

Types of Rebellion - 3

- *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Jude 4*
- They crept in unnoticed (secretly)
- But their fruits were long ago (from the beginning) marked out for condemnation.
- “*marked out*” those whose names were posted up in writing in some public place, were proscribed as persons doomed to die with a reward offered to whoever would kill them-Word Dictionary NT:4270

Can always Identify a False Prophet

- *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Mt 7:15*
- What are these fruits: Many different ways to identify, but Jude chooses "*long ago marked out*"
- How long ago?
- *Woe to them! For they have gone in **the way of Cain**, have run greedily in **the error of Balaam** for profit, and perished in **the rebellion of Korah**.*
Jude 11
- Cain, Balaam and Korah are some of the many fruits

The Error of Balaam for Profit

- There is a lot we must learn from Balaam:
- *They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. 2Pet. 2:15-16*

Error of Balaam for Profit

- *But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Rev 2:14*
- Jude Peter Jesus
- All warning us about Balaam
- Do we know him?
- Can we identify those who follow him by his fruits?

Who Was Balaam?

- *So Balaam said to God, “Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, 11 ‘Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out.’” 12 And God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.” Num. 22:10-12*

The Journey was Unnecessary

- Israel could not be cursed because God had sworn to Abraham they would be blessed.
- Ammon and Moab were protected from Israel because of their relationship to Lot.
- *‘Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land*
- *And when you come near the people of Ammon, do not harass them or meddle with them, for I will not give you any of the land Deut. 2:8-9; 16-19*
- If Balak and Balaam had stopped there, all would have been well.

Balak won't take "No"

- *Then Balak again sent princes, more Numerous and more honorable than they. 16 And they came to Balaam and said to him, Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me; 17 for I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me. Therefore please come, curse this people for me. Num. 22:15-17*

Balaam is Sorely Tempted

- *19 Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me.” Num. 22:18-19*
- Yet God had already given him the answer. There was no less or more. Yet he is looking for a loophole. Some way to go
- God has already told him that it is an impossible task. Only persecution, mocking and anger.
- *And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, “If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you — that you shall do.”*

Balaam's Lust Conceived

- *the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.*
- *But God was angry because he was going, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the way as an adversary against him.*
- Balaam had changed sides. His love for the wages of unrighteousness had made him an enemy of Israel and of God.

Balaam Does God's Will

- Three times he blessed Israel
 - *How shall I curse... 23:8*
 - *I have received a command to bless... 23:20*
 - *Blessed be every one that blesses thee, And cursed be every one that curses thee. 24:10*
- Balaam reaped what he sowed
 - *What have thou done unto me? 23:8, 11*
 - *Neither curse or bless them at all. 23:25-26*
 - *Thought to promote to great honor; Jehovah has kept you back from honor. 24:10*

All ended well ... But ...

- *And **Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place**; and Balak also went his way.*

Num 24:25

- *They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of those who were killed-- Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. **Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword.** *Num 31:8**

- What happened?

Balaam Went Back

- *Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD. Num 31:16*
- *The incident of Peor Num 25:1-3, 9*
- *Balaam taught Balak a stumbling block – Num 31:15-16; Rev 2:14*
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- *The details are in Numbers 25.*
- *The beautiful women of Moab enticed Israel to commit fornication and idolatry Num 25:1-2*
- *Balaam was responsible. He taught Balak!*
- *The wicked deceitful plan worked perfectly.*
- *The weak in Israel stumbled and 24,000 died in a plague Num 25:9*
- *The vexed them with these wiles. Num 25:18*
- *by putting evil before them, hoping they would fall, and fall they did. What a despicable act!*

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- Balaam used lewdness to tempt Israel to fall into sin. This is the way of Balaam

It Can and Does Happen!

- *They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 18 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error ... 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 2Pet 2:17ff*

Grace of God into Lewdness: How?

- Once we know “*lewdness*” easier to identify how.
- *aselgeia* ... behavior completely lacking in moral restraint, **USUALLY** with the implication of sexual licentiousness (Lou & Nida, NT 766)
- *aselgeia* ... “that which is an insolent disregard of decency.” ... The prominent idea is shameless conduct. ...” (Vine's Expository Dictionary NT: 766)
- Can this happen? – too many Scriptures to disprove.
- Yet it does happen. Even today:
- 1. Once saved always saved ... God's grace will cover all sin so we can sin and still be saved.
- 2. Not all Scripture inspired. When Paul condemned homosexuality/adultery/fornication – he was wrong

What Does the Grace of God Teach

- *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, Titus 2:11-13*
- Grace of God teaches
- Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts,
- Should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, Titus 2:11-13
- That's **NOT** what they say that it teaches.

The Will of God

- *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 1 Th. 4:3-6*
- Not amount of human reasoning and false teaching can remove these things.