

Numbers 22:2-25:9

*Balak* | בַּלַּק

“devastator”, “wasting”

**Unnecessary fear.** Balak, king of the Moabites, had witnessed what Israel had done to Sichon, and he assumed it was only a matter of time before they would attack Moab. His fear was unjustified (see Deut. 2:9) but he called on Balaam to curse Israel, which had disastrous consequences.

A cursory reading might have someone thinking Balaam wasn't such a bad guy. However, the Talmud and sages offer a scathing rebuke of Balaam. Additionally, 2 Peter 2:15 says he “loved the wages of unrighteousness.”

**Paying attention to our circumstance.** Sometimes what frustrates us is really calling us to attention. Balaam was angry with his donkey, but it was reacting correctly to the spiritual reality, trying to save his life. Balaam wasn't paying attention and it almost killed him.

## Community Questions:

1. Where did Balaam go wrong? See Numbers 22:20.
  2. Did Israel have any intention of attacking Moab?
  3. What other pagan priests are given high esteem in the Torah?
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4. Reading through the four prophecies Balaam spoke, what parts of Israel's history does each of them pertain to?
  5. In 22:12-14, what game is Balaam playing at when he relates to Balak's officers only one of the three statements God made?
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6. Meditate on 23:9, and talk about how profound a statement of the destiny of Israel it is. And how peculiar that a gentile priest would be the one to speak it.
  7. How did Balaam's absolute lack of any loyalties manifest in his actions and words? How do our many loyalties keep us from unrighteousness?
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8. In what ways do you experience unnecessary fear? Has God made promises that you still have an issue believing and fully trusting?
  9. Are there areas where you are following God's instructions, but only in part?



Additional  
Resources:

BT:  
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