



Double Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 30:1-32:42
- Numbers 33:1–36:13
- II Peter 2:15-16
- Revelation 2:12-16
- Joshua 23:9-13
- Psalms 91:1-16; 84:1-10
- I John 4:12-19
- Deuteronomy 32:26-31
- Ephesians 3:14-21; 6:10-18
- Judges 6-8
- Isaiah 41:10-13
- I Corinthians 6:19-20
- Galatians 2:17-20
- Matthew 6:25-34

MIRACLE ARMY

- Closing the Book on Balaam
- More than you can Imagine
- Not Any Ol' Victory
- A Little Yahweh is More...
- Your Refuge and Dwelling
- Putting 10,000 to Flight
- The Gideon Narrative
- Battle Blessings
- Supernatural Protection
- The Armor of God
- The Final Victory
- Fear Not
- Seek First the Kingdom
- A Final Prayer

Try to wrap your mind around this. Yahweh tells you to go take over a group of hostile nations. There are a gang of Kings who have it out for you and they have been preparing to take you on for quite some

time. They've summoned the favor of their gods to come against you and have amassed a great army. Then Yahweh casually instructs you to take with you only 12,000 men. Don't worry, your decisive victory has been prophesied. Oh, and when you get back from the war, pay attention to the greatest miracle of the entire campaign!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Count up the plunder that was taken—of man and beast—you and Eleazar the priest and the chief fathers of the congregation; **and divide the plunder into two parts, between those who took part in the war, who went out to battle, and all the congregation.**” Numbers 31:25-27 NKJV

“Then the officers who were over thousands of the army, the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, came near to Moses; and they said to Moses, “Your servants have taken a count of the men of war who are under our command, **and not a man of us is missing.**” Numbers 31:48-49 NKJV

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

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly **above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us, to

Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV

Let’s Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. **KEM Statement about Double Portions:** The Torah is divided into 54 weekly readings meant to be explored throughout each biblical calendar year called the annual Torah cycle. Yet, the normal length of a biblical year is counted by lunar (moon) cycles, not a solar (sun) cycle, and has only 354 days, which yields only 50 or 51 sabbaths on which to do those readings. The biblical “leap year” adds an extra month every 3 years which then adds 4 sabbaths for reading. In addition, a few of the readings each year are meant to be read on biblical feast days and not on the weekly sabbath. So to insure that each year all of the portions are read, some weeks have double portion readings. This can happen up to 7 times in any Biblical calendar year, differing dependent on when the feasts days fall and if we are in a leap year. This week calls for one of those double portion readings.
2. Numbers 30 discusses the laws of vows and oaths. Numbers 31 tells the story of Israel's war with Midian. Numbers 32 relates

the story of how the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Mannaseh came to inherit the land east of the Jordan River.

3. The second portion this week, Numbers 33-36, and the last reading from the book of Numbers, recounts the "journeys" of Israel. It settles several last-minute details. In it we find a list of the encampments from Egypt to the plains of Moab. We also find instructions for apportioning the land, as well as the specifics regarding the borders of the land. Moses introduces the laws of the cities of refuge and more inheritance laws.
4. This final portion is the end of the continuous narrative of Torah that began in Genesis with the creation of the universe. The narrative does not resume until the end of Deuteronomy, when Moses dies.
5. **The Law Concerning Vows:** These are the statutes which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, and between a father and his daughter in her youth in her father's house." Numbers 30:16 NKJV
6. If a man makes a vow, he shall keep it. that simple!
7. If a young woman makes a vow and she is still under her father's roof, he has to right to overrule it. If he does not, it stands; if he does overrule it on the same day he hears of it, then the vow is not binding. If she is married, her husband holds that same authority.

8. If a widow or a divorced woman made a vow while still in her husband's house (when they were married or he was still alive), then the same rules apply.
9. Numbers 31 catalogs the the very events Balak had hoped to avoid, Israel's defeat of the Midianites.
10. **Vengeance on the Midianites:** Israel goes to war with 1000 men from each tribe (twelve thousand) with Phinehas and Eleazar along with with the holy articles and the signal trumpets. All the kings of Midian and all the males are slaughtered, including Balaam (the prophet for hire; he should have never second-guessed Yahweh or instigated Israel's harlotry). The women are taken captive, and the spoils are collected and the cities burned.
11. **The Return from War:** Moses is not happy that the woman were kept alive! Why? *"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."* Numbers 31:16
12. So kill every male child and kill every woman who is not a virgin. Here is what you need do when you defeat an enemy in battle:
13. *"Only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead, everything that can endure fire, you shall put through the*

*fire, and it shall be clean; and it shall be purified **with the water of purification**. But all that cannot endure fire you shall put through water.” Numbers 31:22-23*

14. **Remember the Waters of Purification were made with the ashes of the red heifer:** *Then a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and store them outside the camp in a clean place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for the **water of purification**; it is for purifying from sin. Numbers 19:9*
15. **Dividing the Plunder:** the plunder is divided in two parts (the total of what was taken is cataloged). Half will go to the 12,000 men who went to battle and the other half to the rest of the people. Remember: Moses just took another census in Numbers 26 and there were 601,730 men (not including Levites.) Scholars estimate that there were approximately 3 million people including woman and children.
16. So, 2% of the men (12,000) gets 50% of the plunder, and 98% of the men (589,730), plus their families (2.4 million), get the other 50%.
17. Plus everyone must give a part of their share to the Levites who keep charge of the tabernacle (as we know they have no inheritance and are always provided for by Yahweh).

18. Each man of war must give 1/500th of their take to the priests and each of the people must give 1/50th. So, the blessing for going to battle verses sitting on the sidelines is astronomical!
19. One final detail. The men who went to war, in addition to the booty divided by the priests, had collected many items of gold jewelry along the way.
20. **Catch this amazing testimony:** the officers of those men did a head count after they got back and they had NOT LOST ONE MAN in the battle. In great appreciation they collected all that gold (sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty shekels) and brought it to the Eleazar in great thanks and as a memorial of this outrageous miracle of ZERO CASUALTIES, and for all the people to remember forever!
21. **Tribes Settling East of the Jordan:** Reuben and Gad had such a multitude of livestock and they see that there is some land on the east side of the Jordan that is perfect to use. They ask Moses, Eleazar and other leaders if they can stay on the east side of the Jordan to settle. The only complication Moses sees is that if they do so, they will exempt themselves from fighting the battles across the Jordan in the promised land. He warns, “Don’t make the mistake your forefathers did the first time they had a chance to go into the land!” Plus your brothers will be discouraged that

you are not with them in the fight. If you do this, Yahweh's fierce anger might even be greater than it was back 40 years ago.

22. So the Reubenites and Gadites say they will build their sheepfolds on this side and then they will arm themselves and go over with their brothers until they have the victory. "We will not return to our homes until every one of the children of Israel has received his inheritance."
23. Moses says that if they fulfill their promise, it will be acceptable and they will be blameless. But if they go back on their word, they will be sinning against Yahweh! So go build your cities and sheepfolds on this side and then prep for battle. This applied to the Reubenites, Gadites and to half the tribe of Manasseh.
24. **Second Portion:** Israel's journey from Egypt is reviewed from the moment they left Egypt all the way up to where they are right now, looking across the Jordan. Each starting and stopping place is named. Of note is that they, of course, left Egypt in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover. They did so while Egypt was dealing with their dead firstborns and reeling over the total annihilation of their gods (as Yahweh executed judgment on each of them during the plagues.)

25. Special mention is made of Aaron's death in the fortieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, at one hundred and twenty-three years old.
26. **Instructions for Conquest of Canaan:** Pay attention here! When you cross over, you better drive out the inhabitants, and destroy all things they use to worship their gods. Then divide the land according to the plan I gave you. If you don't drive all of them out, it will come back to bite you!
27. *"But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them."* Numbers 33:55-56 NKJV
28. **The Appointed Boundaries of Canaan:** The northern, southern, western and eastern borders are detailed and we are reminded that Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan, across from Jericho eastward, toward the sunrise.
29. **Leaders Appointed to Divide the Land:** one leader of every tribe by name is assigned to divide the land for the inheritance.
30. Cities are assigned to the Levites as they have no land inheritance. They are to be given from the other tribes plus

common land around the cities for their livestock. And the common-land around the cities is designated. (It is fascinating how the cities of the Levites shall be in the middle of a perfect square of land, much the same way the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:9-27 will be a perfect cube!)

31. Six Cities of Refuge (three on each side of the Jordan) are designated for someone who kills someone by accident. The cities are for the children of Israel, for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them.
32. Clear distinctions are made between accidents, murders and revenge. The congregation shall judge between these. And the one who has committed an accident may use the cities of refuge and return to his home after the death of the high priest.
33. You may take no payoffs to let someone skirt the penalty for murder.
34. **Marriage of Female Heirs:** The final chapter of Numbers, chapter 36, expands on the ruling about inheritance that we saw in Numbers 27:1-11, when the daughters of Zelophehad brought their concerns to Moses. Will women lose their family land or family name if their father dies without sons? *“Why should the name of our father be removed from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father’s brothers.”* (Numbers 27:4)

- (a) Moses brought their case before Yahweh and Yahweh agrees. ***“If a man dies and has no son, then you shall cause his inheritance to pass to his daughter. If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the relative closest to him in his family, and he shall possess it. Numbers 27:8-11***
- (b) Now in Numbers 36:1-13, Moses adds to this ruling, instructing that if these land-owning daughters later marry, they must marry within their tribe so that the tribal land does not change hands to another tribe. ***“Let them marry whom they think best, but they may marry only **within the family of their father’s tribe.**’ So the inheritance of the children of Israel shall not change hands from tribe to tribe, for every one of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.” Numbers 36:6-7 NKJV***

CLOSING THE BOOK ON BALAAM

1. Yahweh’s will comes to reality.

A. Balak’s Greatest Fears

- (1) “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

- (a) Balak was petrified that Israel would take over and consume everything around him.
- (2) “**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

- (a) Balaam hears from Yahweh and that is exactly what is going to happen!
- (b) Israel shall be like gardens and trees planted near an unlimited water supply.

- (c) Israel will boast greatest King
 - (d) Her strength will be unmatched
 - (e) She will consume all her enemies
- (3) “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

- (a) Israel will rule the area and all kingdoms around her will topple.

B. In the end Balak’s greatest fear are realized

- (1) “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: **Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel.** Afterward you shall be gathered to your people.” So Moses spoke to the people, saying, “**Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the LORD on Midian.** A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war.” So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war. Then Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from each tribe; he sent them to the war with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand. **And they warred against the Midianites, just as the LORD commanded Moses, and they killed all the males. 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. And the children of Israel took the women of Midian captive, with their little ones, and took as spoil all their cattle, all their flocks, and all their goods. **They also burned with fire all the cities where they dwelt, and all their forts.** And they took all the spoil and all the booty—of man and beast.” Numbers 31:1-11 NKJV

- (a) Israel goes to war against the Midianites and all of its kings and kingdom come down!
- (b) Balaam receives the his just reward for his impure heart of greed and his incitement of harlotry.

C. **Balaam receives his just reward**

- (1) “...Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword. Numbers 31:8
- (2) And Moses said to them: “Have you kept all the women alive? 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.” Numbers 31:15-16 NKJV
 - (a) We see why Balaam is also killed in the process!
 - (b) He was the one who encouraged the children of Israel to fornicate with pagan women and pagan gods!

- (3) “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
- (a) The apostle Peter saw how tempted Balaam was by the the money he was offered by Balak. And although he never got paid; he still had a wicked heart on the matter.
- (4) *““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

- (a) Even Y’shua in His revelation to John uses Balaam as an example of a prophet who caused the people to go astray!
- (b) Here in Revelation 2, He recounts the very sin that we see in Numbers 31.
 - 1. **Revelation 2:** *“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.”*
 - 2. **Numbers 31:** *“Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through **the counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor.”*

MORE THAN YOU CAN ASK OR IMAGINE

2. Not Any Ol’Victory

A. A little of Yahweh is infinitely more than an abundance of anything else!

- (1) Only 12,000 to rout a nation
 - (a) “So Moses spoke to the people, saying, “Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the LORD on Midian.

A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war.” So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from each tribe, **twelve thousand armed for war**. Then Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from each tribe; he sent them to the war with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand.”

Numbers 31:3-6 NKJV

1. Only 12,000 men are recruited to fight this battle!
- (2) One can chase 1000 when Yahweh is doing the fighting!
 - (a) “For the LORD has driven out from before you great and strong nations; but as for you, no one has been able to stand against you to this day. **One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you.** Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God. Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations—these that remain among you—and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you, know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until

you perish from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.” Joshua 23:9-13 NKJV

(3) **When Yahweh is your refuge and dwelling place!**

- (a) **“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High** Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. **A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.** Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”” Psalms 91:1-16 NKJV

1. The most famous Psalm of protection. King David understood that when you are under the protection of Yahweh, *a thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you!*
2. FYI: this is what Y’shua said about what it means for Yahweh to be your dwelling place. *“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, **God abides in us**, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know **that we abide in Him**, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **God abides in him, and he in God.** And we have known and believed the love that God*

has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." I John 4:12-16
NKJV

- (4) **Warning:** Yahweh will use it against you if you are rebellious. One can chase 1000 and two 10,000
- (a) "I would have said, **"I will dash them in pieces, I will make the memory of them to cease from among men,"** Had I not feared the wrath of the enemy, Lest their adversaries should misunderstand, Lest they should say, "Our hand is high; And it is not the LORD who has done all this." ' "For they are a nation void of counsel, Nor is there any understanding in them. Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, That they would consider their latter end! **How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the LORD had surrendered them?** For their rock is not like our Rock, Even our enemies themselves being judges."
Deuteronomy 32:26-31 NKJV

- (5) Be able to comprehend this....
- (a) "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you,

according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, **that Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **may be able to comprehend** with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:14-19 NKJV

(b) “Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above** all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV

1. Comprehend this; when Christ dwells in you, abides in you, the love of God will do for you what is beyond your comprehension to imagine.
2. In other words, if you can imagine the greatest provision and protection of Yahweh, what He actually has for you is MORE THAN THAT. And when you can imagine more, He has more than that!

(6) The Gideon Narrative (read the entire story in Judges 6-8). I have outlined it here so you can see yet another

supernatural, more than you can ask for or imagine victory over the Midianites!

- (a) In the time of the Judges of Israel, again Israel has done what was evil in God's eyes so He delivers them over to the Midianites for seven years.
- (b) Think about this; these are the very people we just saw defeated in Numbers 31!
- (c) Israel had to hide in caves and every time they planted their fields, the Midianites and Amalekites would uproot them and leave no substance, which left Israel impoverished.
- (d) A prophet then comes to Israel to remind them who they are and who Yahweh is to them!
- (e) An angel appears to Gideon and calls him into action, calling him a "man of valor."
- (f) Gideon wants to know where all the miracles have gone and Yahweh calls him to turn the tides on the Midianites.
- (g) Gideon has doubts as he comes from a small weak clan in Manasseh, but God assures him.
- (h) Gideon asks for a sign and he goes to prepare a sacrifice. He is told to lay it on a rock and then he wets

it down. An angel touches the sacrifice with his rod and the rock ignites a flame that consumes it.

- (i) Gideon feels assured: *“Then the LORD said to him, “Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.””*
Judges 6:23
 - (j) Gideon is instructed to tear down the altar of Baal that his father built and the wooden statue next to it, and to erect an Altar to Yahweh. He is afraid to do so for fear of his father and his father’s men, so he takes ten men with him and does it by the cover of night.
 - (k) The next morning the men of the city suspect Gideon and want to kill him for his actions.
 - (l) Joash, Gideon’s dad, questions the men about why they think they need to take vengeance for Baal. He reasons, *“If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!””* Judges 6:31 NKJV
 - (m) *“Therefore on that day he called him [Gideon] Jerubbaal, saying, “Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar.””* Judges 6:32 NKJV
1. This reminds me of when Gamaliel, in Acts 5:22-42, gave the religious leaders who wanted to persecute the Apostles this advice, after the Apostles repeatedly refused to obey the religious authorities’ ruling that

they “no longer preach in the name of Y’shua.” (V. 28)
“And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.”” Acts 5:38-39 NKJV

- (n) Then the Midianites and Amalekites gathered an army and so did Gideon (from Manasseh, Ashe, Zebulon, and Naphtali.)
- (o) Then Gideon sets two fleeces just to be sure Yahweh will save Israel. Both times the answer is, “Yes!”
- (p) Judges 7 is the famous account in which Yahweh says that the army Gideon has amassed is too large. Yahweh is sure that with such numbers the people will take credit for the victory.
- (q) Yahweh makes a series of conditions that will certainly scale down the army:
 1. All who are afraid can go home: this immediately reduces the army from 32,000 to 10,000.
 2. Then Yahweh tells them to go down to the water and all who drink by kneeling and putting their heads down into the water should go home, and all those

who scoop water with their hands will become your army: 9,700 go home leaving an army of 300!

- (r) God tells Gideon that it is with these 300 men that the Midianites will be delivered into his hands. **(This qualifies for “more than you can ask or imagine!”)**
- (s) Yahweh sends Gideon down into the camp of the Midianites which boasts men too numerous to count, but he hears one man recounting a dream of a large loaf of barley bread crashing into their camp. And he hears another man who interprets the dream as the sword of Gideon.
- (t) Gideon was strengthened upon hearing the dream and divides his 300 men into three groups of 100. He stations the three groups surrounding the camp and has them blow their trumpets with torches in their hands as they cry out, “The sword of Gideon.”
- (u) The Lord sends confusion into the camp and the Midianites hack each other to death.
- (v) Some people escape, so Gideon orders them pursued by the other tribes who track them down and kill their princes.

- (w) The men of Ephraim are angered that they were not originally asked for help, but Gideon assures them that the outcome is proof that he did what was correct.
- (x) Gideon's 300 men are hungry and the men of Succoth and their Kings refuse them food—same with the men of Penuel. God judges them all at the hand of Gideon for refusing to provide for Gideon's men.
- (y) The narrative ends with the defeat of Midian and ensuing 40 years of peace, as well as the peaceful old-age death of Gideon who had 70 sons.
- (z) You would think Israel would finally learn a lesson! But they don't! *“So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel **again played the harlot** with the Baals, and made Baal-Berith their god. Thus the children of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side; nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) in accordance with the good he had done for Israel.”* Judges 8:33-35 NKJV

B. Battle Blessings—dividing the plunder from Israel's original defeat of the Midianites

- (1) *““Count up the plunder that was taken—of man and beast—you and Eleazar the priest and the chief fathers of the*

congregation; and divide the plunder into **two parts, between those who took part in the war, who went out to battle, and all the congregation.**"Numbers 31:26-27 NKJV

- (2) "And levy a tribute for the LORD on the **men of war** who went out to battle: **one of every five hundred** of the persons, the cattle, the donkeys, and the sheep; take it from their half, and give it to Eleazar the priest as a heave offering to the LORD." Numbers 31:28-29 NKJV
- (3) "And from **the children of Israel's half** you shall take **one of every fifty**, drawn from the persons, the cattle, the donkeys, and the sheep, from all the livestock, and give them to the Levites who keep charge of the tabernacle of the LORD."" Numbers 31:30 NKJV
 - (a) **Dividing the Plunder:** the plunder is divided in two parts (the total of what was taken is cataloged). Half will go to the 12,000 men who went to battle and the other half to the rest of the people. Remember: Moses just took another census in Numbers 26 and there were 601,730 men (not including Levites.) Scholars estimate that there were approximately 3 million people including woman and children.
 - (b) So, 2% of the men gets 50% of the plunder, and 98% of the men, plus their families, get the other 50%.

- (c) Put this in perspective: 12,000 men share 50% and the 3,000,000 others share the other 50%. **If this does not encourage you to be the one who goes to battle when you are called, nothing will!**
- (d) Plus everyone must give a part of their share to the Levites who keep charge of the tabernacle (as we know they have no inheritance and are always provided for by Yahweh).
- (e) Each man of war must give 1/500th of their take to the priests and each of the people must give 1/50th. So, the blessing for going to battle verses sitting on the sidelines is astronomical!

C. Supernatural Protection

- (1) “Then the officers who were over thousands of the army, the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, came near to Moses; and they said to Moses, “Your servants have taken a count of the men of war who are under our command, **and not a man of us is missing.**” Numbers 31:48-49 NKJV
 - (a) Not only does Israel score a decisive victory, but in miraculous fashion they **do not even lose one man.**
- (2) “Therefore we have brought an offering for the LORD, what every man found of ornaments of gold: armlets and

bracelets and signet rings and earrings and necklaces, to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD.””

Numbers 31:50 NKJV

- (3) “And Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the tabernacle of meeting **as a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD.**” Numbers 31:54 NKJV

- (a) In an outward sign of gratitude the soldiers make a memorial offering to the priesthood!

D. The Armor of God

- (1) “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the **devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** Therefore **take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the

shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—” Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV

- (a) The true battle is against the spiritual realm
 - (b) Put on the whole armor of God!
- (2) “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.””
Deuteronomy 31:6 NKJV
- (a) Yahweh goes before you!
- (3) “**Fear not**, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ “Behold, all those who were incensed against you Shall be ashamed and disgraced; They shall be as nothing, And those who strive with you shall perish. You shall seek them and not find them— Those who contended with you. **Those who war against you Shall be as nothing, As a nonexistent thing. For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right**

hand, Saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'" Isaiah
41:10-13 NKJV

- (a) Fear Not
- (b) Yahweh Strengthens
- (c) Yahweh Helps
- (d) Those against you shall be disgraced and ashamed
- (e) Those who war against you shall be nothing, as if non-existent

E. The Final Victory

(1) **No fear**—"Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." I John 4:17-19 NKJV

- (a) Perfect love casts out all fear

(2) **My life is not my own**—"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own? For you were bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV

- (a) You are not your own; you were bought with a price!

(3) **You are already dead**—““But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. **I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:17-20 NKJV

(a) It is no longer I who live!

(4) **Seek First the Kingdom**—““Therefore I say to you, **do not worry about your life,** what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet **your heavenly Father feeds them.** Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field,

which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?
“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **For after all these things the Gentiles seek.** For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” Matthew 6:25-34 NKJV

- (a) Do not worry about anything in your life
- (b) Yahweh knows what you need.
- (c) Unbelievers must occupy their time and emotions concerned with everyday worries.
- (d) Your only concern should be seeking God’s kingdom and His righteousness.
- (e) Do that and God will take care of everything else.

(5) **A Final Prayer:**

“How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, And the swallow a nest for herself, Where she may lay her

young— *Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, My King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You. Selah*

Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

O God, behold our shield, And look upon the face of Your anointed. For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.” Psalms 84:1-10 NKJV

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Balak’s greatest fears and Balaam’s ultimate reward:

- A. How did Balak ultimately suffer his greatest fears?
- B. Why was Balaam ultimately judged as unrighteous and what was his punishment?

2. Why was Israel able to annihilate Moab and all the Midianite kings, and the surrounding area, with just 12,000 soldiers?

- A. Where else in Scripture do we see military miracles such as this?

B. What is the most outrageous miracle regarding these 12,000 soldiers?

3. What does it mean to “abide under the shadow of the Most High?”

A. Discuss Y’shua’s words in 1 John 4:12-16 as they relate to Psalm 91.

4. When considering the battles you face every day, as well as the state the world is in today, what are the promises in these Scriptures that insure the victory?

A. Ephesians 3:14-21

B. Ephesians 6:10-18

C. Isaiah 41:10-13

5. How do the following scriptures equip you to enter the battle?

A. 1 John 4:17-19

B. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

C. Galatians 2:17-20

D. Matthew 6:25-34

E. Psalms 84:1-10