



NUMBERS 19-21

BIBLE STUDY

MT. ZION FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
105 LANKFORD AVENUE
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902

VISION

The vision of the Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Virginia will reach and reproduce within its surrounding community, a people inspired and equipped with a passion for the truth of God's Word and His compassion for others who will be enablers of change.



Numbers 22-24 – Petitioning of Balaam

NUMBERS 22

When Israel was camping near Moab across the Jordan river from Jericho ([Numbers 22:1](#)), the prophet Balaam became a part of their history.

Today is all about him and his prophesying about Israel. Balaam was a man of mixed character. He wanted to do right but still wanted to be popular with the world. In the end it brought ruin to him.



NUMBERS 22:1

The People of Israel marched on and camped on the Plains of Moab at Jordan-Jericho.



NUMBERS 22:1

The Petitioning of Balaam.

A number of particulars are involved in the petitioning of Balaam. Balaam was hired to curse the Israelites and ask for God's permission and in a dream and it is denied.

- *Royalty* in the petition: Balak king of Moab was the chief instigator of the petition.
- *Reason* for the petition: Balak feared the Israelites.
- *Request* in the petition: curse Israel.



NUMBERS 22:7-8

The Petitioning of Balaam.

- *Reward* in the petition ([verses 7-8](#)):

The leaders of Moab and Midian were soon on their way, with the fee for the cursing tucked safely in their wallets. When they got to Balaam, they gave him Balak's message.

- *Refusal* of the petition: Balaam obeyed God and refused the petition.

- *Return* in the petition: Balak sent higher-ranked messengers to petition Balaam again (temptation often returns).



NUMBERS 22:15-17

The Petitioning of Balaam.

- *Return* in the petition: Balak sent higher-ranked messengers to petition Balaam again (temptation often returns).
- *Remuneration* in the petition: *"Balak sent another group of nobles, higher ranking and more distinguished. They came to Balaam and said, 'Balak son of Zippor says, 'Please, don't refuse to come to me. I will honor and reward you lavishly—anything you tell me to do, I'll do; I'll pay anything—only come and curse this people.'"* will promote thee unto very great honor" ([v. 15-17](#)).



NUMBERS 22:1ff

The Petitioning of Balaam.

- *Reconsidering* of the petition: permission from God encouraged Balaam to do what he wanted to do, namely, accept the petition and gain a reward.
- *Rebuke* about the petition: God rebuked Balaam through Balaam's donkey that saw the angel of God with a sword in his hand blocking their way. The permission from God was a test which Balaam failed.
- *Requirement* for the petition: speak only what God says to speak (said twice by God and later repeated four times by Balaam to Balak).



NUMBERS 23–24

The Prophesying of Balaam.

The place and the highlights of the four main prophecies spoken by Balaam are as follows.

- First, at *Kiriath-huzoth*: “Go, curse Jacob for me; go, damn Israel.” *How can I curse whom God has not cursed? How can I damn whom GOD has not damned?”* ([23:8](#)).
- Second, at *Pisgah*: “No magic spells can bind Jacob, no incantations can hold back Israel.” ([23:23](#)).



NUMBERS 24

The Prophecy of Balaam.

- Third: at *Peor*: "*Blessed is he who blesseth thee [Israel], and cursed is he that curseth thee [Israel]*" ([24:9](#)).
- Fourth, again at *Peor*: "*There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel . . . Out of Jacob shall come he [Christ] that shall have dominion*" ([24:17](#), [19](#)).

This last prophecy climaxed all the prophecies by prophesying about Christ, Israel's coming Messiah. Balak protested these prophecies, but Balaam defended his prophecies by saying they were God's messages.



NUMBERS 23:10

Dying Like the Righteous

“Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.” The Message Bible reads: *“I want to die like these right-living people! I want an end just like theirs!”* THIS request was spoken by the prophet Balaam, a man who knew the truth and who could on occasion preach the truth well; but he had a price and would suit his message to his listeners if the price was right. This request concerning dying is a gem. To examine this great request, we note that it was *an intelligent request*; it was *an instructive request*, but it *was also an incomplete request*.



NUMBERS 23:10

Dying Like the Righteous

Intelligent request. Balaam, in spite of his faults, did not dodge the fact of death. He faced it head-on. So many, however, try to ignore death and refuse to talk or think about it. We are not advocating that a person should morbidly think and talk about death all the time; but neither should he ignore the most certain fact of life, namely, that we will all die.



NUMBERS 23:10

Dying Like the Righteous

Intelligent request. The writer of Hebrews writes: “*Everyone has to die once, then face the consequences. Christ’s death was also a one-time event, but it was a sacrifice that took care of sins forever. And so, when he next appears, the outcome for those eager to greet him is, precisely, salvation*” ([Hebrews 9:27](#)). Failure to take serious consideration about death means you will not properly prepare for death. And there is nothing you need to prepare for more earnestly and more properly than death, for how you die will determine where you will spend eternity.



NUMBERS 23:10

Dying Like the Righteous

Instructive request. When Balaam said he wanted to die the death of the righteous, he instructs us that all men do not die the same way. All do not die the death of the righteous. To die in your sins—the death of the unrighteous—is to seal your doom to an eternity shut out of heaven and locked into the fiery judgment of hell. Only the righteous in Jesus Christ will inherit eternal life in heaven when they die.



NUMBERS 22:1

Dying Like the Righteous

Incomplete request. Balaam did not die the death of the righteous. He died with the Midianites when Israel attacked these evil people “*Among the fallen were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba—the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword*” ([Numbers 31:8](#)). The problem with Balaam is that he did not also pray to live the life of the righteous. If you want to die the death of the righteous, you will have to live the life of the righteous, too. Balaam was like many who wanted the rewards of godly living without the requirements of godly living. He wanted the comfort of heaven but not the Christ of heaven. If you want to die



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NUMBERS

THE END

