



BALAK - DESTROYER

Part One and Part Two

Numbers 22:2 to 25:9

Micah 5:6 to 6:8

Jude 1-25

2 Peter 2:1-22

Revelation 2:14-15

The last lesson *Chukah* Numbers 19, ended with the Israelites continuing their journey from Mount Hor to the plains of Moab. Balak, the king of Moab, was very concerned when the Israelites drew near to his kingdom and solicited the help of a professional soothsayer named Balaam to put the children of Israel under a debilitating curse (Numbers 21:20).

The Sorcerer Balaam

A False Prophet

The story of Balak and Balaam may seem out of context to the rest of the book, as God's/*Elohim* people are not in this account. However, it is about them. Thus, through this report, the Israelites are shown the schemes of the enemy and God's/*Elohim* protection.

🔱 **Numbers 22:1-3** “Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan *across from* Jericho. Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they *were* many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel.”

Two studies previously, in *Korach* Numbers 16, Scripture describes the disreputable character of Korah and the events that ensued because of him. In *Balak*, God/*Elohim* continues to chronicle this unsavory type as a warning for His people. Balaam is mentioned throughout Scripture; therefore, holds a key for end-days discernment (Micah 6:5; 2 Peter 2:15; Jude 1:11; Revelation 2:14).

🔱 **Micah 6:5** “O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, that you may know the righteousness of the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

✠ **Jude 1:11-13** “Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of *Cain*, have run greedily in the error of *Balaam* for profit, and perished in the rebellion of *Korah*. These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves. *They are* clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.”

✠ **Revelation 2:14** “But I have a few things against you [*church in Pergamos*], 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 (Revelation 2:12).

Balak, the king of Moab, attempts to bribe Balaam to act on his behalf. Balaam has the knowledge of the God/*Elohim* of Israel but is a very dubious character.

✠ **Numbers 22:5-6** “Then he [*Balak*] 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.”

The Moabite princes greet Balaam with the diviner’s fee in hand and explain their purpose in having him join the king. However, even though this was a paid job, Balaam puts his interests first.

✠ **Numbers 22:8** “And he said to them, ‘Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the LORD/Yahweh speaks to me.’ So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.”

We begin to see Balaam’s prideful arrogance come through when he announces that the LORD/Yahweh speaks to me.

Balaam used sorcery to call upon God/*Elohim*. God/*Elohim* came to Balaam that night asking him to clarify who these men were? After Balaam had explained, God/*Elohim* did not give permission for Balaam to return with the Moabite princes. *His word was final.* Thus, the princes returned to the king minus Balaam. Balak then sent another entourage larger and more impressive in hopes it would entice Balaam to come back with them. Balaam reminded them that no matter how much they offered he could not go against what God/*Elohim* instructed. They too spend the night waiting upon God/*Elohim* (Numbers 24:1).

✠ **Numbers 22:19-21** “Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD/Yahweh will say to me.” And God/*Elohim* 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.”

Here we see Balaam use sorcery a second time, which gives us a glimpse that this latest group did make an impression on him. With the prospect of greed, fame, and fortune within his reach, Balaam again requests an audience with God/*Elohim*. Perhaps he could change God's/*Elohim* mind, after all, that is what sorcerers do. Twist the truth. Even though God/*Elohim* gave Balaam His final answer at the beginning, Balaam showed disrespect by trying God/*Elohim* again in this matter. Thus, as a child continues to badger a parent in hopes of changing their mind, Balaam goes through the motion in front of Balak's significant delegation. However, God/*Elohim* was not impressed, as His Word was final. God/*Elohim* also saw that corruption was at the root of Balaam's heart. Therefore, reminded Balaam that he could only “do” what God/*Elohim* told him (Numbers 24:1).

✠ **Numbers 22:20** “And God/*Elohim* 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.*””

The Donkey Speaks

Did God/*Elohim* give Balaam permission to go? God/*Elohim* said, “*if the men come to call you “rise, go with them;” but only the word which I speak – that you shall do.”* Thus, when Balaam went with the men, God/*Elohim* was angry, as He did not say Balaam could go.

On the journey, Balaam experienced trouble with his donkey. Balaam could not understand why his animal did not obey him, thus beat it several times to get him to move. Balaam was disobedient to God's/*Elohim* instructions and was not beaten. Balaam's animal was obedient to God/*Elohim* but beaten by Balaam. What Balaam could not see, that the animal could see, was the Angel of the Lord barring his way. What action would create such spiritual blindness to obedience? *Sin*. Sin puts up a veil preventing people from *seeing* the truth even though it is right before their eyes. Thus, Balaam, in his sin, was blinded to the truth. Even when the donkey spoke audibly, Balaam was so blinded that he did not think it unusual and began to dialogue with the animal (Numbers 22:22-27).

✠ **2 Peter 2:15-19** “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. These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”

Though the *truth* is before many, those in sin will not *see the truth*, as witnessed in the *Korach* study with Korah. Though the earth opened swallowing the people alive, many still could not see *the truth* but continued to air on the side of unrighteousness, as sin had captured their hearts (Luke 16:19-31).

When God/*Elohim* opened Balaam's spiritual eyes, he was confronted with his own corrupt and perverse ways.

🌿 **Numbers 22:32-34** “And the Angel of the LORD/*Yahweh* 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.’ And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD/*Yahweh*, ‘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.’”

However, God/*Elohim* allowed Balaam to go with the men but reminded him only to speak what was authorized.

🌿 **Numbers 22:35** “Then the Angel of the LORD/*Yahweh* 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.”

Unbeknown to Balak and Balaam, a series of anointing, blessings, and profound prophecies regarding Israel's Redemption are about to unfold. The Moabite King was very pleased when he saw Balaam join him. Balaam reminds Balak he could only speak what God/*Elohim* instructed. Balak continues by leading Balaam up to the high places to offer sacrifices of appeasement to their sun god Baal.

What is Baal worship on the high places? One of the main gods of the Moabites is Baal. His worship is on the higher peaks thus; each location is named after him (i.e. *Baal Peor*). The propitiation of Baal was through obscene, immoral rites, and human sacrifices, which tells of the seductive perverseness of the spirit behind the Moabites.

🌿 **Numbers 22:41** “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.”

On the high place of Baal, Balaam has Balak build him seven altars and offer seven bulls and seven rams.

🌿 **Numbers 23:1-7** “Then Balaam said to Balak, ‘Build seven altars for me here, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.’ And Balak did just as Balaam had spoken, and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on *each* altar. Then Balaam said to Balak, ‘Stand by your burnt offering, and I will go; perhaps the LORD/*Yahweh* will come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I will tell you.’ So he went to a desolate height. And God/*Elohim* met Balaam, and he said to Him, ‘I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered on *each* altar a bull

and a ram.’ Then the LORD/*Yahweh* put a word in Balaam’s mouth, and said, ‘Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak.’ So he returned to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, he and all the princes of Moab. And he took up his oracle.”

Standing before King Balak, Balaam declares this oracle.

*“Balak the king of Moab has brought me [Balaam] from Aram,
from the mountains of the east.
‘Come, curse Jacob for me, and come, denounce Israel!’
How shall I [Balaam] curse whom God/Elohim has not cursed?
And how shall I [Balaam] denounce whom the LORD/Yahweh 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*

When Balaam spoke this blessing over Israel, it mocked Balak to his face. The king was furious but continued in his arrogant style. Perhaps a different altar with a different vantage point would be a better place to curse Israel. Thus, Balaam follows Balak to *Pisgah* and there, at the high place to Baal, Balak builds another seven altars and offers a bull and a ram on each in hopes this in some way would appease the gods and influence a curse. Then Balaam again has Balak stand by his offering to wait for the word of the LORD/*Yahweh* (Numbers 23:11-15)

🌿 **Numbers 23:17-24** “So he [*Balaam*] came [*back*] to him [*Balak*], and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab were with him. And Balak said to him, ‘What has the LORD/*Yahweh* spoken?’ Then he [*Balaam*] took up his oracle and said,

*“Rise up, Balak, and hear! Listen to me [Balaam], son of Zippor!
God/Elohim 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/Yahweh his God/Elohim is with him, and the shout of a King is among them.
God/Elohim 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/Elohim 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.”*

Balak has a hard time comprehending all this. He hired Balaam to do a job but continues to hear blessings pour out on Israel while they (Israel’s enemy) is reprimanded and censured. He tries again. Perhaps it is the high place. This time, Balak moves Balaam to the top of Peor with yet another vantage point to pronounce the curse. Balaam has Balak

repeat the seven altars with a bull, and a ram offered on each, then waits until he returns with the word from God/*Elohim* (Numbers 23:27-30).

By this time Balaam also sees that it pleased the LORD/*Yahweh* to bless Israel. In the first two oracles Balaam used sorcery to seek God/*Elohim*, but this time he set his face toward the wilderness. When Balaam raised his eyes, *he saw the full Israeli encampment, all according to their tribes*. The Spirit/*Ruach* of God/*Elohim* came upon him, and he took up this third oracle saying (Numbers 24:1-3),

*“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/Elohim,
Who sees the vision of the Almighty, who falls down, with eyes wide open:
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/Yahweh, 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/Elohim 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 24:3-9*

Balak was not pleased that Balaam blessed their enemy three times. He was planning to bestow honor upon Balaam but stated that *God/Elohim* had kept it from him. Balaam reminded Balak he could only speak God's/*Elohim* words. With that, he took up his fourth oracle ending with a prophecy of what would happen to Balak's people in the latter days, which also included the king (Numbers 24: 12-24).

*“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/Elohim,
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.”*

Did Balak and Balaam's attempts fail or succeed? We see very powerful prophecies are poured out upon Israel in this sequence of events. Then we see Balak and Balaam returned to where they came. However, we are not finished with this perverse spirit, as

we will observe in the next chapter.

The Next Generation – Pagan Idolatry Numbers 25:1-9

The Children of Israel were almost forty years in the wilderness. The first generation returning from Egypt had passed away. We are now witnessing the next generation (along with Caleb and Joshua and their families) camped at the door to the Promised Land on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho. Here the Israelites enter one of their biggest challenges yet, one which leaves them wide open to the enemy's enticement of the camp.

How could an invasion of the camp be possible? As Israel left the wilderness and traveled nearer their destination, they came close to the inhabitants of the land. As Israel journeyed toward Esau's territory, Jacob's twin brother refused them passage. Now with Israel advancing toward Moab, Moab knew they were no match for Israel's strength. Therefore, they did not engage in military strength. Instead, they chose enticement - *submissive warfare leading to the annihilation of God's/Elohim people*. Those not mindful of their Covenant soon fell prey to the wiles of the enemy.

No one likes trials, but they do prepare God's/Elohim people to seek His guidance, which strengthens their faith. To not lean on emotions or personal preferences but base decisions on His principles will allow His people to stand firm in Him. That information is vital for today, as God's/Elohim people live in a world dominated by a very corrupt enticing spirit who's primary goal is to have Israel lose their identity and assimilate (be consumed) into the Nations around them.

What Is *The Sin Of Balaam?*

The sin of Balaam is assimilation, which takes the identity and moral integrity of a people through corruption, false claims, and depositions. God/Elohim uses trials to warn His people, to gird themselves, and stand firm on His principles. If not, they will be swallowed alive into the pit of compromise and succumb to the Spirit of Balaam as did Korah and his followers. That is why God/Elohim warns us continually through His Word not to be ignorant or we will consent to the lies of the enemy. Therefore, we are to be grounded in His Word at all times.

 **Proverbs 2:1-9** “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, *and* apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, *and* lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as *for* hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD/Yahweh, and find the knowledge of God/Elohim. For the LORD/Yahweh gives wisdom; from His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity *and* every good path.”

What Is To Assimilate?

To assimilate is to absorb, digest, into the mind and body, to be the same, similar or to blend in. The Inter-religious movement today by major Christian denominations believes there are different paths to the same God. To assimilate into this belief removes one's true moral identity, covenant, and heritage in the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/*Israel*. It denies God's/*Elohim* house (Name and heritage) and blinds a people to a compromised lifestyle void of morals as being OK as long as it's all done in love - an attribute of God. Therefore, God approved. When in reality it is a false premise. To assimilate devalues God's/*Elohim* Word and removes the moral self-worth and integrity of His people. To assimilate has no meaning, is vanity, and empties a person of *all* life. That is the sin of Balaam.

✠ **Revelation 2:14** “But I have a few things against you [*church in Pergamos*], 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 (Revelation 2:12).

Contamination

✠ **Numbers 25:1-3** “the people [*Israel*] 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/*Yahweh* was aroused against Israel.”

The Israelite men had no business joining with foreign women outside their camp.

✠ **Proverbs 1:8-19** “My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother for they *will be* a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, ‘Come with us, let us lie in wait to *shed* blood; let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the Pit; we shall find all *kinds* of precious possessions, we shall fill our houses with spoil; cast in your lot among us, let us all have one purse ‘- My son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path; for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. Surely, in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird; but they lie in wait for their *own* blood, they lurk secretly for their *own* lives. So *are* the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; it takes away the life of its owners.”

Coveting what their neighbor had beguiled the Israelite men and quickly led to their demise. In harlotry, the enticing spirit of sorcery and seduction captivated them as they joined in procreation and worship to the sun god of the Moabites. Studies reveal that sensual influences and lust such as pornography or harlotry can be a stronger force to overcome than even heroin, and is just as addictive (Numbers 25:1-3).

✠ **Hosea 9:10** “I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. *But* they went to Baal Peor, and

separated themselves *to that* shame; they became an abomination like the thing they loved.”

🌿 **Isaiah 66:17** “Those who sanctify themselves and purify themselves, to go to the gardens after an idol in the midst, eating swine’s flesh and the abomination and the mouse, shall be consumed together, says the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

These same temptations of assimilation will ensnare the Bride of Yeshua today if he or she does not heed His instructions. Believers are to safeguard and strengthen their faith in Yeshua. We are a redeemed people thereby given all the tools to fulfill our destiny in Him. The believer’s soul hosts emotions, decisions, and free will. For the fruit of their walk to produce abundantly, believers need to be in balance with the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* and God’s/*Elohim* moral order called holiness through sanctification. Otherwise, they may be vulnerable, exposed to lack and decrease, and come under attack by influencing spirits. God’s/*Elohim* instructions are to strengthen His people. His Word is written on every believer’s heart. We are made in His image. Through following His ways, there is great favor and blessing.

🌿 **Deuteronomy 30:14-16** “But the word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* will bless you in the land which you go to possess.”

🌿 **Matthew 6:9-13** “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

As mentioned earlier, God/*Elohim* allows tests to help His people in their walk. Tests also reveal if they have inadvertently missed the mark (Leviticus 26:14:35). A challenge builds courage and forms Yeshua’s faith, trust, and character within the heart. When His people face trials physically, emotionally or morally, it is usually to strengthen their walk and lifestyle to more purely reflect their Maker. It is the believer’s job to preside over their words, thoughts, and deeds while in pursuit of God’s/*Elohim* order and plan for their life.

🌿 **Leviticus 19:2** “You shall be holy, for I the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* am holy.”

🌿 **1 Peter 1:13-16** “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”

In this study, we see the Israelite men had not strengthened themselves or guarded over their hearts, and it cost them their lives. Testing the people before entering the land was crucial at this stage of their journey, as it is for every generation after them - ours included.

🌿 **Proverbs 2:10-22** “When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths; to deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words, who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God/*Elohim*. For her house leads down to death, and her paths to the dead; none who go to her return, nor do they regain the paths of life - So you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep to the paths of righteousness. For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.”

As we read in the Book of Job, Satan was allowed to test Job. God/*Elohim* also allowed the Moabite jealousy to prevail over Israel first through Balak’s failed attempts to curse Israel and then through the Moabite women who tested Israel by the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and pride of life - Satan’s three amigos. It was this second attempt that was successful. With abominable beguilement, the invasion of Israel’s camp began. In the face of holiness, what is in the heart of God’s/*Elohim* people will be exposed.

🌿 **Mark 7:21-23** “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

🌿 **James 1:19-22** “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God/*Elohim*. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Food Offered To Idols

Food played a large part in bewitching the Israelite men to whoredom. We read they *ate the sacrifices made to the dead*. Later, we see a dramatic change in their behavior thus were open to Baal Peor worship (Psalm 106:28).

🌿 **Psalm 106:28** “They [*Israel*] joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, and ate sacrifices made to the dead.”

🌿 **Act 15:19-21** “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles [*Nations*] who are turning to God/*Elohim*, but that we write to them to

abstain from things polluted by idols, *from* sexual immorality, *from* things strangled, and *from* blood. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath” (Acts 15:29, 21:25).

As part of occult pagan rites, consuming sacrifices made to the dead were human sacrifices, which included blood. When the Israelites consumed that which was human, they opened the door to witchcraft that led to immoral occult behavior, as all life (DNA) is in the blood (Acts 15:20) (Leviticus 17:11).

✠ **Matthew 5:27-28** “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not commit adultery.*’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Satan wants the blood of God’s/*Elohim* people. Lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life are his favored ways. At Israel’s betrayal with the golden calf at Mount Sinai, sin came from *within the camp*. A generation later, sin came from *outside the Israelite camp*. In both cases, the Israelite’s infidelity began in their hearts. That alone effectively sealed the death knell (1 Kings 11:7).

The Moabites were a consuming people. Earlier we learned they planned to render the Israelites’ status null and void (unclean) and assimilate them with intent to annihilate. In this test, God/*Elohim* conclusively revealed that the sin was not with the pagans but in the hearts of the Israelite’s. These issues and idols of the heart needed to be exposed and cleansed before entering the land.

The Israelite leaders, who influenced others to follow, were all hung out under the sun as a stark reminder of their worship to Baal, the sun god of the Moabites. However, it was far from over. Soon after, an Israelite man brazenly brought a Midianite woman into the Israelite camp and entered his tent in the full sight of Moses and the Israelite congregation, who at the time were weeping at the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting. When Phinehas, Eleazar’s son, saw this abomination, he did not hesitate to act. By thrusting a javelin between the two, he stopped a plague that began raging within the camp because of their sin. By the end of the day, 24,000 *Israelites* had died.

✠ **Proverbs 1:31** “Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies.”

✠ **Proverbs 2:10-22** “When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, *and* delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways *are* crooked, and *who are* devious in their paths; to deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress *who* flatters with her words, who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God/*Elohim*. For her house leads down to death, and her paths to the dead; none who go to her return, nor do they regain the paths of life - so you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep *to* the paths of

righteousness. For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.”

BALAK - DESTROYER

Part Two

A Brief Look At Church History

Excerpts from The Truth of Reformation by Jeffrey L. Weiss

Polycarp

Unfortunately, the history of the church is not as undefiled as we have been led to believe. History reveals that Hellenistic wisdom and the spirit of the anti-Christ flourished in the second century. We find that *Polycarp*, an early witness to God's/*Elohim* truth, died as a martyr for faithfully speaking against Easter worship and for upholding the Biblical observance of Passover (155 CE).

Ignatius

Ignatius, the Bishop of Antioch, declared in his letter to the Magnesians: “*No longer live for the Sabbath but for the Lord’s Day*”(115 CE). This was echoed in the *Didache*, a manual of church instruction in 120 CE.

Marcion

In 140 CE, *Marcion* used his authority in the fledgling church to change the truth of Matthew 5:17 (that states Yeshua came “*to fulfill the law*” - to bring it into its full purpose/completion) into his own personal interpretation, alleging that *the law* was no longer relevant and must be viewed as “*done away with.*”

✠ **Matthew 5:17** “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

The word but is not in the original transcript. The word/law became physical/flesh and lived among us (John 1:1;14). He, Yeshua, the Bridegroom, is the goal of the Torah (the law), just as marriage is the goal of betrothal. Marriage with our Bridegroom Yeshua is the beginning of the *Law of Righteousness*, not the end.

Marcion then proceeded to teach that the grace of God superseded the law (Torah), and declared that God had rejected His Old Testament. He further argued that the Old Testament was a book of wrath and inferior to the New Testament, “*the book of love*” and hence had no part of authoritative revelation, thus fought to have it removed from canon. Marcion was rejected as a heretic later in life. However, his prolific anti-Semitic writings still served to significantly influence the original printing of the King James Bible translation.

Justin Martyr

Justin Martyr in 160 CE introduced a new doctrine regarding the Church in his bold decision to proclaim and teach that the “appropriation of the title Israel” was to belong *only* to the Church. This attitude caused the onset of *Replacement Theology*, which holds that all the blessings of God’s/*Elohim* in the Word should be *interpreted* as being bestowed upon the Church, while all the curses are poured out on the Jews. The Church fathers preached the triumph of “the elect” (the Church) over “the rejected” (the Jews), thus justifying to themselves their inferior view of the Jew and projecting the Church as the living witness and the One True Faith (now known as Christianity).

Justin Martyr also charged that *the Jews* crucified Christ when it was really the leadership at the time that sought His death and not the Jewish followers of the Messiah. It was during this period Jews were labeled “*the Christ-killers.*” He also declared: “*Jewish cities are burned with fire, and that Jews are desolate, forbidden to go up to Jerusalem for you have slain the Just One, and His prophets before Him; and now you reject those who hope in Him.*”

The Epistle of Barnabas is a second century writing that used the Greek word “Deicide” (the killing of God). This word depicts ignorance of Yeshua’s plan of redemption according to His Word at the beginning of creation in Genesis. “Deicide” also reveals anti-Semitism as an increasing cancerous growth that was now within the non-Jewish Church of Christ. As a result of this new theological thinking, the early Church fathers proceeded to alter the original intent of the Apostles teaching. It has been documented that certain changes were made in the apostolic record. As a result, these changes were adopted into the *theology* of the Church in the second, third and subsequent centuries. Plato’s Greek mindset and ideas had totally infiltrated God’s Judaic Church. Thus the Church had moved further away from the betrothal/marriage ceremony with God/*Elohim* at Mount Sinai and became more and more illiterate of their root, moving closer to the Mars Hill of Greek mythology.

Origen

Origen in the third century CE was responsible for introducing the term “*legalism*” into the Church theological vocabulary when referring to God’s/*Elohim* Torah. This usage continued throughout history and became a term synonymous with Judaism and/or condemning people when studying the Old Testament for direction in life. *Judeophobia*, anti-Semitism, and an anti-Torah spirit were truly alive and flourished within what was supposed to be the Messiah’s Hebraic Church. God’s/*Elohim* true remnant was forced underground to escape this hatred and persecution from Rome.

Constantine

In 312 CE, *Constantine* recognized Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire. We may have been taught that Constantine brought Christianity to the pagans, but more accurately we find he succeeded in bringing paganism to Christianity.

By this time the Church differed greatly from that which Messiah preached almost three hundred years earlier. The Church of Messiah had become the Church of Rome. God's/Elohim truth, also known as *the Torah, Gospel, The Good News, The Marriage Covenant – the Word made Flesh/Yeshua*, was buried amongst religious ceremonies, rituals, and beliefs of the Babylonian pagan religion, which dated back to Nimrod and the Tower of Babel. Nonetheless, the Church institution still called itself by the name of Christ. The Babylonian Mystery religion now wore a new cloak – Christianity – but at its center was the worship of Diana, the daughter of Zeus, masked as Mary, the mother of Yeshua. All things Hebraic or Judaic were shunned. The Feast Days of the Lamb, including Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, and Tabernacles, were banned and replaced with feasts to Ishtar and Tammuz (Easter and Christmas). God's/Elohim Sabbath day of worship on the seventh day was replaced with Church worship on Sunday, the Sol dei (day of the sun god).

Constantine's Christian Creed and the Council of Nicea in 325 CE, in the name of Christianity, asserted everything relating to God's Torah and everything considered Judaic or Hebraic be cast out in the formation of God's *universal state church*.

Eusebius Epiphanius and Chrysostom

Eusebius Epiphanius (315-402 CE), later known as the father of Church history and the Catholic Council of Laodicea in 365 CE, did much to remove and separate God's/Elohim signs of truth (Feast Days) and instruction for life (Torah) from the people. *Chrysostom* (344-407 CE) preached "*the Jews are worse than wild beasts, lower than the vilest animals...*"

Augustine

Augustine advocated not interpreting The Book of Revelation as literal but simply as an allegorical story. Many true believers were arrested, and many were martyred. The Christian Crusades attempted to recapture Jerusalem and destroy any remnant that remained faithful to God's true word. These Crusaders forced people to convert or be killed.

In Spain, the Spanish Inquisition forced all Jews to convert or leave the country. One Jew, who left, was named Christopher Columbus, sailed to the Americas. The day he discovered land was *HaShanah Rabbah*, the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Martin Luther

Martin Luther gave birth to Protestantism, known as the Reformation, which was a protest against the Church of Rome. Many today refer to Martin Luther as "*that great man of God and reformer of the church.*" However, he was by far one of the biggest proponents of anti-Semitism as his writings reveal. Adolf Hitler, in 1924 at a Christian gathering in Berlin, stood before thousands of Christians: "*I believe that today I am acting in accordance with the will of almighty God. As I announce the most important work that Christians could undertake and that it is to be against the Jews and get rid of them once and for all. We are doing the work of the Lord and let's get on with it. Martin*

Luther has been the greatest encouragement of my life.” To this, he received a standing ovation. Hitler followed Luther’s treatise on how to exterminate the Jews.

The Christian church, for the most part, has accepted God/*Elohim* but rejected His instructions for life (Torah), due to the anti-Semitic and anti-Torah sentiment by the early Church fathers who created the premise of *the dispensation of grace*. This misunderstanding has caused many of God’s people to reject, that which was designed to bless them. We suggest that the Church has continued to accept the lie initiated by the early Church fathers that was fully implemented and sealed by Constantine.

The manifestation of God’s/*Elohim* Word, the *whole* word from Genesis to Revelation, which includes His instruction or laws for life, is Yeshua. Yeshua is not just half of His Word or a portion of it. Yeshua is the flesh of Torah, the physical manifestation of God’s Word *in the flesh* Who came to earth and dwelt among us. They are one and the same (John 1:1,14). (*End of Jeffrey L. Weiss excerpts on The Truth of Reformation*).

*For more information regarding Church history,
Please refer to the Passover article in the Leviticus section of Sheepfold Gleanings
www.sheepfoldgleanings.com*

Who Is Willing To Stand With God/*Elohim*?

The questions we have to ask - *Who is willing to stand with God/*Elohim* and declare His righteousness in the assemblies of His people today? Who among us will be like Phinehas (Numbers 25: 1-13)? Who will stand in the synagogues and churches declaring Moses? Who among us whether a teacher, a prophet, a rabbi, a pastor, a male, a female, a layperson or child will preach the true Word of Yeshua? Who will celebrate God’s/*Elohim* Sabbath, His Feast Days and speak of the clean and unclean, holy and unholy matters among His people (Ezekiel 44:23-24)? Who among us will honor the LORD/*Yahweh* in holiness? Who will stand before Him and say, “*Here I am, send me*”? Or, have we tasted Balaam and succumbed to his ways as the Church of Pergamum in Revelation 2:12-17? Have we bowed down to man’s systems of institutions, organizations, and societies by continuing the traditions that transgress the commandments of God/*Elohim*? If we call ourselves Yeshua’s disciples and are called by His Name, where does our allegiance stand? Is our alliance with man’s word or God’s/*Elohim*? (Matthew 15:3)*

In the past, man searched for his own answers and thus created his own form of worship in a *new religion*. That rationale is the modern day golden calf. Man has always sought *religion* while God/*Elohim* has sought man *for relationship*. For this very purpose, God/*Elohim* (the word) came down in the flesh to physically impart His word to us. He has been speaking to us all along. Many simply have not known or listened. It is time to set aside our agenda and listen to His Message. For He alone knows our heart and where our treasure lies... Selah.

🌿 **Jude 4, 10-11, 17-25** “For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God/*Elohim* into a license for immorality and deny Jesus

Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach* our only Sovereign and Lord. Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct - as irrational animals do - will destroy them. Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.”

“But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach* foretold. They said to you, ‘In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.’ These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach* to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear - hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.”

“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God/*Elohim* our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach* our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen” (NIV).

📖 **Isaiah 6:8** “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘*Here am I. Send me!*’ ”

To be continued...

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

Reference

Quotes of Church History from: *The Truth of Reformation* by Jeffrey L. Weiss

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