

INTRODUCTION: The angel of the Lord that met Balaam in the way said, "Because thy way is perverse before me." Num. 22:32

WHO WAS BALAAM? WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS HE? HOW BALAAM MAY SAFELY BE JUDGED.

1. Some ways to know a man without harsh judgment.
 1. What others say about him. Considering who those others are.
 2. By what others do to him. Considering who those doers are.
 3. By what others do for him and to him.
 4. By what the man himself says and how he says what he says.
 5. By what he does to others.
2. Consider Balaam: A Devourer Of The People.
 1. Balaam was an unhappy man:
 1. He heard the words of God and set out to change that word because it stood in the way of what he wanted to do.
 2. He was a prophet of God, yet a mad and foolish man because the angel of the Lord stood in his way.
 3. He was a man who sought to destroy bodies and souls for the sake of his own wretched gain: He loved the wages of unrighteousness, 2 Peter 2:15.
 4. He was a man who could pray. "Let me die the (Num.23:10) death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" HOWEVER:
 1. He showed by the best of all evidence that he would have nothing to do with righteousness:
 1. As a state of heart and conduct.
 2. As a standard in all dealings with God and man.
 2. It was not righteousness that he desired but the effects of righteousness he most wanted. He cared nothing about the cause if only he could get the effects.
 3. Balaam loved the vine because the produced the grapes but if he could have gotten grapes from the thorns he would have loved the thorns.

4. Out of Balaam's, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his" we see:
 1. The deep impression which the blessed life of God's people is capable of making upon the ungodly.

2. THE WAY OF BALAAM:

1. He is the typical hireling prophet, preacher, teacher, or elder willing to go on the market with his gift.
 1. He loved the wages, sought after, of unrighteousness. 2 Peter 2:15
 2. The Revised Version says, "He loved the hire of wrong-doing." 2 Pet. 2:15
2. BALAAM'S HIRE.
 1. Balaam lusted for the gold and silver and praise and honor that only men can bestow.
 2. He sought after such rewards as Judas clutched the thirty pieces of silver, the price that he obtained for his Master's blood.
 3. "The way of the transgressor is hard", and "the wages of sin is death" were lessons that Balaam and Judas learned too late. (Prov. 13:15; Rom. 6:23)

May these considerations lead the sinner to forsake the tyrant's service, repudiate the tyrant's claims, and fling back the tyrant's hire of wrong doing.

...the robes that he would have...

3. Balaam loved the vine because the pro-

It only he could eat the vine.

4. It was not righteousness that he desired

God and man.

5. As a standard in all dealings with

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(Rom. 3:10) "Let us die the

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