

Let Me Die the Death of the Righteous

Text: Numbers 22 – 24

Introduction:

1. Balaam was a bad man with many good qualities.
 2. He knew and sought to serve Jehovah.
 3. He outwardly obeyed the instructions of God.
 4. He desired the “last end” of those who were righteous.
 5. Yet, he was evil and corrupt in heart...
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- I. Balak’s Fear (Numbers 22:1-6)
 - A. He knew that God’s hand was with Israel.
 - B. He knew that God’s hand was against Moab.
 - C. He hoped to remove Israel from God’s favor.

 - II. Balaam’s Instructions (Numbers 22:7-21)
 - A. Vs. 8 – His initial answer should have been, “No!”
 - B. Vs. 12 – God’s instructions were clear.
 - C. Vs. 13 – He does not tell the whole truth.
 - D. Vs. 14 – Nor do they!
 - E. Vs. 18-19 – He hopes God has changed His mind.
 1. He would not blatantly break God’s law.
 2. But, in his heart, he wanted to.
 - F. Vs. 20 – God allows in anger what He forbade in mercy (cf. Psa. 81:11-12).
 1. God still did not approve.
 2. His instructions are meant to limit Balaam.

 - III. God’s Anger (Numbers 22:22-35)
 - A. Vs. 22 – His anger was over Balaam’s willfulness.
 - B. Vs. 32 – Balaam’s rebellion was perverse (reckless).
 - C. Vs. 34-35 – Balaam is still determined to disobey.
 - D. A stubborn donkey was more submissive to God than Balaam, a prophet of the Lord, was.

 - IV. Balaam’s Blessings (Numbers 22:36 – 24:25)
 - A. Four times, Balaam blesses God’s people.
 - B. However, in his heart, Balaam wanted to curse them.
 - C. Pay special attention to Numbers 23:21.

 - V. Israel’s Transgression (Numbers 25:1-9; 31:16)
 - A. Vs. 1 – Fornication and adultery
 - B. Vs. 2 – Idolatry
 - C. Vs. 3 – The worship of Baal (possibly intermarriage)
 - D. All of this was done at the instigation of Balaam!

- VI. Balaam's Death (Numbers 31:8; Joshua 13:22)
- A. Balaam did not die the death of the righteous.
 - B. Instead, he died among God's enemies.
 - C. For all his pretense, Balaam was evil (2 Peter 2:15; Jude 1:11).

Conclusion: *There are many Balaam's in the Lord's church today!*