

Israel in Danger

Sin in the Camp - Part II

The Story of Balaam

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- Win Worley once preached a sermon: “How Balaam Became a Witch.” He was unaware of certain facts:
 - The *Book of Jasher*, Chapter 61:8 makes this statement:
 - And amongst the servants of Angeas was a youth fifteen years old, Balaam the son of Beor was his name and the youth was very wise and understood the art of witchcraft.
 - The *Book of Jasher* is cited authoritatively in both Joshua 10:13 and II Samuel 1:18. While the book was mentioned in the Bible, none of the rabbinical copies were ever translated into English until 1840. Even then, the book was treated with a lot of suspicion by scholars until it was found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. Pastor Worley was educated at a time when scholars were still skeptical of the book.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- In Chapter 67:18-20 Balaam gave this prophecy:
 - 18) And Balaam the son of Beor answered the king and said unto him, This means nothing else but a great evil that will spring up against Egypt in the latter days.
 - 19) For a son will be born to Israel who will destroy all Egypt and its inhabitants, and bring forth the Israelites from Egypt with a mighty hand.
 - 20) Now therefore, O king, take counsel upon this matter, that you may destroy the hope of the children of Israel and their expectation, before this evil arise against Egypt.
- As usual, prophecies from witches have a certain amount of truth in them, but normally, their prophecy is not always 100% correct! (Deuteronomy 18:22)

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

In Chapter 67:49 Balaam gave this prophecy:

49.If it please the king let him order all their children which shall be born from this day forward, to be thrown into the water, for by this canst thou wipe away their name, for none of them, nor of their fathers, were tried in this manner.

- The Egyptians did not follow Balaam's advice to the letter. They only killed the male children.
- Balaam believed that the Israelites were a newly-created race that never endured the Great Flood. Here, he made a terrible error... The Israelites' lineage goes back to Shem and Noah.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

The *Book of Jasher* mentions Balaam in eleven chapters.

- He was always considered a witch.
- He and his family always found ways to oppose the Children of Israel!
- His sons were Jannes and Jambres, the two magicians who opposed Moses in Egypt. (Jasher 79:17, II Timothy 3:8)
- It is clear that the Apostle Paul had read the Book of Jasher and considered it authoritative.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- Let's start with a quick history of Balaam:
 - Balaam was a witch from the beginning. He grew up in Mesopotamia, but followed his father, Beor, also a witch, to Egypt. Witchcraft follows down family lines.
 - In Egypt, he found favor with a new young Pharoah who was trying to eliminate the memory of Joseph who was Pharoah before him.
 - Once again, Jasher explains to us that Joseph was effectively Pharoah of Egypt for 70 years. (Jasher 50:8)
 - Joseph fought battles with the House of Esau and defeated them.
 - But from that day forward the children of Esau hated the sons of Jacob, and the hatred and enmity were very strong between them all the days, unto this day. (Jasher 58:28)

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- Let's start with a quick history of Balaam:
 - Balaam was a witch from the beginning. He grew up in Babylon, but followed his father, also a witch, to Edom.
 - His brother Bela, stayed in Edom and was their king.
 - His brother made the mistake of warring with Joseph and Egypt. He was killed in battle.
 - Beor and his son Balaam went to Egypt after Joseph died.
 - After Joseph died, a new dynasty arose in Egypt with a new Pharoah.
 - Beor and Balaam found favor with a new young Pharoah... who wanted to eliminate the memory of Joseph.
 - He outrightly advised Pharoah through his witchcrafts to kill all the Israelites, claiming that the Edomites would eventually invade Egypt and the Israelites would "join their brothers."

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- After the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, Balaam understood that his influence was nil, so he went back to Bethor, a witchcraft town in Mesopotamia to consult and draw power from the occult “portal” that was there, but he had to compete with other witches. His father was probably dead by this time.
 - Why was Great Britain interested in the area in the 19th and 20th centuries?
 - Why was the USA interested in the area in 1989?
- When the Amorites contemplated invading Moab, they called upon Balaam to curse the Moabites. He did and the Amorites successfully routed the Moabites. The Moabites were chased from the best of their land. They descended into a brutal civil war. Balak prevailed in that civil war and became the King of Moab. (cf. Numbers 21:13-14)

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- Later on, the Israelites at the end of their 40 years in the wilderness, finally went west and destroyed the Amorites at Bashan (King Og) and Heshbon (King Sihon). They now occupied the land that Moab had lost in the Amorite-Moab War.
- King Balak wrongly figured his kingdom was next. He never realized that as a descendant of the son of Lot, his territory was secure.
- His Midianite friends told him about what Balaam did for the Amorites and why Moab lost their War because of their curses.
- They encouraged King Balak to hire Balaam to curse Israel.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- The Midianites eventually convinced King Balak that hiring Balaam was the best course of action.
- Balaam, stuck in Bethor, Mesopotamia, was not doing very well competing with the other witches in the area.
- When King Balak's princes made their proposal to Balaam, he initially was not interested because he did not want to upset his former employers, the Amorites. When the princes informed Balaam that the Israelites had wiped them out, he was even less interested, he had nothing but trouble with the Israelites.
 - He had tried cursing them before and ended up impoverished and discredited for his trouble.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- King Balak realized that he would have to “sweeten the pot” if he was going to get Balaam to come curse Israel. He offered more money and more benefits.
- This time, Balaam, still impoverished and still obliged to compete with other witches in Mesopotamia, takes the deal and goes to Moab.
 - He knows he will have to be careful or he will be destroyed.
 - He knows what YHWH did to Egypt and doesn't want it to happen to him.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- King Balak was glad to see Balaam. He had no idea what he was dealing with regarding Israel, but Balaam did.
- However, like any witch, he is not going to tell Balak the whole story.
- He does three sacrifices in the hope that he can get a prophetic curse from YHWH so he can get his money and go home.
- None of them work and Balak is about ready to execute Balaam.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- Balaam finally counsels King Balak:
 - If you want to curse Israel, you have to find a way to bring sin into the camp.
 - The best way is to trick Israel into worshipping idols.
 - Balaam hires Midianite women to seduce the Israelite men to join themselves to Baal-peor. (Numbers 31:16)
- It works and in the end, the Israelites lose 24,000 in the ensuing plague.
- King Balak undoubtedly sent Balaam his fee.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- Balaam does not go back to Mesopotamia.
- Balaam is now highly regarded in Moab and Midian, so he sets up his witchcraft practice in Midian.
- It does not take Moses long to find out that his old nemesis Balaam had “set up shop” in Midian.
- He likely ordered that if the troops invading Midian encountered Balaam, they were to kill him “with prejudice.”
- 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. (Numbers 31:8, Joshua 13:22)

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- What should we learn from the story of Balaam:
 - He is a witch, but he understands his enemies very well. He knows the history of the Israelites back to Abraham and uses it to sell his witchcraft.
 - A witch works to make himself indispensable, insuring that he has a steady source of income. Early in life, he wins the favor of Pharoah. In time, he becomes parasitic to the kingdom and economy of Egypt. Balaam and his sons convince a young Pharoah that he cannot rule his kingdom without him.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- **What should we learn from the story of Balaam:**
 - When the Israelites grew in population in Egypt, Balaam saw them as a threat.
 - Balaam understood that if an Israelite ever ascended the Egyptian throne again, he will likely be wise like Joseph was when he ruled Egypt. That potential leader would not like or even want witches like Balaam in their court.
 - Witches often give false counsel based upon faulty analysis. Balaam counsels Pharoah that if the Edomite Kingdom ever invaded Egypt, that their brothers, the Israelites, would rise up and join them in the war.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- What should we learn from the story of Balaam:
 - That analysis was faulty because the Edomites and the Israelites were enemies because Israel owned Isaac's blessing and birthright, which the Edomites claimed was obtained using fraudulent means.
 - Balaam and his sons developed enough credibility in Egypt that when he made authoritative statements, Pharoah was not likely to gather intelligence or do any other type of "due diligence" to determine if Balaam's statements were correct.
 - Had Pharoah and his court bothered to check their story, they would have discovered that Israel had joined Egypt in battle against the Edomites helping them to win several big battles.
 - Turning against Israel would bring about judgment on Egypt.

Is the Evil of Balaam a Concern Today?

- What should we learn from the story of Balaam:
 - While the prophesied Edomite invasion never came, but by enslaving the Israelites, the Egyptian economy grew faster (lower labor costs), giving them more economic power in the Middle East. This made Balaam and his sons appear wiser to the Egyptian court.
 - Eventually, the witches encounter someone more powerful than they were.
 - In the case of Balaam and his sons Jannes and Jambres, they would encounter Moses and Aaron. The ten plagues demonstrated to Egypt just how powerless they really were.
 - In the case of Bar-Yahusha, it was Paul and Silas. (Acts 13:6-11)
 - In both cases, they would be humiliated and forced to move on.