

The Wilderness (45): The Enemy's Subtle Attack Num 25

King Balak of Moab has hired the leading soothsayer, Balaam, to curse the people of Israel. Instead, Balaam blessed Israel and cursed Moab. Can King Balak defeat Israel by war or is there another way?

God Will Not Share His Worship

1. What was the problem? Num 25:1-9 [[Who is Baal, Midian?](#)]
 - a. Many of Israel began to worship Baal of Peor. 25:3
 - 1) This began by the enticement of the Moabite women. 25:2
 - 2) Which lead to eating meat that honored the deity 25:2
 - 3) Which lead to sexual immorality 25:2
 - b. Chiefs/elders did not restrain their people. 25:4-5
 - 1) Moses supposed to hang offenders as example.
 - 2) God's anger inflamed - start of the plague. 25:9
 - c. Certain Simeonite brought Midianite into camp. 25:6-8
2. What was the solution? Num 25:7-18
 - a. Phinehas speared Zimri and Cozbi in the act of immorality.
 - 1) This stopped the plague but 24,000 died.
 - 2) This emulated God's zeal/jealousy.
 - 3) This gave Phinehas a covenant of peace/perpetual priesthood.
 - 4) This made atonement for Israel.
 - b. Moses was to punish the Midianites for their seduction. 31:16
[\[Balaam's advice - cannot defeat God but cause His anger\]](#)

What Are Some Truths about God, Jesus, and His People?

1. God calls His people to **worship only Him**.
2. God's people are **connected** and sin affects **all**.
3. God's victories can easily be twisted **pride**, cp Num 21 to 25.
4. Man's lust leads to immorality which leads to **idolatry**. 1 Cor 10:6-8
5. God's character does not **change** with circumstances. Ex 32 & Num 25
6. Each new generation must learn the same **lessons** about God.
7. Jesus was God's perfect **atonement** for His people,
He willingly endured the spear of God's wrath for our sin!