

1. This morning we will continue the study of Second Timothy where Paul from prison writes to Timothy in Ephesus. I want to review some of that learned and then begin new material on page three.
2. For a written and/or audio presentation of this lesson go to *westbankbiblechurch.com* and *click-on streaming audio of services*.
3. Before we continue, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
4. When the clock tolled 11:30 last week I had just completed teaching the **Doctrine of Balaam** and we were about to resume the categorical analysis of False Communicators.

NIV

2Ti 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

2Ti 3:2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,

2Ti 3:4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God --

2Ti 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

5. There were many false teachers actively resisting the Lord during the Kingdom Age. Mat 15:1-3, 16:1-4, 19:3-8; Mar 11:15-18

6. The Scriptures are replete with teachings about false communicators called: false prophets, wolves in sheep's clothing, Satan's ministers, wells without water, hireling prophets, profane vain babblers and lastly ship wreckers of the faith.

7. Several Old Testament examples:

7.1 Satan convinced one-third of the angels to follow him in his rebellion and terrible act of pride.

7.2 Satan was a deft false communicator when he possessed the snake, a creature originally created as a thing of beauty but later cursed to its present state because of his seduction of Eve.

7.3 Satan, as with all sin, was also a major player in the slaying of Abel.

7.4 There were false communicators who no doubt tried to dissuade Noah in building the ark.

7.5 There were false communicators who rose up against Moses.

7.5.1 At Horeb - No Water

7.5.2 Korah – Open Rebellion

7.5.3 Korah and Followers Executed

7.6 Aaron could not handle the Exodus generation in Moses' absence. He became a false communicator forsaking his "responsibilities as High Priest."

8. In Numbers chapters 22 through 25 we find the terrible example of Balaam. So evil was this man, he became the New Testament example for false teachers; especially those with improper motivations.

Doctrine of Balaam Review

Introduction

1. Balaam was a typical hireling prophet, seeking only to make a market of his gift. This is the way of Balaam as recorded by Peter in 2Pe 2:15-17.

2. The error of Balaam was obvious. He was willing to sell his soul to the Devil. Jude 11

3. A holy God, Balaam reasoned must curse such a people of Israel. Like all false teachers he was ignorant of the higher morality of vicarious atonement, by which God could be just and yet the justifier of believing sinners. Rom 3:25-26; Joh 3:16-18; Eph 2:8-10

Balak Sends for Balaam

1. Balak said: "A people has come out of Egypt; they cover the face of the land and have settled next to me."
2. When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came upon him and instead of cursing Israel God blessed His people.

The Sin of Peor

1. While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men of Israel were encouraged by Balaam to indulge in sexual immorality with the women of Midian. As a result, God brought a plague upon Israel. One couple became fatally infamous and the source of many Midianite deaths including King Balak himself. Num 25:14-18; Num 31:16; Jos 22:17
2. The LORD said to Moses, "Treat the Midianites as enemies and kill them all" and that they did. This order also included Balaam and Balak. Jud 12 and Rev 2:12-14

Prophets Were Not Exempt From False Communicators

1. **Isaiah** who ministered to Judah during the 8th century B.C. was opposed by false communicators who urged Judah to rely on Egypt for protection against Assyria—a false hope. The help will ultimately come from God when the Father will establish a "kill record." Let's read about it:

Isa 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

Isa 30:2 That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!

Isa 30:3 Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion.

Isa 37:33 "Therefore this is what the LORD says concerning the king of Assyria: "He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow here. He will not come before it with shield or build a siege ramp against it.

Isa 37:34 By the way that he came he will return; he will not enter this city," declares the LORD.

Isa 37:35 "I will defend this city and save it, for my sake and for the sake of David my servant!"

2. The Assyrians are destroyed in droves.

Isa 37:36 Then the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a **hundred and eighty-five thousand** men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning -- there were all the dead bodies!

Isa 37:37 So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.



2Ki 19:32 "Therefore this is what the LORD says concerning the king of Assyria: "He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow here. He will not come before it with shield or build a siege ramp against it.

2Ki 19:33 By the way that he came he will return; he will not enter this city, declares the LORD.

2Ki 19:34 I will defend this city and save it, for my sake and for the sake of David my servant."

2Ki 19:35 That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning – they saw all the dead bodies!

2Ki 19:36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

3. **Jeremiah** was resisted by many false teachers during his 7th century ministry to Judah; recall he warned repeatedly of resisting Babylon.

Jer 43:1 And it came to pass, that when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, even all these words,

Jer 43:2 Then spake ... all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there:

4. Jeremiah in his last days is taken to Egypt, even though Nebuchadnezzar had some personnel attending to him while he was in Jerusalem. He did not want to go.

5. What Jeremiah accomplished in Egypt we know little.



6. God had already determined to judge and punish the Judeans for their disobedience, particularly the wrongs that the nation did under King Manasseh. A narrative compiled over time by the prophets God sent to the people, when the Babylonians effectively subjugate Judea, it says, “Surely these things happened to Judah according to the Lord’s command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done, including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood.”

7. God had already decided to punish the Judeans through the Babylonians, God sent Jeremiah with the message that they should accept vassal status (i.e. being subjugated) and the exile of their king and many of their nobles and artisans. God promised through Jeremiah that he would bring the exiles back in a generation or two. In the meantime, they were to accept that their home would be in Babylon, and they should make a new life for themselves there.

8. However, after initially becoming vassals of the Babylonians, the Judean kings then betrayed them and tried to make an alliance with the Egyptians. False prophets claimed that this would “break the yoke of the king of Babylon” and bring the exiles back right away.

9. This led Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian emperor, to lead an army against Judea and besiege its cities, notably Jerusalem. Jeremiah urged the people to surrender peacefully, in keeping with his earlier messages. But they continued to resist, and ultimately the Babylonians defeated them, destroyed Jerusalem, and sent most of the rest of the people into exile.

10. However, since Jeremiah was known to have counseled peaceful surrender, Nebuchadnezzar didn’t regard him as an enemy. He gave his officers instructions to protect Jeremiah, provide for him, and allow him to return to his own home. Shortly after this Jeremiah was apparently rounded up to be sent into exile anyway, but one of Nebuchadnezzar’s officials recognized him among the captives and set him free once more.

11. The question of why God would call a pagan emperor his “servant” highlights how that term is used by the prophets with a variety of meanings.

The usage here in Jeremiah is similar to that in Isaiah. On the one hand, the people of Israel and Judah are called God's servants because God has chosen to use their nation to further his redemptive purposes in the world. God also refers frequently to "my servants the prophets" because he has sent them to bring his word to that people and call them back to their chosen role. But God also calls pagan emperors his "servants" (or something similar) because he is using them to fulfill his purposes. God calls Nebuchadnezzar his servant in Jeremiah, and in Isaiah he calls Cyrus "my shepherd" who will "accomplish all that I please."

12. In the case of these emperors, the servants may not have known that they were actually serving God by carrying out his purposes. We learn in the book of Daniel that Nebuchadnezzar was actually quite defiant and resistant at first towards the God of Israel, until he was humbled and he acknowledged him. Maybe the take-home message is that God accomplishes his purposes through human agents.

13. As for what Jeremiah was doing in Egypt, he actually didn't want to go there. As noted, the Babylonians appointed a governor over the Judeans who were left in their land. But this governor was assassinated by those who apparently wanted to keep resisting the Babylonians any way they could.

14. After this, the remaining Judeans were afraid of reprisals, and they wanted to flee to Egypt for safety. But they asked Jeremiah about this first, promising to do whatever he said. When he told them, they could stay safely where they were, they fled to Egypt anyway—and forced him to come with them! Jeremiah ended up among people who were rebelling.

15. As a result of this forced departure from Judea, Jeremiah's final oracles come to us from Egypt. There, as far as we know, he completed his career as a prophet and died.

16. Malachi was opposed primarily by the priest of the land. They were rebuked for falsely communicating God's Word.

Mal 2:1 "And now this admonition is for you, O priests.

Mal 2:2 If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me.

Mal 2:3 "Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will spread on your faces the offal from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it ...

Mal 2:7 "For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction--because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty.

Mal 2:8 But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi," says the LORD Almighty.

Mal 2:9 "So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law."

17. Nehemiah was faced with numerous adversaries as he led the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem. Several of these men made false accusations against the Jewish effort to rebuild the city plazas, walls and moats outside the wall.

18. Now for a look at several false teachers of the New Testament. There were false teachers in Corinth teaching there was no "bodily resurrection."

1Co 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1Co 15:15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

1Co 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

19. There were false teachers in Corinth who were critical of Paul's speech, devotion to grace and his appearance.

2Co 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2Co 11:4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2Co 11:5 But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles."

2Co 11:6 I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way ...

2Co 11:12 And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about.

2Co 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ ...

2Co 11:16 I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then receive me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting ...

2Co 11:20 In fact, you even put up with anyone who enslaves you or exploits you or takes advantage of you or pushes himself forward or slaps you in the face.

2Co 11:21 To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that! What anyone else dares to boast about--I am speaking as a fool--I also dare to boast about.

2Co 11:22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I.

2Co 11:23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again ...

2Co 11:28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

20. There were false teachers at Jerusalem in c. A.D.68 who mixed Judaism and Christianity, e.g., Hebrews chapters 1-8. Let me give you a few selected passages:

Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

Heb 3:2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.

Heb 3:3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.

Heb 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

Heb 3:5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future.

Heb 3:6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

Heb 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

Heb 4:9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;

Heb 4:10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

Heb 4:11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Heb 5:11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.

Heb 5:12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

Heb 5:13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

21. There were false teachers who came from Jerusalem to Galatia, particularly Antioch, to teach a doctrine of salvation and spirituality by faith and works.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Gal 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

22. These legalists also taught false doctrine about circumcision which Paul successfully resisted.

Gal 2:1 Fourteen years later (just after the 1st missionary journey in about A.D. 50) I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also.

Gal 2:2 I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain.

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