

#208 "The doctrine of Balaam"

1 Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

2 Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

3 2 Peter 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

4 Now, from brother Branham's sermon, The Spoken word is the Original Seed we pick up at paragraph 90 where he begins to speak of this diabolical doctrine of Balaam, and shows how the bride of Jehovah committed spiritual fornication against him by receiving the doctrine of Balaam which taught Israel to compromise with the world.

5 90 Oh, my. Now, notice: virgin womb, her mind, virgin mind to believe God's Word. Oh, you say, "Now, look here. Oh," say, "Brother Branham, it couldn't be that way; it's impossible. John Wesley would've saw it; So-and-so would've saw it." Sure, the devil could've said the same thing to Mary: "Who are you? Why, you're the poorest of the city. You ain't nothing but a young-un, sixteen years old--eighteen--down here packing water out of this pump; father dead and your mother an old blind woman down there. Now, how in the world will you ever... How... (Ann was her mother, we're told.) How in the world are you ever going to do that?" "Listen, my old mother is a blind woman, but she's a godly woman. Through her lips she's planted a seed in my heart. I've read it out of God's Word that God said in Isaiah 9:6: 'A virgin shall conceive.'"

6 91 Hallelujah. Can you see, the Word takes flesh. There you are. God's going to have a church. It's going to be born of the Word of God, because it is the living Word of God. Do you see it? "How do you know it?" "Why, it's going..." "You know what you're going to be called from this on? You're going to be called..." "I don't care what I'm called, that has nothing about it. Be it unto me according to the Word of the Lord." Oh, could everybody say that today? Oh, if people could really from your heart, all of us could say that (See?): "Be it unto me according to Thy Word, Lord." Really mean it. One or two or somewhere out in there It's going to pick up some predestinated that really means that, and, brother, you're going to see sparks flying right then (That's right.), when you really got that there to meet that what's coming, when that irrigation begins to fall on that Word. Yes, sir.

7 92 Now, what was it? The virgin mind, womb: virgin womb for the baby. Results? Eternal Life. Eve, a good woman as she was, virgin as she was, but first she let the doubt come in by the word, a devil's lie. What did he do? Brought her into contact in the wrong way. What was her child? Death. Mary: virgin mind, virgin womb... When the devil tried to tempt her, and he come--and the Angel come to her then and said, "You're going to have a baby," Satan said, "Now, you better be quiet about that." The Angel said, "It's a act of God." And she no doubt thought of Isaiah 9:6; she said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord." What's the results? Virgin birth; Eternal Word in her, and she brought forth Eternal Life.

8 93 All right, Jehovah's bride, mixed, Jehovah's bride, mixed seed... "How did you say now, Brother Branham? This morning you said Jehovah's bride committed adultery. "I won't leave it out. Now, let's watch real close now.

Now, we got just about another hour, I guess. I've got some over here. I'm just going to have to skip some of them and start reading in just in a few minutes (See?), just read just as fast as I can to get it out. Now, another hour I believe we'll be out if you'll just bear with me and pray with me. See?

9 94 Now, where did Jehovah's bride ever do wrong? All right. Jehovah sent what down to His bride in Egypt? He promised Abraham that His bride, the seed, would sojourn in Egypt for four hundred years. Is that right? The time come for the Word to be fulfilled (Are we time for the Word to be fulfilled? Sure.) for deliverance, taken out. All right, how did they get the Word? Did they form an organization, a bunch of men get together (priests) and said, "Now, brethren, we will have a vote here, and it's passed unanimously that we're going to have an organization called the Pharisees and through that God's going to work." God never did do a thing like that, never did.

10 95 What did He send them? Prophet. And "the Word of the Lord came to the prophet," raised him right up among them, a prophet, and anointed him and a-vindicated him right in their midst of all the other devils a-working, with miracles and everything else. Because Moses stayed with the Word. Picked that bunch of people up; mixed multitudes started with them. When they got across towards the promised land, before they got there, His precious bride committed adultery with Moab. Tell me she didn't do it now. How did she do it? A lying prophet against the Word of God, yet he had all the signs and all ritualistic; he was just as spiritual as Moses or just as...?...

11 96 Look. listen. listen close now. Here set Israel in a camp, a interdenominational. That's right. What was it? They had an anointed prophet with them. He had a Pillar of Fire, a rock that water came out of to water them. They were doing all right. And watch, they had seven altars; that's perfect. On them altars went seven clean animals: rams. And a ram represented the coming of Christ.

12 97 Moab... What happened? When Balaam went down there, he built seven altars just exactly like they had. Don't talk on them fundamentally, 'cause you had better know what you're talking about. Jesus said, "It would almost deceived the very elected." It's spiritual revealed. If you catch It, then It's the Word, and you see the Word made manifest. Look, here they was up there; and here was Moab. He's to... No doubt but he was a bishop, sure, great guy, and he built seven altars. He put seven rams on it, speaking that he believed that there was coming a Messiah. Brother, if it come to fundamentalism, God had to recognize both of them. When Cain built an altar to the Lord (Satan's son, built an altar to the Lord), he built the same kind of an altar that Abel built. They both worshipped; they both went to church; they both paid their dues. They both obligated; they got down and worshipped the same God, and one was received and the other one lost. How's it come?

13 Now, as our text we already read from the new testament about the doctrine of Balaam and what he did to the children of Israel in getting them to compromise with the Word of God. Now, lets see some old testament scriptures as well. The story is contained in Numbers 22 through Numbers 24, but since we do not have time this evening to read all of that, I am assigning your homework to read that sometime during the next week so you will become more aware of the details as to how he was able to bring down the children of Israel until God had to destroy all of them that were 20 years and older at the time of Kadesh Peor where Israel and Moab united in feast and fornication.

14 Other Old testament scriptures include:

15 Nehemiah 13:2 Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing.

16 Joshua 24:9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and

called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you:

17 Deuteronomy 23:4 Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee. 5 Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee.

18 Numbers 31:8 And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword. 16 Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

19 Now, we read from the book of Peter and Jude for our text and were given warning to be aware of that same spirit at the end time.

20 Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

21 2 Peter 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

22 And in 2 John:8 we read, "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have worked for, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever goes beyond the limits, and remaineth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that remains in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

23 So we see here that the real test at the end-time will be whether we remain in the Doctrine of Christ or whether we go out from it and are tempted with the Doctrine of Balaam.) 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

24 Now, this is quite a statement from the Apostle John because it is very strong language concerning the Doctrine of Christ and our behavior towards them that do not believe it. And John says if you even bid God speed to those who do not have this doctrine, you are participating in their evil deeds. So what are these evil deeds John is speaking of here? And why is he so strong in his language towards those who oppose the doctrine of Christ?

25 The word John used here for "evil" was translated from the Greek word "Poneros" Now, this word "Poneros" speaks of "evil in effect or influence, and differs from other Greek words for evil which have to do with the essential character as well as those words which speak of degeneracy. This word "Poneros" also is used to refer to the devil himself, and thus his influence upon others.

26 So what John is saying is that those who do not have the doctrine of Christ are teaching contrary to the Doctrine of Christ, and if you assist them in any way you are in essence assisting the devil himself. That is why we are so careful not to assist with funds those who teach wrong concerning the doctrine of Christ which is the Godhead Why? Because, to fund heresy or one who preaches it, is to assist the spread of it.

27 Now. Let's take a further look at this word "Poneros" as John used it in 1 John 3:12 Notice here he says, "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one" (and that word for wicked one is the Greek word "Poneros" again, and it speaks of the person of the devil himself.), and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, (notice that Cain's works are said also to be "Poneros" which means that if he was "of" that "

Poneros" "one", then the influence of that "Poneros" "one" also has affected his sacrifice to God, and thus has made that sacrifice itself evil. But notice it is said that Abel's sacrifice was righteous.) his brother's righteous.

28 Now, we know that this word righteous means Rightly Wise". So we see that Abel's offering was based upon Revelation which is Faith, and that is something that comes from God alone. Thus, by this Revelation he offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. Cain's sacrifice was not a wrong sacrifice. In fact Cain had a Biblical sacrifice, as we see in Deuteronomy 26, for it was a first fruit offering, which was a harvest offering, which represented the time of Rapture. But it was evil because it was out of season. "For without the shedding of blood there's no remission of sin." Hebrews 9

29 In the Book of Jude we are warned at the end-time there will be those who depart from "The Faith" and who go in "the way of Cain". Cain was the first on earth to depart from "The Presence of the Lord", and those that depart from the presence of the Lord will be religious just like Cain was and they will make great sacrifice to God like Cain did but their sacrifice will be considered evil just like Cain's was.

30 Notice further, that Jude describes these men as not only following the way of Cain, But notice also that Jude warns us these men shall also follow after the "error of Balaam" and they will do it for money just like Balaam did.

31 Jude 1: 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, (Notice that they run greedily. In other words, these are greedy men.

32 They run after the error of Balaam because of their greed. So what was the error of Balaam that men will run after it because of greed? The error of Balaam is a message of unity. Bring everyone together for after all are we not all the same? "and perished in the gainsaying of Core."

33 What was the gainsaying of Koreh? Korah led a rebellion against Moses and said, we are holy too, and all the people are holy, and why do you take it upon yourself to rule over us. There's plenty of room for more than one to rule. We are holy too. You see it was the gainsaying of Koreh. There was something in it for him to gain from what he said. They didn't want a One Man Message from a One Man ministry. So they rebelled using the multitudes of people to stand with them against the movement of God. And they are doing that same thing today, saying "we are five fold ministry, we got something to say as well, "God doesn't speak through one just one man!" And right there they separate themselves from the true Five Fold ministry who will only say what the vindicated prophet has told them to say. And why is it called gain-saying? Because they are in it for the money like Koreh was. After all he was a hireling and was given money to bring Israel down, and that is why they are doing it today, for a mess of pottage.

34 Notice how Jude continues to describe these false ministers at the end-time. 12These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear (Notice he says when they feast with you, so these are those who come right into this Message and eat from the same Spiritual Food in Due Season that we also eat from. Notice they came into the Message as what Peter warned us they would do. Pentecostal ministers bringing their Pentecostal doctrine into the Message with them. Also notice that Jude further describes these men by saying,) clouds they are without water.

35 Now a cloud without water is one without rain. And Paul calls witnesses of what took place clouds. He calls them "clouds of witness". So Clouds represent people who have witnessed this end-time ministry but those without water are those who are witnesses with the doctrine, because God said His doctrine would fall like the rain, and these are clouds without rain, without doctrine.

- 36** Paul spoke in Hebrews 12: 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
- 37** Yet Jude speaks of these clouds as having no water. These clouds are without water, Therefore clouds without rain. Now, why is this so significant? Because God said in
- 38** Deuteronomy 32:1-2 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:) carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.
- 39** So if these are clouds, which are witnesses, think it not strange that there are so many witnesses to the ministry of William Branham who haven't a clue to the doctrine he taught? We are warned here in scripture and in 2 Peter of the same, as well as the Apostle Paul.
- 40** Notice here that Jude said clouds, not cloud. Now, this brings us to the fact that there are two doctrines which are predominant in this hour. The Doctrine of Christ for which if you do not have that Doctrine, you do not even have God.
- 41** Then there is the Doctrine of Balaam which we are warned about that will come in among us. And notice we are warned that men will run after the Doctrine of Balaam because of their greed.
- 42** Now, the doctrine of Balaam is not that he went for money, but the doctrine of Balaam is that he tried to unite the people of God with those people who are not of God. And in order to do that they must forsake the right way, which is God's way.
- 43** 2 Peter 2: 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; Notice he loved not the wages, but the wages of un-right-wise-ness. In other words the wrong understanding pays. In other words, there's more money in preaching error than truth.
- 44** Now, the doctrine of Balaam is explained further in the book of revelations. Revelation 2: 14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there (Thou hast there where? Right in the Message that's where. Right in the end-time Church of the Living God, there are those who regard the Doctrine of Balaam because of their greed.) them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.
- 45** Now, how is it possible that the Doctrine of Balaam could come right into this message? Just the same way it came into the Pentecostal movement.
- 46** From Brother Branham's sermon called, Who do you say this is? 64-1227 P:80 See, that's what he done to the Pentecostals. They said a few years ago, when you all start up, "You wouldn't go nowhere. There wasn't nothing to you. You'd burn out. You just a bunch of fanaticism." But every time they tried to curse you, you come right on back again. God kept revealing His Message. Down from the old Assembly, way back in the beginning, the General Council. Then He brought in when they received the Name of Jesus Christ for water baptism. Then one jumped this way, and one the other, and one went off organized this and that. God kept blessing. Now, when he seen he couldn't curse you (See?), so what's he going to do? He's going to organize you. Bring you, "Oh, we're

all one anyhow. (See?) We all believe in the same God." So that's just what Balaam did. And didn't Jude warn us of this? They erred in the doctrine of Balaam and perished in the gainsaying of Korah. Doesn't Jude, the foster brother of Jesus, warn us of this in the Bible? They're like Cain, from the beginning, the hireling, the one that went to church and built churches and built an altar and sacrificed. They err in the way of Cain. They run in the way of Balaam, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah. Jude lays the whole thing out just like we're doing it this morning here before you, like we've been doing it. The whole thing lays there.

47 81 They perished in the gainsaying of Korah. Just think of that, how bad that was. Just to think of what that Korah... See, he said, "Now, we'll all go up to a feast. We're all one." The Moabites believed in God. That was Lot's daughter's kids. See? "We all believe in one God." Fundamentally, they were perfectly right. Watch Balaam up there, just as fundamental as any good Baptist or Presbyterian today. He come up there and there was Israel, that un-denominated... They was a nation, Israel wasn't a nation, it was a people at that time. They didn't want to go God's way after while. They wanted to be like the rest the nations. That's when they fail. But as long as they want to stay with God, all right.

48 82 Balaam come out, he looked down, said, "Well, my, I know one of them ministers married another man's wife." All these other things, oh sure, they had plenty. He forgot to hear The Shout of the King in the camp. He never seen that smitten rock, and that brass serpent hanging there for an atonement. He didn't realize that they wasn't hooked up to any organization. They was hooked up to God's covenant, and were walking in that. See? And Balaam said (fundamentally), "Build me seven altars." That's what Jehovah required. That's what Jehovah got on both sides. "All right, put seven calves upon it." That's what they was doing down there in that camp. "Put me seven rams on it because there's coming a Messiah someday." All right.

49 83 See, fundamentally, they were both right: fundamentally. See? But one day when he seen he couldn't get him on that, he said, "If we just organize ourselves together then." And that's where they made their mistake...And that's just exactly where Pentecost made its mistake, when it organized back like the rest of the churches. I'm not your enemy. I'm your brother. Some of these days you're going to find out that that's the truth. May take a little while yet (few turns of the sun), but someday you'll see that that's right. Then Balaam's doctrine hit them just... That's what they wanted. "We're all one." See? So there they went. All of their prophets and all went right with them. And was at the feast, the same said, "And we all believe that there's one God. Let's believe it." Just what they would be looking for, just exactly.

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51 27 years ago brother Vayle warned me that false teachers had come into this message to take the people away from The Faith. He told me to read 2 Peter.

52 2 Peter 2:1But as there were false prophets among the people, even so shall there be false teachers among you, who privately shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, (that's the Son) and by doing so, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2And many (not a few, but many) shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. (In other words, by what they do and teach shall bring the real truth which is the message into disrepute or a bad reputation.) 3And through covetousness (we all know what that is. It's the greed that Jude said was the motive behind the doctrine of Balaam. So for money) shall they with feigned words (those are words that they just make up, which are nothing but lies, and so with their lies shall they) make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

53 Now notice verse 12 But these, as natural brute beasts, (in other words they are not born again. They have not God. Therefore they have not the doctrine of Christ. And they are) made to be taken and destroyed,(and it is

these men who will) speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

54 Now, remember, at the end time there will be a vast influx of these evil men. They shall wax worse and worse as Paul warns us in 2 Timothy 3: 13 But evil men ("Poneros" men. Now, if the devil Himself is called "poneros", then these are his children or offspring.) But evil men and seducers (and isn't seduction the method that the serpent used on Eve. Now, seduction is not rape. It is not a forced thing. It is a very cleverly disguised way to get what they want, and it is called seduction.

55 Notice it says, these evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. (Or able to deceive because they too have been deceived themselves so they appear to be very sincere in what they believe, and they are very convincing to others to come together and the larger the group the better for they believe that safety is in numbers. And they are called seducers because they are able with words to lead others astray into adulterating the Word of God which is the same spirit as adultery.)

56 But we can be thankful because as God's seed we have been given an ability to be able to understand according to John 1:12 and 1 Corinthians 2: 1-10. That is why the apostle Paul can say in Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

57 And we see the same thing in Malachi 3;16-18. 16Then they that feared the LORD spoke often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels,(In that day when I come to assemble my people Lamsa translation); and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him.

58 So we are looking at a relationship between Father and sons here. And because we are sons we know as we are known, and we will know the difference between righteousness (Right-wise-ness) and that which is error.) 18 Then shall ye return,(return where? To where you began at. The starting point. And where was that? When we were in Christ before the foundations of the world. In other words, we will return to the Original Word. And you can not return unless you were there to begin with. And when we have returned to the Original Word, we shall discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serve God and him that serves not God.

59 And that is where we are at this evening. Ephesians 4;14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; And just remember, it is not of your doing, but His doing that counts. For the Apostle Paul said in 2 Thessalonians 3: 3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil. The Lord shall keep you from all "poneros". He shall keep you from being influenced by the wicked one and his devises. Philippians 1: 6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Let us pray...