

Parshah Insights

Balak

(Numbers 22:2 – 25:9)

Numbers 22:1

Then the sons of Israel journeyed, and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan opposite Jericho.

The Ghost of Sichon:

Human Reasoning (v.2)



Fear (v.3)



Anger (v.3)



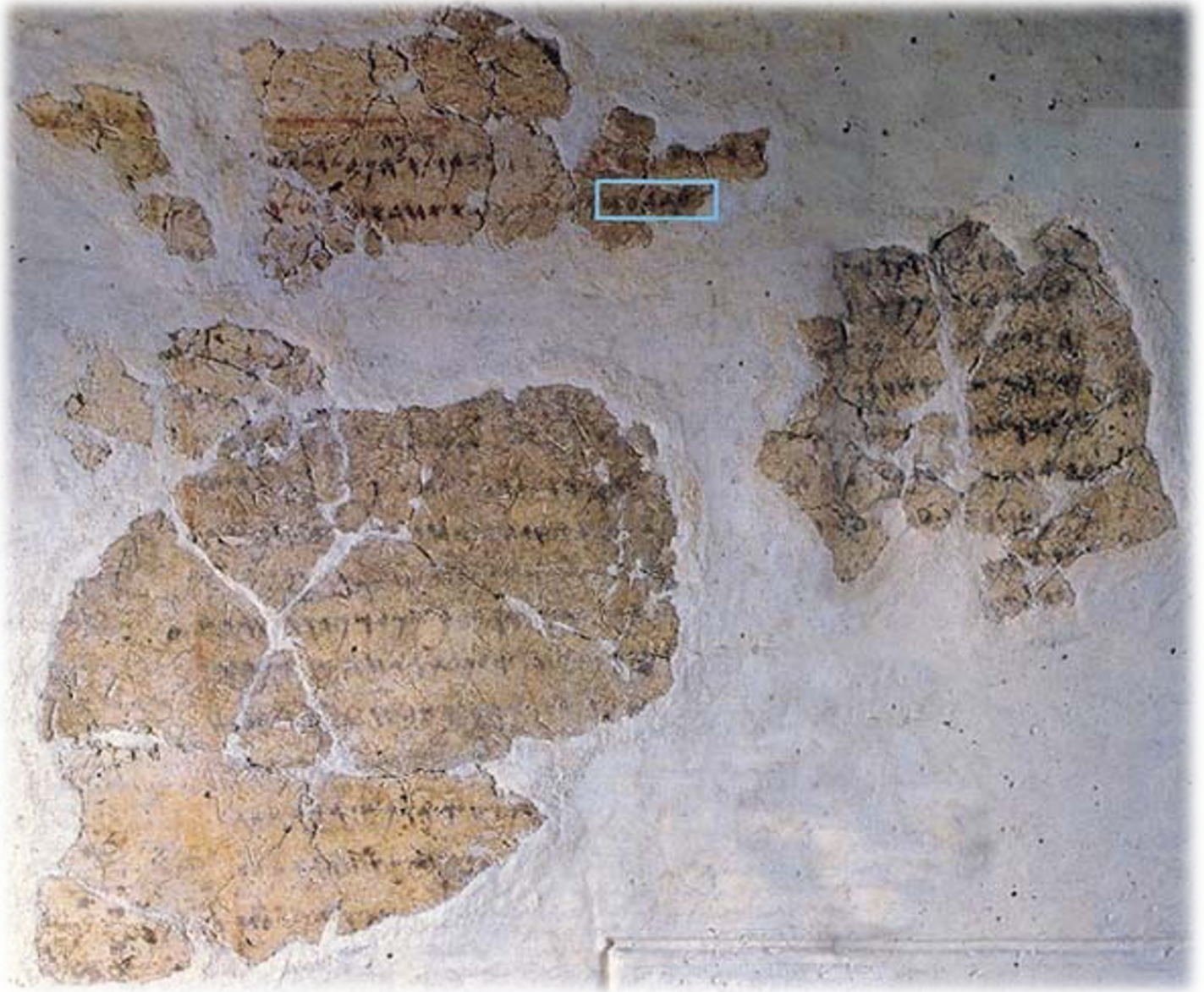
Lying Thoughts (v.4)



Foolishness (v.5)



Cursing (v.6)



From the Garo Nalbandian/Amman Archaeological Museum
“Balaam, son of Beor,”

SPOILER ALERT:
Balaam dies in the end.

Numbers 31:7-8

So they made war against Midian, just as Adonai had commanded Moses, and they killed every male. ... They also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword.

Numbers 31:16

“Behold, these caused the sons of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against Adonai in the matter of Peor, so the plague was among the congregation of Adonai.”

Spiritual Gifts \neq Spiritual Maturity

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1 – The **WAY** of Balaam

2 Peter 2:15-16

Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed **the way of Balaam**, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression. A speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

The **WAY** of Balaam = *Love of Money*

2 – The **ERROR** of Balaam

Jude 11-13

Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to **Balaam's error** and perished in Korach's rebellion.

The **ERROR** of Balaam = *No Loyalties*

Balaam (בלעם) was so called because he was a man **without a people** (בלא עם).

⌘ b. Sanhedrin 105a

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

3 – The **TEACHING** of Balaam

Revelation 2:14

“But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the **teaching of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.”

Numbers 31:16

“Behold, these caused the children of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to commit trespass against Adonai in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of Adonai.”

**The TEACHING of Balaam =
*Who needs Righteousness?***

**SPOILER ALERT #2:
24,000 Israelites die in the end.**

Balaam's Four Prophecies

- 1. The Wilderness Period (23:7-10)**
 - 2. Conquest of the Land & Enemies (23:18-24)**
 - 3. Settling the Land (24:3-9)**
 - 4. The Messianic Era (24:15-24)**
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Discussion Questions:

- Where do we find another talking animal in the Bible? Compare and contrast these two creatures and their messages.
- From memory, describe the Way, the Error and the Teaching of Balaam.
- What are the dangers of avoiding fellowship with other believers?
- Give an example from your own life when fear made your imagination run wild.

NOTES:

Numbers 21:26 For Heshbon was the city of Sihon, king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab and had taken all his land out of his hand, as far as the Arnon.

Deuteronomy 2:9 “Then Adonai said to me, ‘Do not harass Moab, nor provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the sons of Lot as a possession.’”

Proverbs 26:2 Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying, so a curse without cause does not alight.

Isaiah 54:17 “No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper. And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of Adonai, and their vindication is from Me,” declares Adonai.

Deuteronomy 23:3-5 “No Ammonite or Moabite shall enter the assembly of Adonai. None of their descendants, even to the tenth generation, shall ever enter the assembly of Adonai, because they did not meet you with food and water on the way when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. Nevertheless, Adonai your God was not willing to listen to Balaam, but Adonai your God turned the curse into a blessing for you because Adonai your God loves you.”

Three Examples of “Balaam’s Error”:

2 Timothy 3:8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith.

Acts 8:9-10, 18-23 Now there was a certain man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city, and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, “This man is what is called the Great Power of God.” And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts ... Now when Simon saw that the spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, saying, “Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the holy spirit.” But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.”

Acts 16:16-18 And it happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortunetelling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you a way of salvation.” And she continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Yeshua the Messiah to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment.