

What is the Doctrine of Balaam?



Q1, Who was Balaam in the Scriptures?

The Holy Scripture tells us that Balaam was the son of Beor (Numbers 22:5), living in Pethor near the Euphrates River. Balaam was highly regarded by the Moabites and Midianites as a soothsayer (a person supposed to be able to foresee the future) in Joshua 13:22 and a prophet in Numbers 24:2-9

who could bless or curse with his words. His brother, Bela, was a king of Edom. King Balak, fearing the Israelites' growing presence, seeks Balaam's prophetic abilities to curse them, hoping to weaken their power. [Balaam, a non-Israelite prophet](#), is a key figure in the Book of Numbers in chapters 22 to 24 where he is hired by King Balak of Moab to curse the Israelites. Balak says to Balaam, **“A people has come out of Egypt; they cover the face of the land and have settled next to me. Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that whoever you bless is blessed, and whoever you curse is cursed.”**(Numbers 22:5-6)

Q2, What does the word Balaam mean in Scripture?

The word Balaam is often related to “one who makes profession of religion for the sake of monetary gain.” Others believe that this name derives from the pagan gods Bal and Am, making this name mean **“Am is lord.”** Balaam was a man who was willing to entice the people of Yahuah with false Unbiblical teachings to their destruction and all for the sake of his own personal profit, just like the Christian churches are doing today. Peter says, the false prophets have **“followed the way of Balaam.”** This is exactly how Peter sees the false teachers. There is nothing new under the sun. What happened here is also happening today when many false prophets, priests and pastors are teaching sweet messages that tickle the ears to keep the people in the churches so they can pay their tithes and offerings to them.



Q3, What happened when Balaam was riding his donkey in Numbers 22:21 to 35?

In Numbers 22:21-35, Balaam was riding his donkey on his way to curse Israel when a heavenly messenger of Yahuah appears to block their path. The donkey sees the messenger three times and tries to avoid it, leading Balaam to repeatedly beat the donkey. Yahuah then enables the donkey to speak, questioning Balaam's actions. The donkey reasons, asking Balaam **"Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?"** Then Yahuah opens Balaam's eyes, and he sees the Messenger in the road, sword drawn. Only now does Balaam fall on his face in reverence. This prompts Balaam to finally recognize the Heavenly Messenger and he acknowledges the donkey's role in saving his life. The messenger (Malach in Hebrew), convicts Balaam, asking why he beat his donkey heartlessly instead of realizing that his path was reckless. Now Balaam, a man who claims such devotion to Yahuah he can speak his very words, admits that he has sinned. He responds with **"I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back"** (Numbers 20:34).

Balaam does go back and stands by his conviction that he can only do what Yahuah tells him to. And as it turns out in the ensuing chapters, Yahuah will not allow Balaam to try to curse the Israelites but instead, Yahuah turned his curses into blessings, demonstrating His protection over His people Israel. In the eventual battle between Israel and the Midianites Balaam is killed while fighting on the side of Balak. (Numbers 31:8)



Q4, What was the sin of Balaam?

Balaam was greedy for money, for a reward and because of that he committed a great sin of wanting to curse Israel for monetary gain and led others to sin also.

Q5 What are the characteristics of Balaam?

Balaam is pictured as blind in one eye and lame in one foot, and his disciples (followers) are distinguished by three morally corrupt qualities: an evil eye, a haughty bearing, and a greedy spirit. Proverbs 21:4 **"A haughty look, a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked (lawless), are sin."** Proverbs 28:22 **"A man with an evil eye runs after wealth and does not know**

that poverty awaits him.” Mark 7:20 to 23 And He (Yahusha) said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil reasonings, adulteries, whorings, murders, thefts, greedy desires, wickedness, deceit, indecency, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these wicked *matters* come from within and defile a man.”

Q6 What can we learn from the story of Balaam?

The story of Balaam demonstrates Yahuah's love, patience, and mercy towards those who serve Him. Balaam had a relationship that was “**surface-level**” with Yahuah and chose worldly riches over service to Yahuah. Although Yahuah used him mightily, we know from the New Testament that Balaam's soul was lost. **“For the love of money is the root of all evil; through the desire of which, some have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”** 1 Timothy 6:10.



Q7, Did Balaam lose his salvation because of his love for money?

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” 1 Timothy 6:10.

In 1972 elder Mc Conkie wrote that Balaam, in some respects, was a very great prophet but he was one “who loved the wages of unrighteousness and had a greed for money above choosing to obey Yahuah. Greed corrupted the prophet Balaam; he sought wealth and lost his soul.”



Q8, What are the consequences of not faithfully paying tithes to further the Good News message of Yahuah?

Do you have the spirit of Balaam where you are afraid that you don't have enough money to faithfully pay your tithes and offerings to Yahuah? Scripture tells us not paying tithes can lead to curses of poverty, financial difficulties, lack of wealth, even debt and never being able to succeed financially in life no matter how much money you earn.” Haggai 1:5 **“And now, thus said יהוה of hosts, “Consider your ways! You have sown much but brought in**

little; eat, but do not have enough; drink, but you are not filled with drink; clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes. Thus said יהוה of hosts, **“Consider your ways! “** No matter how little or how much you earn, when you put Yahuah first in your tithes and offering, it will stop the curses on your finances. Withholding tithes and offerings invites curses on your finances, making it difficult to manage your resources effectively.” Malachi 3:8 to12 **“Would a man rob Eloah? Yet you are robbing Me! But you said, ‘In what have we robbed You?’ In the tithe and the offering! You have cursed Me with a curse, for you are robbing Me, this nation, all of it! Bring all the tithes into the storehouse and let there be food in My house. And please prove Me in this,”** said יהוה of hosts, **“whether I do not open for you the windows of the heavens and shall pour out for you boundless blessings! And I shall rebuke the devourer for you, so that it does not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor does the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,”** said יהוה of hosts. **And all nations shall call you Baruch (blessed), for you shall be a land of delight,”** said יהוה of hosts.” When you are faithful to Yahuah in all things including your finances, Yahuah will Baruch you financially as well as spiritually in every area of your life.



Q9, What did Yahuah warn the assembly of Pergamum?

In Revelation 2:14, the assembly of Pergamum is scolded for tolerating the **“teaching of Balaam,”** or the **“doctrine of Balaam.”** Balaam’s name is also invoked in 2 Peter 2:12 to15 **“But these, like natural unreasoning beasts, having been born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheme that which they do not know, shall be destroyed in their destruction, being about to receive the wages of unrighteousness, deeming indulgence in the day of pleasure, spots and blemishes, reveling (arguing in a noisy way) in their own deceptions, while they feast with you, having eyes filled with an adulteress and unable to cease from sin, enticing unstable beings, having a heart trained in greed, children of a curse, having left the right way they went astray, having followed the way of Balaam (Bil’am) the son of Be’or, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.”**



Q10, Do we find the spirit of Balaam in the churches and congregations today?

Yes. Today we find the same spirit of Balaam in the churches and congregations today among the Priests, Pastors, Bishops, Popes and False prophets deceiving the people with sweet messages for the love of money instead of preaching the true Message of Repentance, turning away from sin and obeying Covenant Torah. All of these false teachers have the spirit of Balaam and are references to the the Old Testament character of Balaam, who tried unsuccessfully to prophesy against the people of Israel. (Numbers 22). Balaam eventually advised King Balak of Moab, the enemy of Israel, to pursue a campaign of seduction against them. (Numbers 31:16). The doctrine of Balaam is not only a serious problem, but a devious one. When the frontal assault failed, Balaam took a back-door approach. Balaam, a prophet from Mesopotamia, was willing to use his Yahuah-given talents for illicit purposes. Even though he knew Balak was Yahuah's enemy, he tried to sell his prophetic gifts to help him. When that didn't work, Balaam counselled King Balak on the most effective way to weaken Israel. This was through seduction, using Moabite and Midianite women, to tempt the Israelites into sexual relationships and into pagan rituals. The Israelites who participated brought Yahuah's judgment upon themselves. Numbers 25:1–9.



Q11, What does Peter mean by Balaam's way?

Balaam's "way" is a choice to promote falsehood for financial reasons according to 2 Peter 2:7 to 20 Yahuah **"rescued righteous Lot, who was oppressed with the indecent behavior of the lawless."** The Greek word here, is ***athesmos*** (not the usual one, ***anomos***) which means **"lawless."** For day after day that righteous man, dwelling among them, tortured his righteous being by seeing and hearing their lawless works), *then* יהוה (YHVH) knows how to rescue the reverent ones from trial and to keep the unrighteous unto the day of judgment, to be punished and most of all those walking after the flesh in filthy lust and despising authority – bold, headstrong, speaking evil of esteemed ones, whereas messengers who are greater in strength and power, do not bring a slanderous accusation against them before the

Master. But these, like natural unreasoning beasts, having been born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheme that which they do not know, shall be destroyed in their destruction, being about to receive the wages of unrighteousness, deeming indulgence in the day of pleasure, spots and blemishes, reveling in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes filled with an adulteress, and unable to cease from sin, enticing unstable beings, having a heart trained in greed, children of a curse, having left the right way, they went astray, having followed the way of Balaam (Bil'am) the son of Be'or, who loved the wages of unrighteousness but he was rebuked for his transgression: a dumb donkey speaking with the voice of a man restrained the madness of the prophet. These are fountains without water, clouds driven by a storm, to whom the blackest darkness is kept forever. For speaking arrogant nonsense, they entice – through the lusts of the flesh, through indecencies – the ones who have indeed escaped from those living in delusion, promising them freedom, though themselves being slaves of corruption – for one is a slave to whatever overcomes him. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Master and Saviour יהושע (Yahusha) Messiah, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the first.

Q12, What was Balaam's error according to Jude 1:11 to 13?

According to Jude 1:11 to 13 **“Woe to them! Because they have gone in the way of Cain (Qayin) and gave themselves to the delusion of Balaam (Bil'am) for a reward and perished in the rebellion of Qorah. These are rocky reefs in your love feasts, feasting with you, feeding themselves without fear, waterless clouds borne about by the winds, late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots, wild waves of the sea foaming up their own shame, straying stars for whom blackness of darkness is kept forever.”** Balaam's “error” was his willingness to accommodate pagan beliefs out of greed. Jude 1:4 also refers to the sin of those **“who pervert the grace of our Yahuah into a license for immorality (lawlessness).”** One trait of false teachers in the church and assemblies is that they attempt to turn Believers liberty to live in sin and a **“freedom”** to be promiscuous (having lots of different sexual partners or sexual relationships or sexual habits). 1 Corinthians 6:18 **“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.** Galatians 5:19 to 21 **“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife,**

jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of Yahuah.” Putting these ideas together gives a clear view of the doctrine of Balaam. It is the attitude that one can live like the world enjoying sin and the lusts of the flesh and still serve Yahuah. The doctrine of Balaam teaches compromise, wanting Believers to forget they are called to be separate and set-apart. Leviticus 20:26 **“And you shall be set-apart to Me, for I יהוה (YHVH) am set-apart, and have separated you from the peoples to be Mine.”** 1 Peter 1:2 **“you are chosen according to the foreknow-ledge of Eloah the Father, set apart by the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of יהושע (Yahusha) Messiah: Favor and peace be increased to you.”** 1Peter 1:14 to 23 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts in your ignorance, instead, as the One who called you is set-apart, so you also should become set-apart in all behavior because it has been written, **“Be set-apart, for I am set-apart. Now that you have cleansed your lives in obeying the truth through the Spirit to sincere brotherly love, love one another fervently with a clean heart, having been born again – not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible – through the living Word of Eloah, which remains forever.”** The doctrine of Balaam makes believers indistinguishable from the unbelieving world. (Matthew 5:13) The doctrine of Balaam is a belief that “a little sin” doesn’t hurt but “A little leaven leavens all the lump.” in Galatians 5:9, especially if there’s some financial or personal benefit involved (1 Timothy 6:3 to 6. **“If anyone teaches differently and does not agree to the sound words, those of our Master יהושע Messiah and to the teaching which is according to reverence, he is puffed up, understanding none at all, but is sick about questionings and verbal battles from which come envy, strife, slander, wicked suspicions, worthless disputes of men of corrupt minds and deprived of the truth, who think that reverence is a means of gain – withdraw from such. But reverence with contentment is great gain.”** **A person following the doctrine of Balaam is willing to compromise his beliefs for the sake of money and material gain. He acts to enable sinful behaviors for personal gain or even participate in them.** (Romans 1:32).



Q13, How does the spirit of compromise fit into the doctrine of Balaam?

The teaching or doctrine of Balaam is the view that Christians can live a compromised life for the sake

of popularity, money, sexual gratification, or personal gain. It's the attitude that treats sin as "no big deal" as "Jesus Christ" paid the price for our sins so we don't have to keep the law any longer. Christians can't — and shouldn't — totally shun the presence of sinners or unbelievers



Q14, How did Yahusha expose the Pharisees and Sadducees who refused to love the truth of the Scriptures and obey them?

Luke 7:33 to 35 Yahusha said, **"For Yohanan the Immerser came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Adam (Yahusha) has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a man, a glutton and a wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' And wisdom is declared right by all her children."**

Q15, Are we to keep company with professed believers who are living in sin, living like the world?

The answer is **NO**. We are to be set-apart from those that continue to live in sin. 1 Corinthians 5:11 to 13 **"But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone called 'a brother,' if he is one who whores, or greedy of gain, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are inside? But Eloah judges those who are outside. And put away the wicked one from among you!"** Ephesians 4:2 to 24 that you put off – with regard to your former way of life – the old man, being corrupted according to the desires of the deceit and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind and that you put on the new man which was created according to Eloah, in righteousness and set-apartness of the truth (of the Scriptures).



Q16, Should we keep silent or are we obligated to speak the truth when someone speaks Unbiblical teachings?

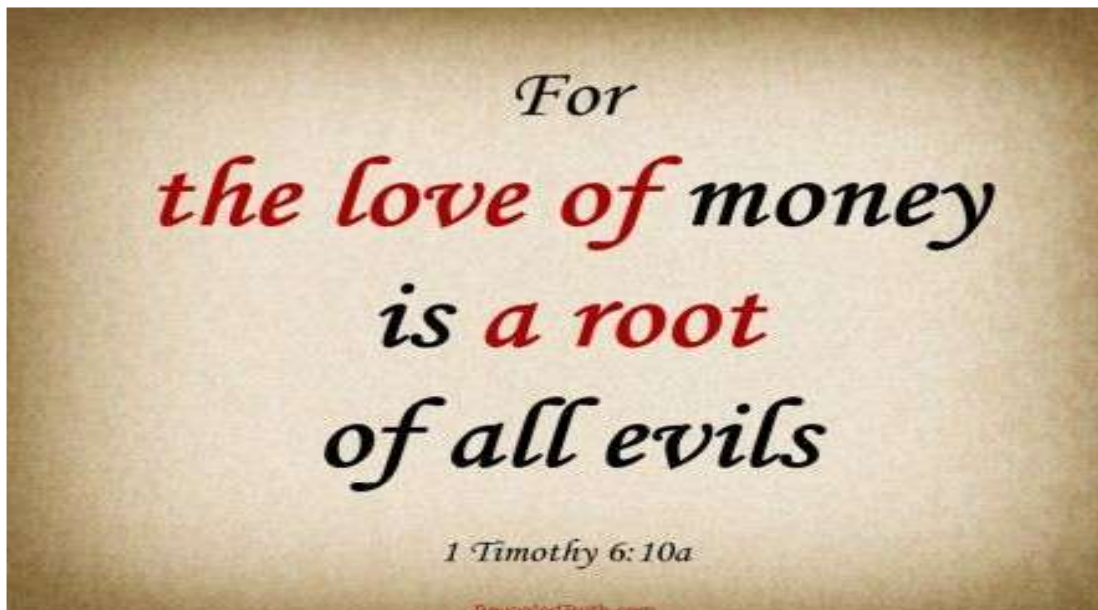
We are **NOT TO KEEP SILENT** but are obligated to stand up and correct the person by using the truth of the Scriptures to expose the error. Ephesians 4:25 **"Therefore, having put off the false,**

speak truth, each one with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. We are to live in righteousness Proverbs 23:19,20 “Hear, my son, and be wise and guide your heart in the way. Be not among heavy drinkers of wine or with gluttonous eaters of meat.”



Q17, What does it mean to let your light shine?

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, so that they see your good works and praise your Father who is in heaven” Whether it’s what others want to hear or not John 8:10,11 “And יהושע (Yahusha), straightening up and seeing no one but the woman, said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Did no one condemn you?” And she said, “No one, Master.” And יהושע (Yahusha) said to her, “Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.” The message is clear **go and sin no more.**



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“Bringing Souls into the Truth of Yahusha Messiah”

Andy +27 83 601 0060

andyrijavec@gmail.com

Carmen +27 83 391 5600

carmen.rjavec7@gmail.com