

To the Servants of the Most High God at Topeka, Kansas, Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023

Balaam and the Blessed People, a Chosen Generation, a Royal Priesthood – Part 1



2 Pet. 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.

1 Pet. 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

I want to talk about Balaam today and eventually about the people of God, as identified in Numbers 22:12 and 1 Pet. 2:9. Balaam is referenced in both the old and new testaments. He is the quintessential false prophet who sold his soul for financial gain and worldly glory. It is important to understand the “error of Balaam” (Jude 11) and the “doctrine of Balaam” (Rev. 2:14). Balaam is not a “one-off.” Balaam is an object lesson of why we must continually watch and pray! Numbers 22-24 and some of 25 are largely about Balaam, so that is a lot of ground to cover. Sometimes we just have to read the words of the Bible, and that is the case today.

*Numbers 22: 1 And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho. **The people of God are on the move. They are not sitting around. They were told by God to take the promise land with force and that is what they are doing. They are taking the war to Moab.** You may recall that God did not take the land from these seven nations because Israel was more righteous than they or because Israel had a larger population base (Deut. 7:7). Deut. 9:1 Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven...4 Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the LORD thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the LORD hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD doth drive them out from before thee. 5 Not*

for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 6 Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a stiffnecked people. God says he gave Israel the land because of the extreme sins of those nations - including sodomy, and that if Israel ever went the same way as those nations, he would take the land from them, and in fact that the very land would vomit them out. Numbers 22:2 *And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. 3 And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel. 4 And Moab said unto the elders of Midian (Moab and Midian were allies), now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. 5 He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me (a big war is coming): 6 Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: **for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed. 7 And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand** (both Moab and Midian sent ambassadors with lavish gifts to entice Balaam to come with divinations and witchcraft to curse Israel); and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of King Balak. 8 And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam. 9 And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee? 10 And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying, 11 Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out. **12 And God said unto Balaam, a) Thou shalt not go with them; b) thou shalt not curse the people: c) for they are blessed.** Notice beloved there is nothing ambiguous about this declaration from God. God Almighty is crystal clear regarding His position on this matter.*

13 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, **Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you** (God said a little more than that - this is partial truth). 14 And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto King Balak, and said, Balaam refuseth to come with us. 15 ¶ And King Balak sent yet again princes, more, and

more honourable than they. 16 And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith King Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me: 17 **For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.** 18 And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of King Balak, If King Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more. 19 Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more. (Does Balaam really think God will change his mind, because King Balak upped the fee? God's answer was clear, there was no reason not to immediately send these ambassadors away.) 20 And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; (he has angered God – there is nothing to discuss – he doesn't need any counsel from God – this was “asked and answered” already – the answer has not changed. The answer is clear – do not go up. But God delivers Balaam up to his own lust, and greed and sin), *but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.* 21 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. Some say, the Lord's anger was kindled because he didn't wait for them to ask, he just rose and went with them. I think God's anger was starting to kindle when he didn't tell them from day one and thereafter that God had told him not to go, and not to curse them, because they are a blessed people (Numbers 22:12). But now, that he is going with these men – God is going to do a thing.

22 And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. 23 And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. 24 But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. 25 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again. 26 And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. 28 And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, what have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? 29 And Balaam said unto the ass, because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. 30 And the ass said unto Balaam, am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do

so unto thee? And he said, Nay. 31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head and fell flat on his face. 32 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, **because thy way is perverse before me:** 33 And the ass saw me and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. 34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again. 35 And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

36 And when Balak heard that Balaam was come, he went out to meet him unto a city of Moab, which is in the border of Arnon, which is in the utmost coast. **37 And Balak said unto Balaam, Did I not earnestly send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour?** 38 And Balaam said unto Balak, **Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say anything? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.** 39 And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kirjathhuzoth. 40 And **Balak offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that were with him.** 41 **And it came to pass on the morrow, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal, that thence he might see the utmost part of the people (people of Israel).** King Balak is wanting Balaam to secretly and with malice use divinations to cast spells and enchantments to curse the children of Israel and bring evil upon them. It reminds me of the local witch coven that back in the day was casting spells on us, so we would be destroyed. They were in the paper touting that. Beloved, in vain do they mutter spells against the people of God. Nothing will or can come from it because God walks with us. His eye is always upon us. Ps 33:18 *Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy.*

Numbers 23: 1 And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven oxen and seven rams. 2 And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on every altar a bullock and a ram. (It takes a lot of work to do this – here Balaam is getting religious – he is hoping that the sacrifices will woo God to cursing Israel). 3 And Balaam said unto Balak, Stand by thy burnt offering, and I will go: peradventure the LORD will come to meet me: and whatsoever he sheweth me I will tell thee. And he went to an high place....

First Blessing

7 And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel. **8 How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied? 9 For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone** (Israel will be separate from the other nations – they are not going to marry their women or take up with the idols and god's of the land), **and shall not be reckoned among the nations. 10 Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!** 11 And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether. 12 And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth? 13 ¶ And Balak said unto him, **Come, I pray thee, with me unto another place, from whence thou mayest see them: thou shalt see but the utmost part of them, and shalt not see them all: and curse me them from thence....**

Second Blessing

16 And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus. 17 And when he came to him, behold, he stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said unto him, What hath the LORD spoken? 18 And he took up his parable, and said, **Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor: 19 God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good? 20 Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and He hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it. 21 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath He seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them. 22 God brought them out of Egypt; He hath as it were the strength of an unicorn** (God personally dwelt with them to bring them up out of Egypt – the very strength of God is with them). 23 **Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel:** (King Balak you idiot, your curses, and witchcraft and enchantments are in vain), **according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!** 24 **Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain.** (Israel is going to completely defeat and annihilate Moab and Midian). 25 And Balak said unto Balaam, Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all. 26 But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do? 27 And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I

will bring thee unto another place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence. ...

Third Blessing

*Numbers 24:1 And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times (he didn't go to a third place, he just stayed where he was), to seek for enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness. 2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him. 3 And he took up his parable, and said, **Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: 4 He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: 5 How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! 6 As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters. 7 He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. 8 God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows. 9 He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee. 10 And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together (King Balak is hopping mad): and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed them these three times. 11 Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour. 12 And Balaam said unto Balak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying, 13 If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak? 14 And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days. 25 And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.*** The New Schaff-Herzog encyclopedia says that Balaam left Balak but stayed for a time with the Midianites who were allied to the Moabites and that is when he gave them the counsel to have the Moabitish women seduce the men of Israel to commit fornication. Why did Balaam do this? He did it because he was angry that he was denied the reward he so wanted. This is Balaam's revenge.

Numbers 25:1 ¶ And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. 2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. 3 And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

*Numbers 31:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites: afterward shalt thou be gathered unto thy people. 3 And Moses spake unto the people, saying, Arm some of yourselves unto the war, and let them go against the Midianites, and avenge the LORD of Midian. 4 Of every tribe a thousand, throughout all the tribes of Israel, shall ye send to the war. 5 So there were delivered out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand of every tribe, twelve thousand armed for war. 6 And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of every tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war, with the holy instruments, and the trumpets to blow in his hand. 7 And they warred against the Midianites, as the LORD commanded Moses; and they slew all the males. 8 And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: **Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.***

*9 And the children of Israel took all the women of Midian captives, and their little ones, and took the spoil of all their cattle, and all their flocks, and all their goods. 10 And they burnt all their cities wherein they dwelt, and all their goodly castles, with fire. 11 And they took all the spoil, and all the prey, both of men and of beasts. 12 And they brought the captives, and the prey, and the spoil, unto Moses, and Eleazar the priest, and unto the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the camp at the plains of Moab, which are by Jordan near Jericho. 13 ¶ And Moses, and Eleazar the priest, and all the princes of the congregation, went forth to meet them without the camp. 14 And Moses was wroth with the officers of the host, with the captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, which came from the battle. 15 And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive? **16 Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.***

*Josh. 13:22 **Balaam also the son of Beor, the soothsayer, did the children of Israel slay with the sword among them that were slain by them.***

Who is Balaam?

- Balam is a so-called prophet, soothsayer, diviner and sorcerer. A soothsayer is someone who predicts the future by black magic or curious arts. God Almighty forbids such things. Lev. 19: 31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be

defiled by them: I am the LORD your God. Lev. 20:27 *A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.* Nu 23:23 *Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!* De 18:10 *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.* 2Ki 17:17 *And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.*

- Balaam is renowned as a religious person, scholar and advisor of kings and dignities. Balaam knows some truth beloved. He is known in the whole region as a mystic and top counselor. His reputation proceeds him as an eloquent speaker and someone who gives excellent counsel. King Balak says: *for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.*
- He is “pastor for hire.” He reminds me of Billy Graham, who was hailed as the “Pastor to the Presidents.” Billy Graham met with 13 Presidents in his life to advise them on spiritual matters, or at least to get a photo op with them.



He met with every single President from Harry Truman to Donald Trump. He also met with and counseled Queen Elizabeth. He also reminds me of Ahithophel. Ahithophel was King David’s counselor, who forsook David and joined Absalom’s coup. 2 Sam 16:23 *And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God.*

- I can see him being a Dr. of Theology. Can’t you see him saying, “no, no, call me Dr. Balaam.” Some of his words are right like: Numbers 22:18 *And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I*

cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more. But, his spirit is wrong, wrong, wrong. His words say he is not outcome oriented. But, in fact, by his actions, he was outcome oriented. HE WANTED TO GO WITH THE MEN SO HE CAN CURSE ISRAEL AND GET THE MONEY in spite of what God said.. It's the money stupid.

- Balaam had a huge ego and thought extremely highly of himself. He knew he was smart and intelligent and maybe a genius. Beloved, the Lord hates pride. If you have similar tendencies, and think highly of yourself, you are susceptible to the error and doctrine of Balaam. Many people have fallen into this trap. We are nothing.
- Balaamites are extreme narcissistic. The religion they practice is about self, not God. It is always and only about what is in it for me.
- Balaam was greedy and covetous in the extreme. Jude 11 *Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, **and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.***
- Balaam wanted to live a lavish lifestyle, beloved. If you tend toward riches, luxury, and covetousness, beware. Beware beloved, because you could be enticed by this same sin.
- The Lord Jesus Christ warned us about this sin. Lu 12:15 *And he said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*** BEWARE OF GREED BELOVED, BEWARE OF A COVETOUS HEART. The 10th commandment is: Ex. 20:17 *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*
- The angel with his sword drawn said to Balaam: *thy way is perverse before me* (Numbers 22:32). Balaam's way was perverse because Balaam's heart was to go to Moab if possible, serve Balak, and curse Israel. The way of his heart was bad, and the Lord knew it.
- Balam was also about the glory of man. King Balak says *For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me.* King Balak says come and serve at my court and be one of my top counselors and I will give you a blank check and pay you whatever you want. Balaam was covetous of having a great reputation among men. He sought worldly power and earthly glory. Balaam was the Twitter "influencer" of his day. Beloved, do we seek the praise of man or the praise of God? 2 Tim. 2:4(b)...*that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*
- Balaam is a sophisticated, eloquent, slick talker. He is a liar and misrepresents things. He left out when talking to the ambassadors the first time that God said to not curse them and that God had blessed them. That is plausible deniability. Well, you can't prove that God told me these things, so I am not going to disclose them. He failed to tell King Balak the same things when he met him. **37 And Balak said unto Balaam, Did I not earnestly**

send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour? 38 And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.

- Balaam seeks glory and honor, not humility and servitude. Balaam didn't want to be a servant. He couldn't be happy being a mere servant. He wanted to be SOMEBODY. He wanted to be in King Balak's cabinet. We are servants beloved. If you want to be SOMEBODY, the people of God is not the place for you. If you want to be a citizen of this country and this world and be important and be an influencer you are not a servant of the Most High God. We are servants to each other and servants to the Lord God and Christ Jesus. *Tit 1:1 Paul, a servant of God; Jas 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ; 2Pe 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ; Jude 1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ. Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 1 Cor. 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base (low born, ignoble) things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. Mt 20:27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:*
- Beloved we have to be very wary of Balaam types. Why? Why do we have to be wary of Balaam? We have to be wary, because the Lord Jesus Christ said in Rev. 2, (to the church at Pergamos) 14 *I have a few things against thee, **because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*** Jude 4 *For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- Balaam is strategic, calculating and ingenious. He correctly ascertains that King Balak and the armies of Moab and Midian cannot defeat the children of Israel on the battlefield. He advises King Balak that the only way you can beat and overcome the children of Israel is to separate them from their God. He extrapolated that the power of the Israelites was not their army, but their secret weapon was their God! He advised King Balak to get them in trouble with their God and entice them with lewd women into fornication and spiritual

idolatry and God will kill them for you and they will no longer have an edge on you. He advised King Balak to setup a Las Vegas type environment or trap with inexpensive alcohol and inexpensive food and whorish Moabitish women to snare and entrap the men of Israel to commit fornication with them and then sacrificing to idols and the false god Baal-Peor. He **taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.**

- For all of Balaam's religion he was blinded to the actual God of eternity. He was blind to the angel of The Most High God. He thinks he is so smart, but he lacks spiritual knowledge and spiritual judgment. Israel didn't have any earthly fortune to offer him. The people of God are: poor, down trodden, vagabonds, tent dwellers, farmers/ranchers, with little earthly power and no visible signs of wealth (cities and storehouses of treasures and such).
- Dr. Balaam undervalued what the children of Israel did have. They had the most precious thing in the universe! They had a candlestick. They had the absolute favor of God. Once God told Dr. Balaam that those Israelites were blessed what should he have done? He should have sold all that he had and joined them as a stranger and pilgrim. Mat. 13:44 ¶ *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*
- What kind of implacable (not capable of being appeased, significantly changed, mitigated or turned) man could commune with God no less than five times and be told in no uncertain terms that God blessed and loved Israel and still reject the spirit of God and want to curse them, hurt them, reject them and take his revenge on him. We have known people like that; they see the goodness of the LORD and then reject him.
- God told him his way was perverse!

I will get to God's people next time. 1Pet. 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*

I love you all. Amen.