



## Balak Sends for Balaam

### Numbers 22:1-8 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Then the people of Israel set out and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan at Jericho. <sup>2</sup>And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. <sup>3</sup>And Moab was in great dread of the people, because they were many. Moab was overcome with fear of the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And Moab said to the elders of Midian, "This horde will now lick up all that is around us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field." So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, <sup>5</sup>sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw, to call him, saying, "Behold, a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me. <sup>6</sup>Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed." <sup>7</sup>So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the fees for divination in their hand. And they came to Balaam and gave him Balak's message. <sup>8</sup>And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the Lord speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.

## Balaam Practices Divination Numbers 22:9-20 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> And God came to Balaam and said, “Who are these men with you?” <sup>10</sup> And Balaam said to God, “Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, <sup>11</sup> ‘Behold, a people has come out of Egypt, and it covers the face of the earth. Now come, curse them for me. Perhaps I shall be able to fight against them and drive them out.’ ” <sup>12</sup> God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.” <sup>13</sup> So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, “Go to your own land, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you.” <sup>14</sup> So the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak and said, “Balaam refuses to come with us.” <sup>15</sup> Once again Balak sent princes, more in number and more honorable than these. <sup>16</sup> And they came to Balaam and said to him, “Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: ‘Let nothing hinder you from coming to me, <sup>17</sup> for I will surely do you great honor, and whatever you say to me I will do. Come, curse this people for me.’ ” <sup>18</sup> But Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, “Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the command of the Lord my God to do less or more. <sup>19</sup> So you, too, please stay here tonight, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me.” <sup>20</sup> And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, “If the men have come to call you, rise, go with them; but only do what I tell you.”

## God is Angry with Balaam Numbers 22:21-29 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> So Balaam rose in the morning and saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. <sup>22</sup> But God’s anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the way as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. <sup>23</sup> And the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road. <sup>24</sup> Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. <sup>25</sup> And when the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pushed against the wall and pressed Balaam’s foot against the wall. So he struck her again. <sup>26</sup> Then the angel of the Lord went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. <sup>27</sup> When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam’s anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. <sup>28</sup> Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?” <sup>29</sup> And Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you.”

## Balaam's Donkey Rebukes Him Numbers 22:30-35 (ESV)

<sup>30</sup> And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?" And he said, "No." <sup>31</sup> Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face. <sup>32</sup> And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me. <sup>33</sup> The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live." <sup>34</sup> Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood in the road against me. Now therefore, if it is evil in your sight, I will turn back." <sup>35</sup> And the angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only the word that I tell you." So Balaam went on with the princes of Balak.

## Balaam Goes Up With Balak Numbers 22:36-41 (ESV)

<sup>36</sup> When Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, on the border formed by the Arnon, at the extremity of the border. <sup>37</sup> And Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not send to you to call you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?" <sup>38</sup> Balaam said to Balak, "Behold, I have come to you! Have I now any power of my own to speak anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that must I speak." <sup>39</sup> Then Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kiriath-huzoth. <sup>40</sup> And Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and sent for Balaam and for the princes who were with him. <sup>41</sup> And in the morning Balak took Balaam and brought him up to Bamoth-baal, and from there he saw a fraction of the people.

## Balaam's First Oracle

### Numbers 23:1-12 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> And Balaam said to Balak, “**Build for me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.**” <sup>2</sup> Balak did as Balaam had said. And Balak and Balaam offered on each altar a bull and a ram. <sup>3</sup> And Balaam said to Balak, “Stand beside your burnt offering, and I will go. Perhaps the Lord will come to meet me, and whatever he shows me I will tell you.” And he went to a bare height, <sup>4</sup> and God met Balaam. And Balaam said to him, “I have arranged the seven altars and I have offered on each altar a bull and a ram.” <sup>5</sup> And the Lord put a word in Balaam's mouth and said, “Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak.” <sup>6</sup> And he returned to him, and behold, he and all the princes of Moab were standing beside his burnt offering. <sup>7</sup> And Balaam took up his discourse and said, “From Aram Balak has brought me, the king of Moab from the eastern mountains: ‘Come, curse Jacob for me, and come, denounce Israel!’ <sup>8</sup> How can I curse whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced? <sup>9</sup> For from the top of the crags I see him, from the hills I behold him; behold, a people dwelling alone, and not counting itself among the nations! <sup>10</sup> Who can count the dust of Jacob or number the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!” <sup>11</sup> And Balak said to Balaam, “What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have done nothing but bless them.” <sup>12</sup> And he answered and said, “Must I not take care to speak what the Lord puts in my mouth?”

## Balaam's Second Oracle

### Numbers 23:13-30 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> And Balak said to him, “Please come with me to another place, from which you may see them. You shall see only a fraction of them and shall not see them all. Then curse them for me from there.” <sup>14</sup> And he took him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. <sup>15</sup> Balaam said to Balak, “Stand here beside your burnt offering, while I meet the Lord over there.” <sup>16</sup> And the Lord met Balaam and put a word in his mouth and said, “Return to Balak, and thus shall you speak.” <sup>17</sup> And he came to him, and behold, he was standing beside his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said to him, “What has the Lord spoken?” <sup>18</sup> And Balaam took up his discourse and said, “Rise, Balak, and hear; give ear to me, O son of Zippor: <sup>19</sup> God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? <sup>20</sup> Behold, I received a command to bless: he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it. <sup>21</sup> He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob, nor has he seen trouble in Israel. The Lord their God is with them, and the shout of a king is among them. <sup>22</sup> God brings them out of Egypt and is for them like the horns of the wild ox. <sup>23</sup> For there is no enchantment against Jacob, no divination against Israel; now it shall be said of Jacob and Israel, ‘What has God wrought!’ <sup>24</sup> Behold, a people! As a lioness it rises up and as a lion it lifts itself; it does not lie down until it has devoured the prey and drunk the blood of the slain.” <sup>25</sup> And Balak said to Balaam, “Do not curse them at all, and do not bless them at all.” <sup>26</sup> But Balaam answered Balak, “Did I not tell you, ‘All that the Lord says, that I must do?’” <sup>27</sup> And Balak said to Balaam, “Come now, I will take you to another place. Perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there.” <sup>28</sup> So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, which overlooks the desert. <sup>29</sup> And Balaam said to Balak, “Build for me here seven altars and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.” <sup>30</sup> And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

## Balaam's Third Oracle

### Numbers 24:1-14 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>When Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not go, as at other times, to look for omens, but set his face toward the wilderness. <sup>2</sup>And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him, <sup>3</sup>and he took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, <sup>4</sup>the oracle of him who hears the words of God, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered: <sup>5</sup>How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your encampments, O Israel! <sup>6</sup>Like palm groves that stretch afar, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the Lord has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters. <sup>7</sup>Water shall flow from his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters; his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. <sup>8</sup>God brings him out of Egypt and is for him like the horns of the wild ox; he shall eat up the nations, his adversaries, and shall break their bones in pieces and pierce them through with his arrows. <sup>9</sup>He crouched, he lay down like a lion and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you." <sup>10</sup>And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he struck his hands together. And Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have blessed them these three times. <sup>11</sup>Therefore now flee to your own place. I said, 'I will certainly honor you,' but the Lord has held you back from honor." <sup>12</sup>And Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not tell your messengers whom you sent to me, <sup>13</sup>'If Balak should give me his house full of silver and gold, I would not be able to go beyond the word of the Lord, to do either good or bad of my own will. What the Lord speaks, that will I speak?' <sup>14</sup>And now, behold, I am going to my people. Come, I will let you know what this people will do to your people in the latter days."

## Balaam's Final Oracle

### Numbers 24:15-25 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup>And he took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, <sup>16</sup>the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered: <sup>17</sup>I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth. <sup>18</sup>Edom shall be dispossessed; Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed. Israel is doing valiantly. <sup>19</sup>And one from Jacob shall exercise dominion and destroy the survivors of cities!" <sup>20</sup>Then he looked on Amalek and took up his discourse and said, "Amalek was the first among the nations, but its end is utter destruction." <sup>21</sup>And he looked on the Kenite, and took up his discourse and said, "Enduring is your dwelling place, and your nest is set in the rock. <sup>22</sup>Nevertheless, Kain shall be burned when Asshur takes you away captive." <sup>23</sup>And he took up his discourse and said, "Alas, who shall live when God does this? <sup>24</sup>But ships shall come from Kittim and shall afflict Asshur and Eber; and he too shall come to utter destruction." <sup>25</sup>Then Balaam rose and went back to his place. And Balak also went his way.

## Midian Sends Its Daughters to Israel Numbers 25 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. <sup>2</sup> These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. <sup>3</sup> So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel. <sup>4</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, "Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the Lord, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel." <sup>5</sup> And Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor." <sup>6</sup> And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. <sup>7</sup> When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand <sup>8</sup> and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. <sup>9</sup> Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.

## Phinehas Commended Numbers 25 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, <sup>11</sup> "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy. <sup>12</sup> Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace, <sup>13</sup> and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.' " <sup>14</sup> The name of the slain man of Israel, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, chief of a father's house belonging to the Simeonites. <sup>15</sup> And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur, who was the tribal head of a father's house in Midian. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>17</sup> "Harass the Midianites and strike them down, <sup>18</sup> for they have harassed you with their wives, with which they beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of the chief of Midian, their sister, who was killed on the day of the plague on account of Peor."

## Israel Defeats Midian Numbers 31:1-12 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people.” <sup>3</sup> So Moses spoke to the people, saying, “Arm men from among you for the war, that they may go against Midian to execute the Lord’s vengeance on Midian. <sup>4</sup> You shall send a thousand from each of the tribes of Israel to the war.” <sup>5</sup> So there were provided, out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war. <sup>6</sup> And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand from each tribe, together with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the vessels of the sanctuary and the trumpets for the alarm in his hand. <sup>7</sup> They warred against Midian, as the Lord commanded Moses, and killed every male. <sup>8</sup> They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of their slain, Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. And they also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword. <sup>9</sup> And the people of Israel took captive the women of Midian and their little ones, and they took as plunder all their cattle, their flocks, and all their goods. <sup>10</sup> All their cities in the places where they lived, and all their encampments, they burned with fire, <sup>11</sup> and took all the spoil and all the plunder, both of man and of beast. <sup>12</sup> Then they brought the captives and the plunder and the spoil to Moses, and to Eleazar the priest, and to the congregation of the people of Israel, at the camp on the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.

## Dealing with Female Captives Numbers 31:13 – 20 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Moses and Eleazar the priest and all the chiefs of the congregation went to meet them outside the camp. <sup>14</sup> And Moses was angry with the officers of the army, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, who had come from service in the war. <sup>15</sup> Moses said to them, “Have you let all the women live? <sup>16</sup> Behold, these, on Balaam’s advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord. <sup>17</sup> Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man by lying with him. <sup>18</sup> But all the young girls who have not known man by lying with him keep alive for yourselves. <sup>19</sup> Encamp outside the camp seven days. Whoever of you has killed any person and whoever has touched any slain, purify yourselves and your captives on the third day and on the seventh day. <sup>20</sup> You shall purify every garment, every article of skin, all work of goats’ hair, and every article of wood.”

## Eleazar “Baptizes” the Virgins Numbers 31:21-29 [ESV]

<sup>21</sup> Then Eleazar the priest said to the men in the army who had gone to battle: “This is the statute of the law that the Lord has commanded Moses: <sup>22</sup> only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead, <sup>23</sup> everything that can stand the fire, you shall pass through the fire, and it shall be clean. Nevertheless, it shall also be purified with the water for impurity. And whatever cannot stand the fire, you shall pass through the water. <sup>24</sup> You must wash your clothes on the seventh day, and you shall be clean. And afterward you may come into the camp.” <sup>25</sup> The Lord said to Moses, <sup>26</sup> “Take the count of the plunder that was taken, both of man and of beast, you and Eleazar the priest and the heads of the fathers’ houses of the congregation, <sup>27</sup> and divide the plunder into two parts between the warriors who went out to battle and all the congregation. <sup>28</sup> And levy for the Lord a tribute from the men of war who went out to battle, one out of five hundred, of the people and of the oxen and of the donkeys and of the flocks. <sup>29</sup> Take it from their half and give it to Eleazar the priest as a contribution to the Lord.

## Altar Theology

- I. Not possible to “invoke” God through an altar or some sort of sacrifice
- II. Altars only permissible when,
  - A. Theophany (God Appears)
  - B. God causes His Name to be remembered
    1. After Holy War, etc.
  - C. God’s Command
    1. Bronze Altar, Altar of Incense, Etc.
    2. Altar to sacrifice Isaac
- III. Divination is the superstitious and abominable act of trying to summon God

## Law on Female Captives

### Deuteronomy 21:10-14 [ESV]

<sup>10</sup>“When you go out to war against your enemies, and the Lord your God gives them into your hand and you take them captive, <sup>11</sup> and you see among the captives a beautiful woman, and you desire to take her to be your wife, <sup>12</sup> and you bring her home to your house, she shall shave her head and pare her nails. <sup>13</sup> And she shall take off the clothes in which she was captured and shall remain in your house and lament her father and her mother a full month. After that you may go in to her and be her husband, and she shall be your wife. <sup>14</sup> But if you no longer delight in her, you shall let her go where she wants. But you shall not sell her for money, nor shall you treat her as a slave, since you have humiliated her.

## Law on Female Captives

### Analysis

A When you see among the female captives a beautiful woman

B And you desire to take her to yourself as a wife

**X Shave her head, pare her nails, and keep her for a full month**

B' Then you may take her as your wife

A' If she no longer pleases you, you must release her outright

## Female Slaves Analysis Continued...

- I. Non-Jewish, non-Hebrew Female Slaves
  - A. Marriage is forbidden
    - 1. Believers are not to marry unbelievers
  - B. Non-marital sexual intercourse absolutely forbidden
  - C. Remember Midian's crime in the first place
- II. Female Captives
  - A. Slavery is the default
    - 1. Such slaves not to be sold "outside" of Israel... ie – to the Nations
    - 2. Sexual intercourse forbidden
  - B. May "convert" into the faith
  - C. Once "converted" they may marry into Israel
    - 1. Difficult process assumed that removes "sexual appeal"
      - a. Clothing, hair, nails, etc.
    - 2. Full benefits of a wife
    - 3. She may divorce just as a non-believer does... by leaving the marriage

## Balaam

### New Testament Commentaries

## Beware False Prophets

### 2 Peter 2:1-9 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup> And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. <sup>3</sup> And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. <sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; <sup>5</sup> if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; <sup>6</sup> if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; <sup>7</sup> and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked <sup>8</sup> (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); <sup>9</sup> then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

## Beware False Prophets

### 2 Peter 2:10-16 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, <sup>11</sup> whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. <sup>12</sup> But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, <sup>13</sup> suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. <sup>14</sup> They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! <sup>15</sup> *Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing,* <sup>16</sup> *but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.*

## Beware Balaam's Error

### Jude 5-13 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup> And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— <sup>7</sup> just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. <sup>8</sup> Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. <sup>9</sup> But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." <sup>10</sup> But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. <sup>11</sup> ***Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.*** <sup>12</sup> These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; <sup>13</sup> wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

## Beware the Teaching of Balaam

### Revelation 2:12-17 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. <sup>13</sup> "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. <sup>14</sup> ***But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.*** <sup>15</sup> So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup> Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

## Beware the Devil's Servants

### 2 Timothy 3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. <sup>6</sup> For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> *Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.* <sup>9</sup> But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. <sup>10</sup> You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while *evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.* <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,* <sup>17</sup> *that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*