

1. Earlier I exegeted Jude 1-11, taught the *Doctrine of Gnosticism*, taught the error of the Exodus generation, the judgment of the angels who kept not their first estate, the judgment of the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and how Jude relates each to the certainty of discipline for all apostasy. Jude makes clear apostasy in any age will be judged.

2. When time expired last week we were studying the apostasy of Balaam who tried to market his gift of prophecy to the King of Moab.

3. Let's review some of that learned.

## **INTRODUCTION TO JUDE**

### **Expanded Translation**

**Jude 1** I am Jude a slave of Jesus Christ and brother of James the leader of the Judaeo Christian churches in Jerusalem and half-brother of Jesus, to the saints who have been loved of God with the result they are now loved of God. Such love of God is preserved and kept in Jesus Christ as called and elected ones.

**Jude 2** I was pleased to ask our Father that He provide His plan for each of you, and that you daily enjoy His peace, and love as you live daily for Him.

## **THE FALSE DOCTRINE OF GNOSTICISM**

### **Expanded Translation**

**Jude 3** I had begun a pastoral letter to you when it was reported to me that certain ungodly men had crept into your local assembly spreading false doctrines. I therefore felt obliged to address this matter with a special admonition and exhort you that you earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered not only to you but to saints all over the empire.

**Jude 4** Certain heresies have abounded in many of our local assemblies turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **THE NEGATIVE JEWS WHO REFUSED TO ENTER THE LAND**

### **Expanded Translation**

**Jude 5** All apostates must remember there is judgment for apostasy. Surely you remember the Exodus generation and how the Lord delivered His people out of the land of Egypt. There were those however, who refused to accept His promises concerning entrance into the land of promise and thus suffered severe judgment.

## **THE FALLEN ANGELS WHO LEFT THEIR FIRST ESTATE**

### **Expanded Translation**

**Jude 6** In addition to the exodus rebellion there were the fallen angels who elected to take on the form of humans and indwell certain males in order to impregnate the women of planet earth; for their heinous act God has reserved these angels in everlasting chains under darkness until the judgment of the great day.

## **THE EVILS OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH**

### **Expanded Translation**

**Jude 7** As a third example of sin and evil deserving of certain judgment Jude tells of Sodom and Gomorrah, and their sister cities, whose citizens gave themselves over to all manner of idolatry and sexual sins, and thus suffered the vengeance of eternal fire, death and destruction.

## **HERETICAL SCOFFERS WHO DESPISE HEAVEN'S DIGNITARIES**

### **Expanded Translation**

**Jude 8** In the same way, these people who claim authority from their dreams, they live immoral lives, defy authority, and scoff at supernatural beings.

**Jude 9** 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 instead said, "The Lord rebuke you."

**Jude 10** But these people scoff at things they do not understand. Like unthinking animals, they do whatever their instincts tell them, and so they bring about their own destruction.

## **THE JUDGEMENT OF CAIN WHO MURDERED ABEL**

### **Expanded Translation**

**Jude 11** Woe to these apostates! There was Cain who in a rage of jealousy slew his brother Abel; many have rushed for profit and fame as did Balaam; and many have been destroyed. Korah rebelled against Moses' authority and was destroyed.

#### **1. Cain a Son of Adam – Gen 4:1-3**

Gen 4:1 Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."

Gen 4:2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

Gen 4:3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.

## 2. Jealousy and crime of Cain -- Gen 4:4-15; Heb 11:4; 1Jo 3:12; Jude 1:11a

Gen 4:4 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,

Gen 4:5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

2.1 What do we know and what can we surmise about the instructions to the two boys from the Lord? Four talking points:

- The Lord is fair
- He gave commands to both boys
- Each knew without the shedding of blood there was no teaching of a future sacrifice
- Abel accepted God's protocol -- Cain did not

Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

Gen 4:6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?"

Gen 4:7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

Gen 4:8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Gen 4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Gen 4:10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.

Gen 4:11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

## 2.2 Judgment and punishment from the Lord

Gen 4:12 When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

Gen 4:13 Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear.

Gen 4:14 Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

Gen 4:15 But the LORD said to him, "Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.

## 2.3 Caution To All -- Disobedience results in discipline.

1Jo 3:12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

1Jo 3:13 Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.

## **BALAAAM THE PROPHET WHO TRIES TO SELL HIS MINISTRY**

1. Balaam is first mentioned in Deu 23:4 when Moses orders Israel to have nothing to do with the Ammonites or Moabites because of their refusal to welcome Israel into the Promised Land. God is especially angry at the Moabite king's plan to hire Balaam to curse the exodus generation.

2. In Deu 23:4 the Scripture describes Balaam as a son of Pethor in Aram Naharaim an area located in Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia is a general description of that area located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Deu 23:3 No Ammonite or Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.

Deu 23:4 For they did not come to meet you with bread and water on your way when you came out of Egypt, and they hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram Naharaim to pronounce a curse on you.

Deu 23:5 However, the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam but turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.

Deu 23:6 Do not seek a treaty of friendship with them as long as you live.

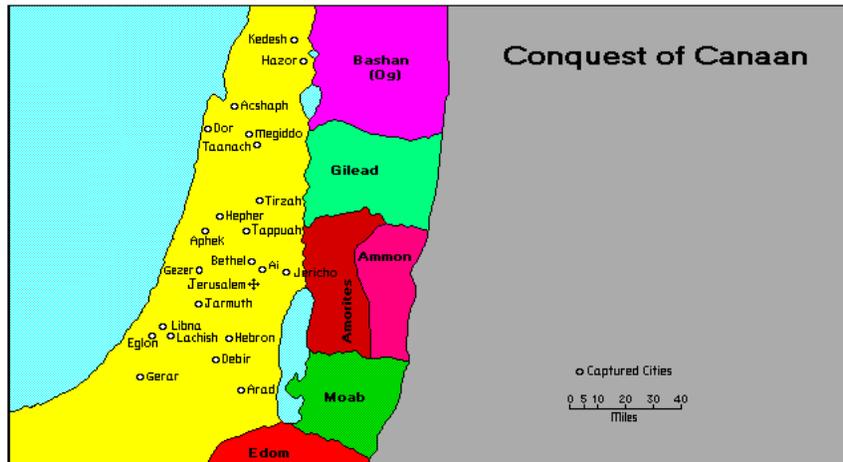


2.1 In Jos 13:22 Balaam is called a “soothsayer” who practiced divination and in 2Pe 2:15 he is called a lover of the wages of wickedness. Elsewhere he is called a prophet of the Lord.

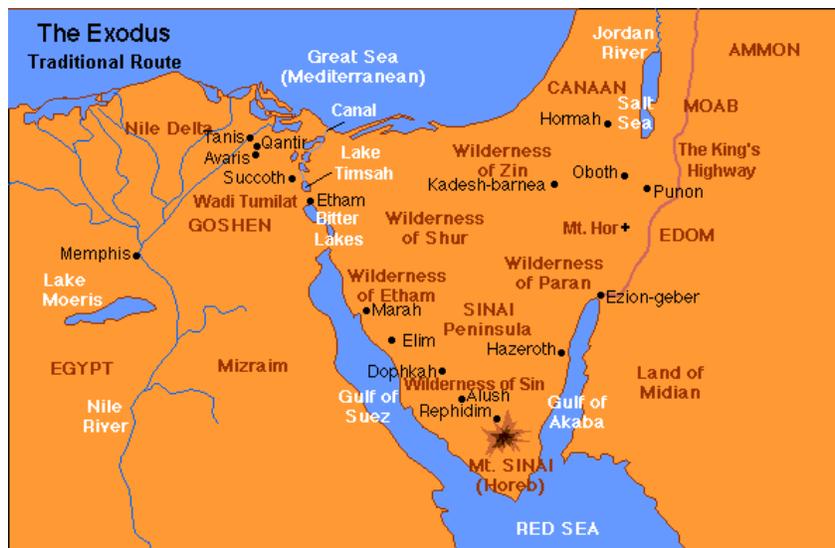
Jos 13:22 In addition to those slain in battle, the Israelites had put to the sword Balaam son of Beor, who practiced divination.

2Pe 2:15 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.

2.2 The events in the life of Balaam took place just before the Jews of the Exodus crossed the Jordan, entered the Promised Land and sieged the city of Jericho.



Num 22:1 Then the Israelites traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.



3. We now introduce a nervous King who has seen a million Jews who had just “mopped-up” on the Ammonites. The king of Moab conjures a plan.

Num 22:2 Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites, Num 22:3 and Moab was terrified because there were so many people. Indeed, Moab was filled with dread because of the Israelites.

Num 22:4 The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, "This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." So Balak son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time,

Num 22:5 sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor, who was at Pethor, near the River, in his native land. Balak said: "A people has come out of Egypt; they cover the face of the land and have settled next to me.

Num 22:6 Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the country. For I know that those you bless are blessed, and those you curse are cursed."

Num 22:7 The elders of Moab and Midian left, taking with them the fee for divination. When they came to Balaam, they told him what Balak had said.

Num 22:8 "Spend the night here," Balaam said to them, "and I will bring you back the answer the LORD gives me." So the Moabite princes stayed with him.

3.1 Three other Old Testament writers speak of Balak king of Moab sending for Balaam.

Jos 24:9 When Balak son of Zippor, the king of Moab, prepared to fight against Israel, he sent for Balaam son of Beor to put a curse on you.

Jos 24:10 But I would not listen to Balaam, so he blessed you again and again, and I delivered you out of his hand.

Neh 13:1 On that day the Book of Moses was read aloud in the hearing of the people and there it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever be admitted into the assembly of God,

Neh 13:2 because they had not met the Israelites with food and water but had hired Balaam to call a curse down on them. (Our God, however, turned the curse into a blessing.)

Mic 6:4 I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.

Mic 6:5 My people, remember what Balak king of Moab counseled and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD."

4. God provides an answer to Balaam.

Num 22:9 God came to Balaam and asked, "Who are these men with you?"

Num 22:10 Balaam said to God, "Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent me this message:

Num 22:11 'A people that has come out of Egypt covers the face of the land. Now come and put a curse on them for me. Perhaps then I will be able to fight them and drive them away.'"

Num 22:12 But God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, **because they are blessed.**"

5. Balaam reports to the king's messengers what God had said. The king is not ready to give up. He ups the ante; hoping to motivate Balaam to speak again to God.

Num 22:13 The next morning Balaam got up and said to Balak's princes, "Go back to your own country, for the LORD has refused to let me go with you."

Num 22:14 So the Moabite princes returned to Balak and said, "Balaam refused to come with us."

Num 22:15 Then Balak sent other princes, more numerous and more distinguished than the first.

Num 22:16 They came to Balaam and said: "This is what Balak son of Zippor says: Do not let anything keep you from coming to me,

Num 22:17 because I will reward you handsomely and do whatever you say. Come and put a curse on these people for me."

6. Balaam is not eager to argue with God though the new price offered by Balak tweaks his interest.

Num 22:18 But Balaam answered them, "Even if Balak gave me his palace filled with silver and gold, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the LORD my God.

Num 22:19 Now stay here tonight as the others did, and I will find out what else the LORD will tell me."

Num 22:20 That night God came to Balaam and said, "Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you."

7. Now we are ready for the famous "talking donkey story."

Num 22:21 Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab.

Num 22:22 But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.

Num 22:23 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road.

Num 22:24 Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with walls on both sides.

Num 22:25 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat her again.

Num 22:26 Then the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left.

Num 22:27 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat her with his staff.

Num 22:28 Then the LORD opened the donkey's mouth, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"

Num 22:29 Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now."

Num 22:30 The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?" "No," he said.

Num 22:31 Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.

Num 22:32 The angel of the LORD asked him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me.

Num 22:33 The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her."

8. Balaam is now "somewhat repentant." He gets further instruction from God and speaks to the king.

Num 22:34 Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back."

Num 22:35 The angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Num 22:36 When Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the Moabite town on the Arnon border, at the edge of his territory.

Num 22:37 Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not send you an urgent summons? Why didn't you come to me? Am I really not able to reward you?"

Num 22:38 "Well, I have come to you now," Balaam replied. "But can I say just anything? I must speak only what God puts in my mouth."

9. Balak and Balaam travel north to Kiriath Huzoth (a Moabite city origin unknown) to apparently try to persuade God to let him curse the Jews. Balaam still would like to get the money and fame offered by Balak. Perhaps if the two men look down from the heights of Kiriath Huzoth at the 2,000,000 Jews and a "better sacrifice" is made--just maybe God will be convinced.

Num 22:39 Then Balaam went with Balak to Kiriath Huzoth. It is a city earlier visited by Balak and Balaam when they first discussed the nefarious plan of cursing Israel.

Num 22:40 Balak sacrificed cattle and sheep, and gave some to Balaam and the princes who were with him.

Num 22:41 The next morning Balak took Balaam up to Bamoth Baal, and from there he saw part of the people.

Num 23:1 Balaam said, "Build me seven altars here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me."

Num 23:2 Balak did as Balaam said, and the two of them offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

Num 23:3 Then Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here beside your offering while I go aside. Perhaps the LORD will come to meet with me. Whatever he reveals to me I will tell you." Then he went off to a barren height.

Num 23:4 God met with him, and Balaam said, "I have prepared seven altars, and on each altar I have offered a bull and a ram."

10. The Lord answers Balaam. Balaam is sent back to Balak with that answer.

Num 23:5 The LORD put a message in Balaam's mouth and said, "Go back to Balak and give him this message."

Num 23:6 So he went back to him and found him standing beside his offering, with all the princes of Moab.

Num 23:7 Then Balaam uttered his oracle: "Balak brought me from Aram, the king of Moab from the eastern mountains. 'Come,' he said, 'curse Jacob for me; come, denounce Israel.'

Num 23:8 How can I curse those whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce those whom the LORD has not denounced?

Num 23:9 From the rocky peaks I see them, from the heights I view them. I see a people who live apart and do not consider themselves one of the nations.

Num 23:10 Who can count the dust of Jacob or number the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and may my end be like theirs!"

End Lesson Taught 1-6-2016

**The Westbank Bible Church does not seek donations nor do we authorize any business to solicit same on behalf of the Church.**