

References are book of Numbers unless indicated otherwise

Title: Lessons in a Book of Numbers

Text: Numbers 22:8 – 35; 25: 1-13

1. A Cold War Strategy

- 21:21-35
- 21:29; 22:1-4
- 22:7
- 22:9
- 22:13
- 22:21
- 22:28
- 22:33
- 22:34
- 23:9, 23:24, 24:1-9
- 24:17
- a) Israel's current position they had recently defeated the Amorites and Bashan
 - b) Moabs current position – they had recently been defeated by the Amorites and know they are undone.
 - c) Balaam's Trial
 - i. He is approached by Elders of Moab and Elders of Midian
 - 1. invites them to fellowship
 - ii. Approached by God
 - 1. Similar to Gen. 3:9
 - iii. Balaam blames God and invites Balak to negotiation
 - iv. He is visited again by the Princes of Moab and offered honor
 - 1. Again invites them to stay
 - v. Receives a "different" message from God.
 - d) Balaam's Decision
 - i. God's wrath is kindled
 - ii. The donkey Speaks and Balaam Nays
 - iii. The donkey saves
 - iv. Balaam's false repentance
 - e) Balaam's Prophecies
 - i. Of Moab
 - ii. Of Israel
 - iii. Of the Messiah

Application:

I Cor. 10:12 "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

When tempted with evil, we ought to take Joseph's example and run the other way. There is no room for hesitation or considering if God may be okay with it this time, or weighing the consequences.

Humility is key Prov. 15:33 "The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility"

Prov. 18:12 "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility"

II Cor. 7:10 "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death"

When faced with the opportunity to change, take full hold of it and change, It may be your last opportunity. Make a real lasting change through the power of Jesus Christ.

Just because God is using you, that doesn't necessarily mean that you are in His will.

- 31:16 f) Balaam's advise to Balaak to conquer Isreal
- i. Moral corruption
 - ii. Spiritual corruption
 1. They bowed down to other gods
 2. Joined themselves to Baal-Peor
- 25:1
- 25:2-3 2. A Comparison – a story of Phinehas
- a) Israel's position – Committing whoredom
 - b) God's Wrath is kindled – and a plague begins
 - c) Moses commands for judgment to be administered
 - d) A mocking Israelite
 - i. Zimri son of Salu a Simeonite
 - ii. Cozbi daughter of Zur
 - e) Phinehas rises up
 - i. Who Phinehas Is
 1. Godly heritage
 1. Father – Eleazar
 2. Nadab and Abihu
 2. Personal Relationship
 - ii. What Phinehas Does
- 25:9 3. A Consequence –
- a) The Plague (24 thousand died)
 - b) The Census (the tribe of Simeon had the most significant loss of population)
 - c) The war with Midian
 - i. Balaam dies
 - ii. Zur dies
 - iii. All Midianites destroyed (only female children saved alive)
- 2:23, 26:14
- 31:1-8
- 31:8
- 31:10-11,17-18

James 1:15 “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death.”

Tribe:	Numbers 2 Census	Numbers 26 Census	Percent Change	Change in Population
Reuben	46,500	43,730	-6%	-2,770
Simeon	59,300	22,200	-167%	-37,100
Gad	45,650	40,500	-13%	-5,150
Judah	74,600	76,500	2%	1,900
Issachar	54,400	64,300	15%	9,900
Zebulun	57,400	60,500	5%	3,100
Manasseh	32,200	52,700	39%	20,500
Ephraim	40,500	32,500	-25%	-8,000
Benjamin	35,400	45,600	22%	10,200
Dan	62,700	64,400	3%	1,700
Asher	41,500	53,400	22%	11,900
Naphtali	53,400	45,400	-18%	-8,000
Total:	603,550	601,730		-1,820

4. Conclusion

a) Phinehas

- i. Received peace covenant with God
- ii. Confirmed Priesthood covenant
- iii. Made atonement for Israel
- iv. Was a blessing to his seed
- v. Honored his father
- vi. Positive record in scripture
- vii. Was Zealous
- viii. Believed God

b) Balaam

- i. Died as a result
- ii. Did not receive honor or a house full of silver and gold
- iii. Was a curse to Israel / Wrath was kindled due to his action
- iv. Left no decendents
- v. Did not honor his Father
- vi. Negative record in Scripture
- vii. Was greedy
- viii. Lacked faith

Event	Loss
Baal-peor Plague	-24,000
Korah	-14,700
Total:	-38,700

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

