

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## TEACHINGS FROM BALAAM

*“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)*

### Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	God has the power to dictate the events of history. He is able to use anyone, even Gentiles, for His purpose.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God desires to bless His people. No desire of God’s can be withheld from Him. Remember that with God on our side, nothing can stand in our way.
<i>Good Works</i>	Understand the blinding power of pride and greed. Learn to serve God with a pure heart.

### A. Who Was Balaam?

According to the Bible, a false prophet who led the children of Israel, astray Balaam was an instrumental figure in causing the Israelites to sin against God. Peter described him as someone who “loved the wages of unrighteousness” (2 Pet 2:15), and Jude said that false teachers, like Balaam, were motivated entirely by greed (Jude 11). He was a man who served only his own interests, and as a result, had no qualms about destroying the faith of the Israelites in order to reach his own goals.

### B. Balak Sends for Balaam (Num 22:1–21)

Balak and Balaam’s actions were those of people who did not respect God. Their words may have given different impressions, but their actions showed hearts that followed their own desires. From this, we can see that when someone’s heart is set on sin, they will ignore anything that runs contrary to what they want.

### C. Balaam, the Donkey, and the Angel (Num 22:22–34)

Because of Balaam’s resolve to sin, his entire perception of the situation was clouded. When he finally confessed his mistake, it was clear from his words that he was not truly repentant. This teaches us that it is easy to pretend to repent, but our deeds reflect our true heart. If we truly loved God, then we would genuinely want to please Him from our hearts, rather than try to push the boundaries of sin.

### D. God Blesses the Israelites Through Balaam (Num 22:35–24:24)

Although Balaam was supposed to be speaking on behalf of the true God, he still took part in idolatry. He may have served as God’s messenger, but he did not belong to God, teaching us that those who serve the Lord do not necessarily have a close relationship with Him.

1. *The first blessing: Israel has been chosen by God*
2. *The second blessing: God’s blessing cannot be removed*
3. *The third blessing: The strength of Israel*
4. *The fourth blessing: The coming Messiah from Israel*
5. *The last prophecies: Judgment against the Gentile nations*

### Life Application

1. The Hidden Power of God in History
2. The Blinding Power of Pride and Greed
3. Serving God with a Pure Heart

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## Lesson 6 Homework Assignment

### Teachings from Balaam

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Matthew 6:24):

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1. What does the memory verse teach us about our hearts and serving God?
2. “They have \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ way and gone \_\_\_\_\_, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”  
(2 Peter 2:15)
3. What do Balak and Balaam teach us about a heart that is set on its own desires?
4. Balaam served as God’s messenger, but he did not belong to God. What can we learn from this?
5. Why do pride and greed blind us spiritually?
6. Are there other things in your heart which push God out of your life? Explain.