



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 22:2-25:9
- Genesis 12:1-3; 18:16-33
- Daniel 4:28-5:31
- Acts 9:1-18
- Jeremiah 14:10-16
- Zephaniah 3:1-4
- Malachi 3:6
- Hebrews 13:8
- Luke 24:27, 44; 16:27-31
- John 5:45-47

FLEXIBLE PROPHETS FOR

HIRE

- Money Won't Save You
- The Writing is on the Wall
- I'll Pay You to Prophecy
- Money Won't Change Yah
- Vantage Won't Change Yah
- I Was Blind and Now I See
- One Righteous Man
- The Fate of False Prophets
- Moses and the Prophets

I am really not happy with what God is saying, so I have a great idea. If I present my case from a different point of view, I am sure Yahweh will adapt. If needed I will invest tremendous time and resources into getting Yahweh to agree with me. I can even convince a few godly people to back me up. With a new perspective and all that commitment and support, I'm certain Yahweh will change His mind. And let's face it, we need to be

flexible with the way we interpret God's intentions! When He says, "For I am Yahweh, I do not change..." And, "Y'shua the Messiah is the same yesterday, today, and forever," He doesn't actually mean what appears so obvious. A better way to interpret these Scriptures is that, "As long as I have a good enough reason, Yahweh will comport with my desires." It is His flexibility that never changes! Join us as we put this to the test!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for **I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.**" So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner's fee in their **hand**, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak." Numbers 22:6-7 NKJV

"So it was, the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, **that from there he might observe the extent of the people.**" (Numbers 22:4) "Then Balak said to him, "Please **come with me to another place from which you may see them**; you shall see only the outer part of them, and shall not see them all; curse them for me from there." (Numbers 23:13) Then

Balak said to Balaam, “**Please come, I will take you to another place;** perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there.”” Numbers 23:27

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

““God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. **Has He said, and will He not do?** Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” Numbers 23:19 NKJV

“For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” Malachi 3:6 NKJV

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8 NKJV

“Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent **and thrust both of them through**, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. **So the plague was stopped** among the children of Israel.” Numbers 25:7-8 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This week's Torah reading tells the story of how Balak hires the occult prophet Balaam to lay a curse on Israel. Balaam meets resistance from God, has a conversation with his donkey and ends up blessing Israel instead of cursing them.
2. **Balak Sends for Balaam:** The entire narrative begins in Numbers 22 when Balak, the king of the Moabites offers to hire a “prophet” to pronounce curses over Israel because he was sick with dread over how powerful they had become. He was certain they would consume all the resources of his land if they were not somehow stopped.
3. **First Contact:** Balak sends elders from Moab and Midian with the “**diviner’s fee**” to pay Balaam to come to him and to curse Israel, as he is certain that whomever he blesses is blessed, and whomever he curses is cursed.
4. **God tells Balaam:** “You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.”
5. He tells the elders that Yahweh has not given him permission to go back with them.
6. **Second Contact:** The next day Balak sends “princes” more numerous and more honorable than his previous messengers and tells them to tell Balaam to let nothing hinder him from

coming and cursing Israel. He promises Balaam great riches if he would do so!

7. Balaam tells Balak's entourage that no matter how many riches Balak could offer him, he "could not go beyond the word of Yahweh, to do or say anything outside of Yahweh's will." But in surprising fashion he does tell the "more honorable princes" to hang out over night and that he will **go check if Yahweh** has anything different to say.
8. Yahweh must not have been too happy that Balaam has even given this a second thought, so He gives him very specific instructions that, through a series of supernatural events, will ultimately end with Balaam learning a critical lesson; NEVER second-guess God!
9. Yahweh instructs Balaam to go with the men if they come call on him again, but to include this stipulation; he will deliver ONLY the word which Yahweh speaks.
10. As we witness what happens on Balaam's journey, it would seem that Yahweh needed to teach him a lesson, very likely because he told these men he would go in and inquire of the Lord, again, about Balak's request, even though Yahweh had ALREADY SPOKEN. He should have known that there was no need to ask again.

11. **A Talking Donkey and an Angry Angel:** Yahweh is not happy with Balaam, so he sends an angel to oppose his going. And to reiterate, Yahweh told him to go, apparently as an accommodation for his second-guessing, and as a means to teach him a lesson! The donkey can see the angel with a drawn sword ready to hack Balaam to death. First the donkey turns to go around the angel, then she crushes his foot against the wall on the side of the path, both diversions prompting Balaam to beat the donkey to go forward. The third time the donkey just lays down in response to the angel completely blocking the path forward and Balaam strikes the donkey with his staff.
12. Then the LORD opens the mouth of the donkey, and she asks Balaam, *“What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”*
13. Balaam answers the donkey, *“Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!”*
14. The donkey talks back again to Balaam; *“Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?”* Balaam responds again; *“No.”* This is hysterical. Instead of being awed that a donkey is actually talking in the first place, Balaam engages in an argument and threatens her. He literally is trying to reason with a donkey. So, who is the real jack ass here?

15. It takes a supernatural change in vision for Balaam to see what is going on, so **the LORD opens Balaam's eyes (like Saul/Paul after his road to Damascus take down)**. Now he sees the Angel (probably the pre-incarnate Messiah) with His drawn sword in hand; and the angel explains how the donkey likely saved him from being killed.
16. Balaam now realizes that this is all because he should have never second-guessed God's answer in the first place. *"I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back."* Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, *"Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak."*
17. Balaam goes back to Balak and reports that he can only declare what Yahweh puts in his mouth. And Balak tries to pay him off again.
18. **Balaam's First Prophecy:** Balak takes Balaam up to the high places of Baal so he can see the extent of Israel.
19. Balaam goes off to seek Yahweh's word and comes back with this. Balak is begging him to curse Jacob and denounce Israel! But instead this is his proclamation; *"How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?"*

20. Balaam declares a blessing over the multitude and magnitude of Israel and Balak is irate. Balaam affirms, *"Must I not take heed to speak what the LORD has put in my mouth?"*
21. **Balaam's Second Prophecy:** Balak seeks another perspective and asks Balaam to come to a different high place, a vantage point that will not allow him to view the entire extent of Israel's encampment! Maybe if he only sees part of them he will prophesy something negative over them.
22. Yahweh meets with Balaam and does give him another word, but Balak will not like it! He is told that unlike man, God does not lie. What he has declared is true and He will make good on His word. He will NOT reverse the blessings. Israel will devour anyone who gets in the way!
23. Balak is distraught and tries to compromise. "Okay, Let's do this instead. Neither curse them, nor bless them!" But Balaam will not relent; he is steadfast and will only speak what Yahweh says.
24. **Balaam's Third Prophecy:** "Let's try yet another spot for another perspective so you can curse them for me!" Balak begs. In that moment Balaam realizes that the truth is actually quite simple; *"It pleased Yahweh to bless Israel"* so he will not seek anymore words to the contrary. He looks out over Israel and **the Spirit of God comes upon him.** And he declares the ultimate blessing. He blesses Israel's dwellings, abundance, and seed of the future.

He acknowledges their strength and their certain conquest over nations and their enemies. In the end he says, **“Blessed is he who blesses you, and cursed is he who curses you.”**

25. Balak is furious. He was willing to pay Balaam a king's ransom to do his bidding and instead he did the EXACT OPPOSITE. Get out he demands! And Balaam simply reminds him that he told Balak's people right from the start that he would not go beyond what Yahweh tells him!
26. And worse yet, now Balaam tells Balak all that Yahweh has in store for his people and the surrounding area.
27. **Balaam's Forth Prophecy:** *“A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel...”* and batter the brow of Moab; Edom and Seir shall be a possession; Out of Jacob One shall have dominion; Amalek shall perish; and Kain shall be burned.
28. **Israel's Harlotry in Moab:** Even with all the blessings, the portion finishes with Israel committing **harlotry with the women of Moab;** making sacrifices and bowing down to their gods, and eating their unclean foods.
29. The LORD tells Moses to hang the leaders of the people out in the sun to quench His fierce anger. Righteous **judges are told to kill the men who were joined to Baal, and the slaughter begins.**

30. One harlot comes with her Israelite benefactor and is found weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. And Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, rises up and thrusts a javelin through both of them. This righteous action ends the carnage of Yahweh's judgment.

NO AMOUNT OF MONEY CAN SAVE YOU

1. The Writing is on the Wall

A. Blessings and Curses

(1) I don't like what I see; I'm scared and I need some help!

(a) "And Moab was **exceedingly afraid** of the people because they were many, and Moab was **sick with dread** because of the children of Israel. So Moab said to the elders of Midian, "Now this company will **lick up everything around us**, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time." Numbers 22:3-4 NKJV

1. Balak is afraid and sick with dread

2. He fears the Israelites will consume every resource in the land

(2) The power of blessings and curses:

(a) "Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of

his people, to call him, saying: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! Therefore please come at once, **curse this people for me**, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, **for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.**"

Numbers 22:5-6 NKJV

1. Curse them for me so I can defeat them
2. I know you are anointed and what you say will happen!

(3) Be Careful for what you declare!

- (a) **The Truth—It is whom Yahweh has blessed whom is blessed and cursed whom is cursed!** "Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; **I will bless you** And make your name great; And **you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;** And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."" Genesis 12:1-3 NKJV
- (b) **SAME ENDING OF BALAAM'S WORD!** "He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall

rouse him?’ “Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you.”” Numbers 24:9 NKJV

1. Yahweh does the blessing—not man!
2. Yahweh blesses those who bless those whom He blesses
3. Yahweh curses those who curse those whom He blesses

B. I’ll pay you to prophesy for me!

(1) Kings hiring Prophets

- (a) “So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed **with the diviner’s fee** in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak.” Numbers 22:7 NKJV

(2) Don’t Go!

- (a) “Then God came to Balaam and said, “Who are these men with you?” So Balaam said to God, “**Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying,** ‘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.’ ” And God said to Balaam, “**You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.**”” Numbers 22:9-12 NKJV

1. Balaam tells Yahweh that Balak wants him to come to him and curse Israel so he can overpower them.
2. Yahweh says don't go and don't curse them because they are blessed! And you cannot curse what Yahweh has blessed.

(3) But I'll pay you a lot!

(a) "And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "**Balaam refuses to come with us.**" Then Balak again **sent princes, more numerous and more honorable** than they. 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; for I **will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me.**' "" Numbers 22:14-17 NKJV

1. Balak is informed Balaam won't come
2. He sends a greater caliber of messenger to convince him.
3. I will make it worth it for you!
4. AND...Don't worry, I will submit to whatever you say (this is clearly NOT TRUE!)

(4) No matter what you offer me, I won't say a thing beyond what Yahweh tells me...But....

- (a) ““Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, **“Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold,** I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.” Numbers 22:18 NKJV
- (b) “Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD will say to me.”
Numbers 22:19 NKJV
- (c) BUT I AM CERTAINLY TEMPTED AT THE OFFER: “They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, **who loved the wages of unrighteousness;** but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man’s voice restrained the madness of the prophet.” II Peter 2:15-16 NKJV
1. No matter what you pay me I will only affirm what Yahweh says.
 2. Now let me check if He has anything more to say!
(NOT REALLY A GOOD IDEA!)
 3. **Why?** He was clearly tempted by the offer as he “loved the wages of unrighteousness.” He coveted the money and was complicit in the harlotry of Israel!

- (I) We will soon see the end of Balaam as he is eventually slaughtered in the raid on the Midianites. *“Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword.”* Numbers 31:8
- (II) The harlot women caused the children of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the LORD, to commit fornication and worship their Gods...” Numbers 31:16
- (5) Because you asked AGAIN you can go with them...but there’s a twist!
 - (a) “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.” So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.” Numbers 22:20-21 NKJV
 - 1. Ok—go if they ask.
 - 2. But still ONLY SAY WHAT I SAY.

C. No matter what you offer to pay a prophet, the message WILL never change!

- (1) King Belteshazzar (son of King Nebuchadnezzar)
 - (a) The Great Feast

1. “Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring **the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple** which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which had been in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. **They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.** In the same hour the **fingers of a man’s hand appeared and wrote** opposite the lampstand on **the plaster of the wall** of the king’s palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. **Then the king’s countenance changed**, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other. The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. The king spoke, saying to the wise men of Babylon, “**Whoever reads**

this writing, and tells me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck; and he shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.” Now all the **king’s wise men came, but they could not read the writing,** or make known to the king its interpretation. Then King Belshazzar was greatly troubled, his countenance was changed, and his lords were astonished. The **queen,** because of the words of the king and his lords, came to the banquet hall. The queen spoke, saying, “O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts trouble you, nor let your countenance change. **There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God.** And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king—**made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers. Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel,** whom the king named Belteshazzar, now let Daniel

be called, and he will give the interpretation.""

Daniel 5:1-12 NKJV

- 1) Belshazzar has a party using sacred vessels taken from the Temple in Jerusalem by his father Nebazcunesser.
 - 2) They were toasting to foreign gods when all of a sudden the fingers of a man appear and write a message on the wall.
 - 3) The King's good party mood changes as he becomes concerned. (Wouldn't you be?)
 - 4) He searches his kingdom for some magician who can interpret the writing to no avail.
 - 5) He will offer great riches to anyone who can tell him what the writing means.
 - 6) His queen then appears and reminds him that his father had a man he had made chief over the art of interpretations and readings in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God.
 - 7) Belshazzar calls for Daniel.
- (b) The Writing on the Wall Meaning:
1. "Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke, and said to Daniel, " Are you that Daniel who is one of the captives from Judah, whom my

father the king brought from Judah? I have heard of you, that the Spirit of God is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. **Now the wise men, the astrologers,** have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they **could not give the interpretation** of the thing. And I have heard of you, that you can give interpretations and explain enigmas. **Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.**” Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, **“Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation.** O king, the Most High God gave **Nebuchadnezzar your father** a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor. And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and

whomever he wished, he put down. **But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.** Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart **was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys.** They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, **till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men,** and appoints over it whomever He chooses. **“But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. [*SEE BELOW] And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven.** They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified. Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written. “And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: **God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it;** TEKEL: **You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;** PERES: **Your kingdom has been divided,** and given to the Medes and Persians.” Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.” Daniel 5:13-29 NKJV

- 1) All the previous interpreters are ineffective and Daniel is offered great riches if he can do it. He says he can but that the king can keep his riches or give them to someone else.
- 2) Daniel reminds Belshazzar that his father was very prideful at one point and he was turned into a wild beast like a donkey, but later repented and was restored.
- 3) He warns Belshazzar that he has become like his father except for the lack of repentance, but instead continue to lift himself up.
- 4) He interprets the writing on the wall: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; You have

been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;
and Your kingdom will be divided.

- (I) ***Reference of Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation:** "All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: **the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field.** They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." **That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar;** he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws."
- Daniel 4:28-33 NKJV

(II) ***Nebuchadnezzar's Repentance and Restoration:**

“And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, “What have You done?” At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, **all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.**” Daniel 4:34-37 NKJV

- (c) Yahweh's Word of Prophecy Fulfilled — no matter what the payoff!

1. **“That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.** And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.” Daniel 5:30-31 NKJV

D. A Talking Donkey (But the real question is which one is the jack ass?)

- (1) Yahweh is not happy that Balaam thought to seek Him again on something he already had the answer to!
 - (a) **“Then God’s anger was aroused** because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.” Numbers 22:22 NKJV
- (2) The Donkey Chronicles
 - (a) # 1: “Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and **the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey** to turn her back onto the road.” Numbers 22:23 NKJV
 - (b) # 2: “Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. **And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall**

and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again." Numbers 22:24-25 NKJV

- (c) # 3: "Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, **she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff."** Numbers 22:26-27 NKJV

(3) Conversations with a Donkey, but the real question is which one of them is the Jack Ass?

- (a) "Then the LORD **opened the mouth of the donkey**, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" And Balaam said to the donkey, "**Because you have abused me.** I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!" So the donkey said to Balaam, " **Am I not your donkey** on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."" Numbers 22:28-30 NKJV

- 1) The Donkey speaks out about being struck three times.
- 2) Instead of shock at the talking donkey, Balaam explains that he feels abused. (LOL)

- 3) The donkey explains that she has always been faithful and that this is not her character; Balaam agrees.
- (4) Balaam was blind and now he sees!
 - (a) **“Then the LORD opened Balaam’s eyes,** and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. And the Angel of the LORD said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, **I have come out to stand against you,** because your way is perverse before Me. The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three **times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now,** and let her live.”” Numbers 22:31-33 NKJV
 - 1) Balaam’s eyes are opened and he sees the the angel.
 - 2) The angel explains that had the donkey not prevented his moving forward, he would have been killed.
 - 3) Who looks like the jack ass now?
- (5) Paul was blind and now he sees
 - (a) “Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether

men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground,** and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. **Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one.** But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank." Acts 9:1-9 NKJV

- (b) "And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, **has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**" Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight

at once; and he arose and was baptized.” Acts 9:17-18
NKJV

- 1) Saul is knocked off his horse and is blinded by the light. (Symbolic of the blindness he was living with prior to Y’shua.)
- 2) He is then filled with the Holy Spirit and scales fall from his eyes and now he can truly see.

(6) Repent and recommit to the obvious!

(a) **“And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, “I have sinned,** for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if **it displeases You, I will turn back.”** Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, **“Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak.”** So Balaam went with the princes of Balak. Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory. Then Balak said to Balaam, “Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?”” Numbers 22:34-37 NKJV

(b) “And Balaam said to Balak, **“Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word**

that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak.”

Numbers 22:38 NKJV

- 1) Balaam repents and is willing to turn back.
- 2) God tells him to go anyway, but to only prophesy to Balak what He tells him to say.

E. Many Prophecies, One Message

(1) The First Vantage Point

- (a) “So it was, the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people.”

Numbers 22:41 NKJV

- (b) “Then the LORD put a word in Balaam’s mouth, and said, “Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak.”

Numbers 23:5 NKJV

- (c) “And he took up his oracle and said: “Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, From the mountains of the east. ‘Come, curse Jacob for me, And come, denounce Israel!’ **“How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?** For from the top of the rocks I see him, And from the hills I behold him; There! A people dwelling alone, Not reckoning itself among the nations. **“Who can count the dust of Jacob, Or number**

one-fourth of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, And let my end be like his!" Numbers 23:7-10 NKJV

- (d) I CAN ONLY SAY WHAT YAHEH TELLS ME TO SAY #1:
"Then Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and look, you have blessed them bountifully!" So he answered and said, **"Must I not take heed to speak what the LORD has put in my mouth?"**" Numbers 23:11-12 NKJV

- 1) First spot, Balak begs Balaam to curse Israel.
- 2) Balaam cannot curse or denounce Israel because Yahweh has not done so.
- 3) Instead he blesses them by declaring their numbers cannot even be counted!

(2) The Second Vantage Point

- (a) "Then Balak said to him, **"Please come with me to another place** from which you may see them; you shall see only the outer part of them, and shall not see them all; curse them for me from there." Numbers 23:13 NKJV
- (b) "Then he took up his oracle and said: "Rise up, Balak, and hear! Listen to me, son of Zippor! **"God is not a man, that He should lie,** Nor a son of man, that He

should repent. **Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?** Behold, I have received a command to bless; **He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.** “He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The LORD his God is with him, And the shout of a King is among them. God brings them out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox. “For there is no sorcery against Jacob, Nor any divination against Israel. It now must be said of Jacob And of Israel, ‘Oh, what God has done!’ Look, a people rises like a lioness, And lifts itself up like a lion; It shall not lie down until it devours the prey, And drinks the blood of the slain.”” Numbers 23:18-24 NKJV

(c) I CAN ONLY SAY WHAT YAHEH TELLS ME TO SAY #2:

“Then Balak said to Balaam, “**Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all!**” So Balaam answered and said to Balak, “**Did I not tell you, saying, ‘All that the LORD speaks, that I must do’?**”” Numbers 23:25-26 NKJV

- 1) Come take a different point of view.
- 2) Sorry, our new perspective does not change Yahweh; what He has said He will do!
- 3) He has blessed Israel and will not reverse it.
- 4) Ok—Skip the curse, let’s go with neutral!

5) Sorry, all that Yahweh says I must do!

(3) The Third Vantage Point

- (a) "Then Balak said to Balaam, **"Please come, I will take you to another place;** perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there."" Numbers 23:27 NKJV
- (b) **He does not even bother seeking and the Spirit comes upon him:** "Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the **LORD to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times,** to seek to use sorcery, but he set his face toward the wilderness. And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; **and the Spirit of God came upon him.** Then he took up his oracle and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened, The utterance of him who hears the words of God, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open:" Numbers 24:1-4 NKJV
- (c) **""How lovely are your tents,** O Jacob! Your dwellings, O Israel! Like valleys that stretch out, Like gardens by the riverside, Like aloes planted by the LORD, Like cedars beside the waters. He shall pour water from his buckets, And his seed shall be in many waters. "His

king shall be higher than Agag, And his kingdom shall be exalted. "God brings him out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox; He shall consume the nations, his enemies; He shall break their bones And pierce them with his arrows. 'He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?' **"Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you."**" Numbers 24:5-9 NKJV

- (d) I WOULD HAVE PAID YOU HANDSOMELY: "Then Balak's anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, **"I called you to curse my enemies, and look, you have bountifully blessed them these three times!** Now therefore, flee to your place. I said I would greatly honor you, but in fact, the LORD has kept you back from honor."
- (e) I CAN ONLY SAY WHAT YAHEH TELLS ME TO SAY #3: "So Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not also speak to your messengers whom you sent to me, saying, **'If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD,** to do good or bad of my own will. What the LORD says, that I must speak'?" Numbers 24:12-13 NKJV

- 1) Balak to Balaam: let's try one last point of view.
- 2) Sorry, I won't even consider it this time.
- 3) The Bottom Line: Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you. Just like Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3.
- 4) It is clear...the Spirit has come upon me and I must proclaim the ultimate blessings over Israel.
- 5) I warned you Balak, you could have offered any amount of riches and I would not have spoken other than what Yahweh told me!

STANDING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

2. Is there anyone who will stand for righteousness?

A. The Fate of False Prophets and to whom they prophesy

(1) Insolent Prophets and Treacherous People

- (a) "Thus says the LORD to this people: "Thus they have loved to wander; They have not restrained their feet. Therefore the LORD does not accept them; He will remember their iniquity now, And punish their sins." Then the LORD said to me, "**Do not pray for this people, for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry;** and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume

them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets say to them, ‘You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.’ ” And the LORD said to me, “**The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart. Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who prophesy in My name, whom I did not send, and who say, ‘Sword and famine shall not be in this land’—‘By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed! And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; they will have no one to bury them—they nor their wives, their sons nor their daughters—for I will pour their wickedness on them.’”** Jeremiah 14:10-16 NKJV

- (b) “Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted, To the oppressing city! She has not obeyed His voice, She has not received correction; She has not trusted in the LORD, She has not drawn near to her God. Her princes

in her midst are roaring lions; Her judges are evening wolves That leave not a bone till morning. **Her prophets are insolent, treacherous people;** Her priests have polluted the sanctuary, They have done violence to the law.” Zephaniah 3:1-4 NKJV

- 1) The fate of the false prophets and the people to whom they prophesy is the same—the prophets shall be consumed! And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out.

B. Changing Your Perspectives Never Changes Yahweh’s Outcome

(1) THE FINAL OUTCOME!

- (a) “So he took up his oracle and said: “The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened; The utterance of him who hears the words of God, And has the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open: “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; **A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.** “And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession, While Israel does

valiantly. Out of Jacob One shall have dominion, And destroy the remains of the city." Then he looked on Amalek, and he took up his oracle and said: "**Amalek was first among the nations, But shall be last until he perishes.**" Then he looked on the Kenites, and he took up his oracle and said: "Firm is your dwelling place, And your nest is set in the rock; **Nevertheless Kain shall be burned.** How long until Asshur carries you away captive?" Then he took up his oracle and said: "Alas! Who shall live when God does this? But ships shall come from the coasts of Cyprus, And they shall afflict Asshur and afflict Eber, And so shall Amalek, until he perishes."" Numbers 24:15-24 NKJV

- 1) In the end, Balak and all his surroundings are consumed by Israel.
- (2) The Same yesterday, today and forever!
 - (a) ""For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob." Malachi 3:6 NKJV
 - (b) "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8 NKJV

C. One Righteous Act

- (1) Extreme Times call for Extreme Measures

(a) "Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel. Then the LORD said to Moses, **"Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel."** So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor." **And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.** Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and **took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped** among the children of Israel. And those

who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.”

Numbers 25:1-9 NKJV

- 1) Israel committed harlotry with the women of Moab and they sacrifice to and worship their gods.
- 2) Yahweh has Israel's leaders hanged in public!
- 3) One Israelite and his harlot are run through by Phinehas' javelin and Yahweh stops the slaughter!
- 4) WHY DID THIS HAPPEN: ...***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.***
 - (a) ““And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 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. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.” Revelation 2:12-16 NKJV

- (2) Abraham in search of a few righteous men
- (a) Yahweh would spare Sodom if he could find ten righteous men! “Then he said, “Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?” **And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of ten.”**” Genesis 18:32 NKJV
 - (b) **SEE ENTIRE NARRATIVE Genesis 18:16-33:** “Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. And the LORD said, “**Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing**, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.” And the LORD

said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know." Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. And Abraham came near and said, **"Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"** So the LORD said, **"If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."** Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: **Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?"** So He said, **"If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it."** And he spoke to Him yet again and said, **"Suppose there should be forty**

found there?" So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty." Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: **Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."** And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: **Suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty."** Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: **Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."** So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place." Genesis 18:16-33 NKJV

1. Yahweh tells Abraham that he is about to completely destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. *"Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."* Amos 3:7 NKJV
2. Abraham asks Yahweh, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"
3. Abraham pleads for Yahweh to spare the cities if he could find 50 righteous men in them. Yahweh says He would do so for the sake of the righteous men.

4. Then Abraham lowers the standard to 45, then 40, then 30, then 20, then 10. If I find 10 righteous men, would you spare the cities for their sake. Yes, Yahweh says. Clearly there were not even 10!

D. Worth Repeating so it becomes part of your Prophetic DNA
—You simply must know the Law and the Prophets! OR
YOU WILL BE PRONE TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES!!!!

- (1) **Look at his words to the men on the road to Emmaus (and remember that the only Scriptures at that time is what we know today as the Old Testament):** *“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”* (Luke 24:27)
*“Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were **written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**””* (Luke 24:44)
- (2) **And see how He rebuked religious Jews for missing the very fact that ALL the Scriptures pointed to Him:** *“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they **which testify of Me.**”* (John 5:39) *“Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust.*

*For **if you believed Moses, you would believe Me**; for **he wrote about Me**. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*" (John 5:45-47)

- (3) **And Y'shua's parable comparing the rich man and the poor beggar Lazarus. Read Luke 16:19-31 makes yet another reference to the importance of understanding Moses and the Prophets.** *"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, '**They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.**' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, '**If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.**' "*"
- Luke 16:27-31 NKJV

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **Waiting on Yahweh to Change:**

- A. Can money change Yahweh's opinion?
- B. Does Yahweh change His message when you change your vantage point?

2. **What does the phrase, “The writing is on the wall” mean to you!**
3. **When donkeys speak, the real question is, “who is the true jackass?”**
4. **I was blind and now I see.**
 - A. Compare Balaam’s blindness with Paul’s blindness.
 - B. Compare Balaam’s eyes opening with Paul’s eyes opening.
5. **Discuss what the word of Yahweh says about insolent prophets and treacherous people.**
 - A. Why was it considered righteous that Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, drove a javelin through the man of Israel and the woman in Numbers 25?
6. **Discuss the ongoing blindness of those before Christ, at the time of Christ, and now after Christ, regarding “not hearing Moses and the prophets.”**