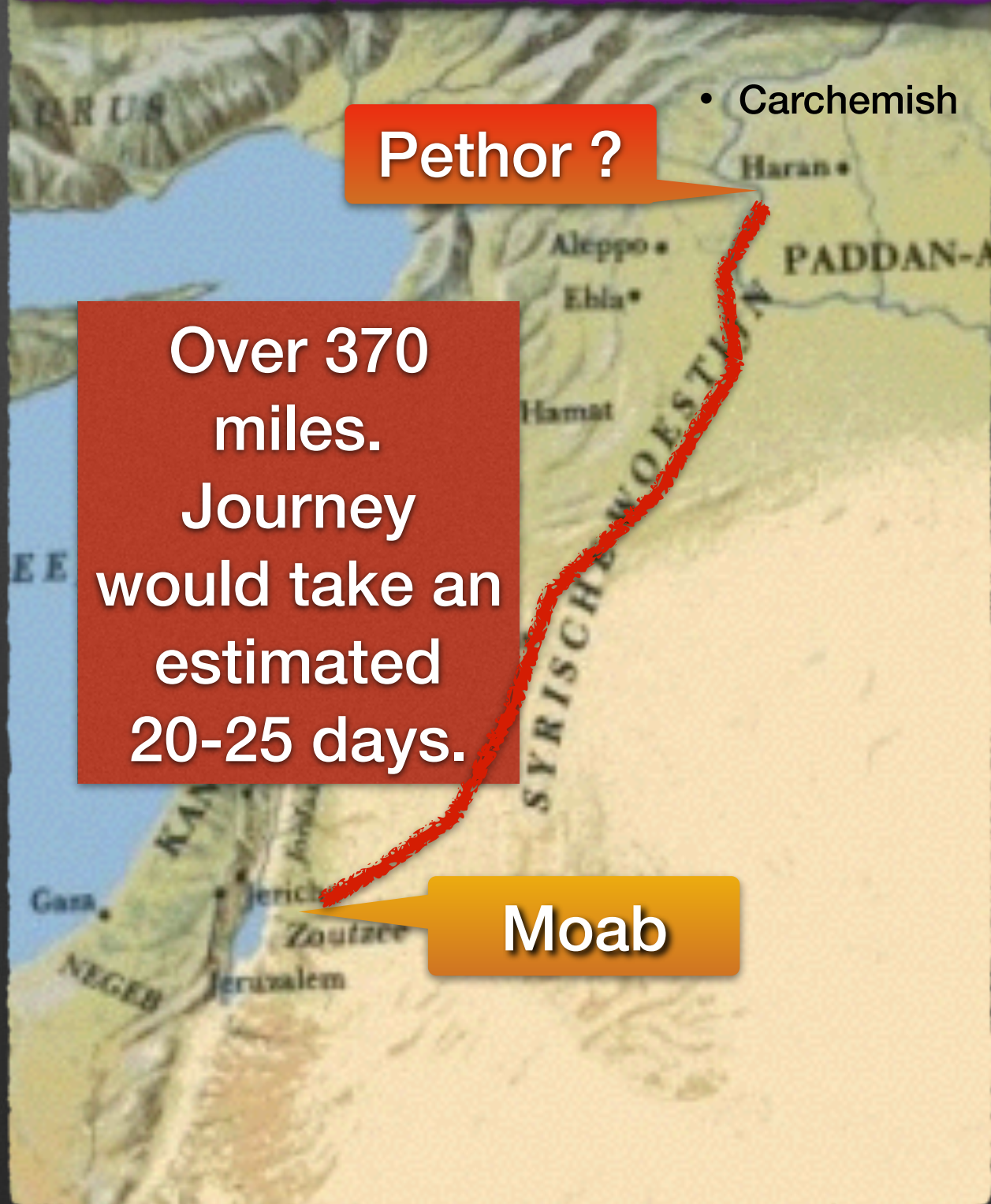
## NUMBERS 22:5-6 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> 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! <sup>6</sup> 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.”



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## ABOUT BALAAM



- Balaam was from Pethor, a city on the River, probably the Euphrates. (Num 22:5). About 12 mi. south of Carchemish....

- Was NOT a Hebrew - “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.



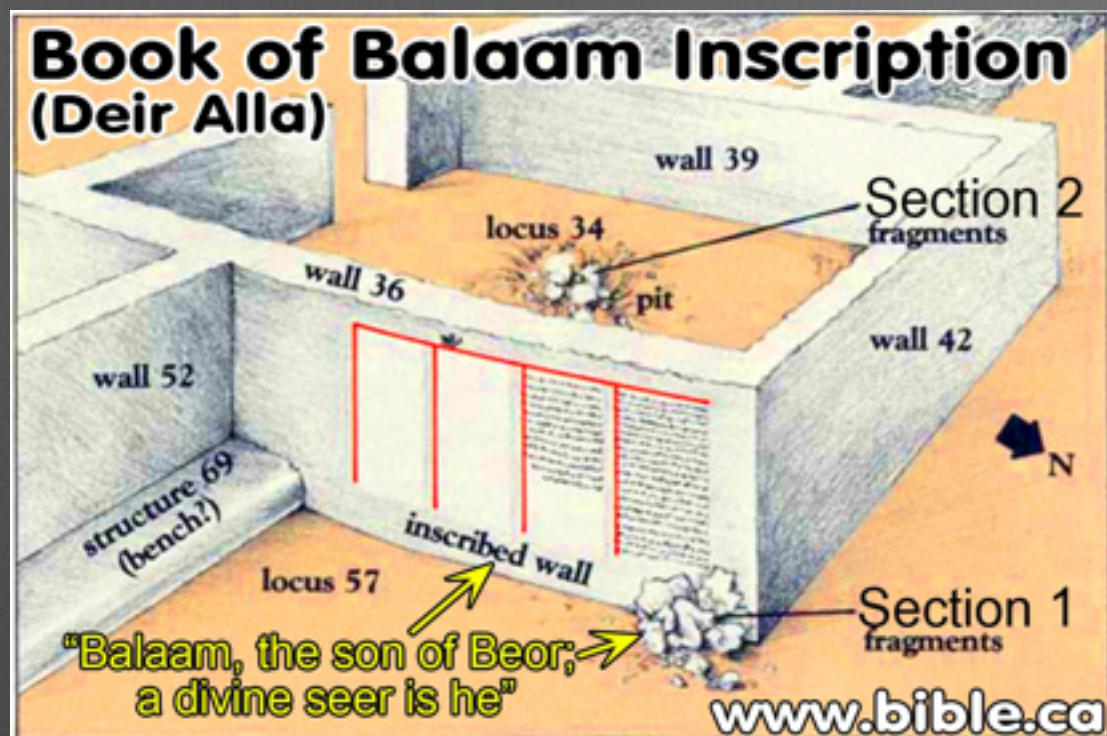
# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## ABOUT BALAAM



- His connection with Israel & death are recorded in the book of Numbers,
- We are introduced to him in 22:1-5
- His dealings with Balak, king of Moab, are recorded in 22:6-24:25
- Balaam was 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 ca. 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**

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

**[www.bible.ca](http://www.bible.ca)**



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## ABOUT BALAAM



- Balaam is mentioned in 8 books of the Bible –
  - 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
- It is plain that the Holy Spirit intended for us to learn some lessons from this man's life.



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## ABOUT BALAAM

2 Peter 2:14–16 (NKJV)

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.

Jude 11 (NKJV)

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.

Revelation 2:14 (NKJV)

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.



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## BALLAM YIELDS TO . . .



- 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
  - When Balak counters, Balaam refuses to do or say anything other than what the Lord commands him - 22:18,19



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## BALLAM YIELDS TO . . .



- What did God say to Balaam's initial request to go with the men from Balak? (22:12)
- Why did Balaam entertain the second group of men from Balak? Was he hoping God would change His mind? (22:19)
- Why is God angry with Balaam? (22:22)



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## LESSONS & APPLICATIONS



- God will never prevent you from doing that which you truly want to do (22:20,21)
- Many Christians insist on playing with sin, they want what they want, not taking no for an answer, they keep searching for permission to do what God has forbidden, until they “find it!” - (Dt 24)
- We need to learn that when God says No, it's no.



# 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 - Our commitment to God must be complete, or we give Satan an opportunity to destroy us - 2 Thess. 2:10-11; Mt. 16:23-26; Prov. 23:23;



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## BALAAM RESISTS WARNING ...



- God sent His angel to hinder Balaams 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



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## BALAAM RESISTS WARNING ...

NUMBERS 22:26-28 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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.** <sup>28</sup> 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?"**





# 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 - 22:31-33
- Instead of turning back, he has the gall to ask God if what he is doing is displeasing to Him, and if so, he will turn back - 22:34



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## BALAAM RESISTS WARNING ...



- Balaam is blind, Balaam is deaf, Balaam is in sin he is following a way of death - The donkey can see the warning, but Balaam can't - 22:22-34
- 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 ...



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## LESSONS & APPLICATIONS



- God will allow us to do what we, from our heart, 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



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## GOD'S PROTECTION OF HIS PEOPLE



- Balaam went to Balak and blessed God's people 3 times instead of cursing them - 23:1-24:9
- Balak is angry with Balaam ...



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## GOD'S PROTECTION OF HIS PEOPLE



NUMBERS 24:10-11 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Then Balak's anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and look, **you have bountifully blessed them these three times!** <sup>11</sup> Now therefore, flee to your place. I said I would greatly honor you, **but in fact, the Lord has kept you back from honor.**"



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## GOD'S PROTECTION OF HIS PEOPLE



- 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;



# 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; Heb 3:12-4:11



# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## LESSONS & APPLICATIONS

Do we consult with God's word to sooth our conscience, but deep down, we are actually seeking justification for what we want instead of what God wants?





# 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.  
When we are NOT FULLY  
committed to the Lord,  
we leave Satan a means  
of destroying us.





# 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!!





# A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET

## LESSONS & APPLICATIONS

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









# BALAM, A PROFIT SEEKING PROPHET



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## JUDE 5-11 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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;



## JUDE 5-11 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.



## JUDE 5-11 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> 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!" <sup>10</sup> But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.



## JUDE 5-11 (NKJV)

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.