

בַּלַּק

BALAK



TORAH — B'MIDBAR (NUM) 22:2 – 25:9

B'RIT HADASHAH — 2 KEFA (PETER) 2: 1– 3, 15– 22

“Your words may hide your thoughts, but your actions will reveal them.”

Zingers by Croft M. Pentz

15 Balak again sent princes, more of them and of higher status than the first group.

16 They went to Bil'am (Balaam) and said to him, "Here is what Balak the son of Tzippor says: 'Please don't let anything keep you from coming to me. 17 I will reward you very well, and whatever you say to me I will do. So please come, and curse this people for me.'"

18 Bil'am answered the servants of Balak, "Even if Balak were to give me his palace filled with silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of ADONAI my G-d to do anything, great or small. 19 Now, please, you too, stay here tonight; so that I may find out what else ADONAI will say to me." 20 G-d came to Bil'am during the night and said to him, "If the men have come to summon you, get up and go with them; but do only what I tell you." 21 So Bil'am got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Mo'av. 22 But G-d's anger flared up because he went, and the angel of ADONAI stationed himself on the path to bar his way. He was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.

* Bil'am (Balaam) asked them to “*stay here tonight*” so he could talk to G-d again about the matter! He also didn't wait for Balak's representatives to come to him but “*got up in the morning*” to go to them!

2 KEFA (PETER) 2: 1– 3

1 *But among the people there were also false prophets, just as there will be false teachers among you. Under false pretenses they will introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and thus bring on themselves swift destruction.* **2** *Many will follow their debaucheries; and because of them, the true Way will be maligned.* **3** *In their greed they will exploit you with **fabricated (πλαστοῖς)** stories. Their punishment, decreed long ago, is not idle; their destruction is not asleep!*

fabricated (πλαστοῖς) stories

Strong's #4112 πλαστός **plastos** {plas-tos'} Meaning: 1) moulded, formed, as from clay, wax, or stone 2) feigned

Note that we derive our English word **plastic** from this meaning!

Kefa (Peter) points out that among the people there **were false prophets** but then immediately states that there **will be false teachers**. He uses a past tense for prophets and a future tense for teachers. Why the difference?

Also, notice that Kefa (Peter) singled out “teachers” and not other types of ministries. Why?

Are atheists or false teachers more damaging to the Kingdom of G-d?

Kefa (Peter) listed in the above verses of signs that that false prophets will demonstrate. What are they?

Ref: 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:3; Mattityahu (Matthew) 7:15, 24:11

Yochanan (John) 14

6 *Yeshua said, "I AM the Way- and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.*

NAU

Luke 9

23 *And He [Yeshua] was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

“the true Way will be maligned” In verse 2 above, Kefa (Peter) talks about the true Way. What is the true Way?

2 KEFA (PETER) 2:15–22

15 *These people have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Bil'am Ben-B'or, who loved the wages of doing harm (^{nau} unrighteousness)*

"have left the straight way"

"No man ever got lost on a straight road."

Zingers by Croft M. Pentz

NAU

Jude 1

11 *Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam (Bil'am), and perished in the rebellion of Korah.*

NAU

Revelation 2

14 *'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.*

B'midbar (Num) 25

1 *Isra'el stayed at Sheetim, and there the people began whoring with the women of Mo'av.*

...

9 *nevertheless, 24,000 died in the plague.*

Note the harm that Bil'am did to Isra'el! Balaam (Bil'am) didn't curse against Israel as commanded and yet found another way to destroy Israel.

1 Timothy 6

5(b) ... *who have been deprived of the truth, so that they imagine that religion is a road to riches.*

16 *but was rebuked for his sin- a dumb beast of burden spoke out with a human voice and restrained the prophet's insanity!*

NAU

Isaiah 1

3 *"An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master's manger, But Israel does not know, My people do not understand."*

NAU

B'midbar (Numbers) 22

37 *Then Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not urgently send to you to call you? Why did you not come to me? Am I really unable to honor you?"*

17 *Waterless springs they are, mists driven by a gust of wind; for them has been reserved the blackest darkness.*

Why the analogy to “waterless springs”? Ref: Y’hudah (Jude) 1:12-13

18 *Mouthing grandiosities of nothingness, they play on the desires of the old nature, in order to seduce with debaucheries people who have just begun to escape from those whose way of life is wrong.*

B'reshet (Genesis) 3

4 The serpent said to the woman, "It is not true that you will surely die; 5 because G-d knows that on the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like G-d, knowing good and evil."

19 *They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for a person is slave to whatever has defeated him.*

Are there religious leaders today who promise believers a “freedom” that is not Biblical? If so, then what are they promising?

“for a person is slave to whatever has defeated him.”

Yochanan (John) 8

34 Yeshua answered them, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin."

Romans 6

16 Don't you know that if you present yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, then, of the one whom you are obeying, you are slaves- whether of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to being made righteous?

**THE BIBLE TEACHES A FREEDOM FROM SIN;
NOT FREEDOM TO ENGAGE IN SIN!**

20 *Indeed, if they have once escaped the pollutions of the world through knowing our L-rd and Deliverer, Yeshua the Messiah, and then have again become entangled and defeated by them, their latter condition has become worse than their former.*

Titus 2

11 *For G-d's grace, which brings deliverance, has appeared to all people. 12 It teaches us to renounce godlessness and worldly pleasures, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives now, in this age;*

21 *It would have been better for them not to have known the Way of righteousness than, fully knowing, to turn from the holy command delivered to them.*

B'midbar (Num) 31

8(a) ... *They also killed Bil'am (Balaam) the son of B'or with the sword.*

22 *What has happened to them accords with the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit." Yes, "The pig washed itself, only to wallow in the mud!"*

Mish'lei (Proverbs) 26

11 *Just as a dog returns to his vomit, a fool repeats his folly.*

Mattityahu (Matthew) 7

6 *"Don't give to dogs what is holy, and don't throw your pearls to the pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, then turn and attack you.*

"My son, you have been to me like the pig who went into the hot bath with people of quality, and when it came out of the hot bath, it saw a filthy hole and it went down and wallowed in it."

From the 7th or 6th Century BCE Book of Ahiqar 8:8
Arnold, C., (2002), *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary*

2 Corinthians 4

2 *Indeed, we refuse to make use of shameful underhanded methods, employing deception or distorting G-d's message. On the contrary, by making very clear what the truth is, we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of G-d.*

Romans 1

16 For I am not ashamed of the Good News (Gospel), since it is G-d's powerful means of bringing salvation to everyone who keeps on trusting (believes), to the Jew especially, but equally to the Gentile.



B'midbar (Numbers) 23

**8 "How am I [Balaam] to curse those [Israel] whom G-d has not cursed?
How am I to denounce those whom ADONAI has not denounced?"**

Those who had received Aaron's blessing were safe from Balaam's cursing.