

Let's Worship God

28th Aug. - 2nd Sept. 2023
Numbers



THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Monday - Numbers 22:22-35 - The Donkey Speaks

We must not think that, because God does not by His providence restrain men from sin, therefore He approves of it, or that it is therefore not hateful to Him; He allows sin, and yet is angry at it. God lets Balaam know his displeasure against him by sending an angel. Angels are enemies to sin, and perhaps are employed more than we are aware of in preventing it, particularly in opposing those that have any evil plans against God's church and people. How foolishly does Balaam boast that he is a man whose eyes are open, and that he sees the visions of the Almighty, when the donkey he rides on sees more than he does, his eyes being blinded with covetousness and ambition! Many have God against them, and His holy angels, but are not aware of it. Those who by wilful sin are running headlong into destruction are angry at those that try to prevent their ruin. It is common for those whose hearts are fully set to do evil to push on violently, and break through all the difficulties which God puts in their way to stop them.

Balaam finally notices the angel, and this does startle him. God has many ways of bringing down the hard and proud heart. When our eyes are opened we see what danger our sinful ways put us in, and how much it is for our good to be stopped, and what fools we are to quarrel with the circumstances or people that help to save our lives. When Balaam finds he can't go forward, he is content (since there is no other option) to go back. There is no sign that his heart has changed. Many leave their sins only because their sins have left them. The angel seems to tell him that he will not only not be able to curse Israel, but will be forced to bless them. Thus God gives him fair warning, but he won't take it; he goes with the princes of Balak.

Question

1. Why does the donkey act the way it does?
2. Does it seem that Balaam is really repentant?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the things God sends to keep us from sinning.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

Praise: Psalm 143 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Tuesday - Numbers 22:36-41 - Different Expectations

We have here the meeting between Balak and Balaam, enemies to God's Israel; but here they seem to differ in their expectations of success. Balak speaks of it with confidence, not doubting that he will get what he wants now that Balaam has come. In expectation of this, he goes out to meet him, partly to gratify his own impatient desire to see one he has such great expectations of, and partly to do honour to Balaam. See what respect unbelievers pay to those that have the name of prophets, and how welcome one is that comes with his mouth full of curses. What a shame it is that the ambassadors of Christ are so little respected and so much despised, who bring tidings of peace and a blessing! Balak has nothing to complain about except that Balaam didn't come sooner. Balak, as king, is insulted by Balaam's delays, which look as if Balaam thinks the honours Balak gives aren't good enough.

Balaam speaks doubtfully of what will happen, and tells Balak not to depend too much upon him. He seems to speak with frustration at the bridle God has put on him. They quickly get to the business. Balaam is nobly entertained overnight, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is offered to the gods of Moab, for the safe arrival of this welcome guest, and he is treated with a feast. The next morning, that no time might be lost, Balak takes Balaam in his chariot to the high places of his kingdom, that their height might give him a good view of the camp of Israel, which is to be the mark at which he must shoot his arrows of curses. Balaam is as careful and eager to please Balak as he ever pretended to be to please God. See what need we have to pray every day, "Our Father in heaven, lead us not into temptation."

Questions

1. What does Balak complain of?
2. What does Balaam tell Balak?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for your minister.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

Praise: Psalm 144 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS

Wednesday - Numbers 23:1-12 - The Blessing

Balaam and Balak plan to bribe God with altars and sacrifices. Ridiculous nonsense, to think that this will please God! Balaam's way is still perverse, and God is still his enemy; but God will cause him to utter such a confession, to the honour of God and Israel, as will make those forever inexcusable who take up arms against them.

Balaam pronounces Israel safe and out of his reach. God's Israel are owned and blessed of Him. He has not cursed them, for they are delivered from the curse of the law; He has not rejected or abandoned them. Those that have the goodwill of Heaven have the ill-will of Hell; Satan hates them. Though the enemies of God's people may prevail against them, yet they cannot curse them; that is, they cannot do them any real harm, for they cannot separate them from the love of God. Balaam pronounces them happy in three things: [1.] Happy in being distinct from the rest of the nations. It is the duty and honour of those that are dedicated to God to be separate from the world, and not to walk according to the ways of it. God's Israel shall not stand level with other nations, but be above them all, as a people near to God, and set apart for him. [2.] Happy in their numbers, an innumerable company, which makes them both honourable and formidable. God's Israel is a very great body, and His spiritual Israel is even more so, and will appear to be so when they are all gathered together to Him in the last day. [3.] Happy in their end. It is taken for granted that death is the end of all men. Balaam pronounces the righteous truly blessed, not only while they live, but when they die. But Balaam himself is an example that there are many who desire to die the death of the righteous, but do not want to live the life of the righteous.

Question

1. What do Balak and Balaam hope to do with the sacrifices?
2. What does Balaam say about Israel?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

Praise: Psalm 145 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS

Thursday - Numbers 23:13-30 - Another Blessing

Balak has no reason to hope that Israel will be ruined. First, because God is unchangeable. Men change their minds, and break their words; they lie. But God doesn't. He never changes His mind, and therefore never takes back His promise. It is impossible for God to lie, Heb. 6:18. Israel is a blessed people; they are born under the blessing of the covenant, and born to the blessing of Canaan, and therefore they cannot be cursed, unless you can imagine that the God of eternal truth should break His word, and be false to Himself and His people. Balak has no hope secondly, because Israel are at present unblameable. Not that they are without sin, but there is not such a degree of sin as might provoke God to abandon them and give them up to ruin. Balaam knows that nothing will separate them from God but sin. While God sees no reigning sin among them, He will send no destroying curse among them. When we keep away from sin we keep away from harm. Notice that God will not bear to see any injury done to His church and people; for what is done against them He takes as done against Himself. Thirdly, Balak has no hope because they have the presence of God with them. They have the joy of that presence and are always to triumph in it. They shout against their enemies, confident in victory and success, glorying continually in God as their King and conqueror for them. They have had the experience of the benefit of God's presence with them, and His power engaged on their behalf; for God brought them out of Egypt. The power which has done that can never be restrained, never resisted; and, having begun so gloriously, will no doubt finish gloriously. God easily can, and certainly will, baffle and disappoint all the plans of the powers of darkness against His church, so that they shall not prevail to destroy it.

Questions

1. Why does Balak have no hope?
2. How does God view those who attack His Church?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God has all power.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

Praise: Psalm 146 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS

Friday - Numbers 24:1-9 - The Third Blessing

Balaam lays aside the enchantments which he has depended on, uses no spells, or charms, or magic, having found out that they don't work; it is useless to deal with the devil for a curse, when it is obvious that God is determined to bless. The Spirit of God comes upon him. Two things he boasts of:—(1.) The favour God does him in making Himself known to him. God Himself has met him and spoken to him (ch. 23:16), and with this he is greatly puffed up. Paul speaks with humility of his visions and revelations (2 Cor. 12:1), but Balaam speaks of his with pride. (2.) His own power to receive and bear those revelations. His attempts to curse Israel, he admits was a mistake, but now he begins to see his error, and yet still he remains blinded by greed. Many have their eyes open that don't have their hearts open, are enlightened, but not sanctified; and that knowledge which puffs men up with pride will only light their way to hell, where many go with their eyes open.

Several things Balaam admires in Israel: 1. Their beauty. Those whose eyes are open see believers to be excellent and delight in them. 2. Their fruitfulness and increase. 3. Their honour and advancement. 4. Their power and victory. He looks back upon what they have done, or rather what has been done for them. God that brought them out of Egypt will not fail to bring them into Canaan. He looks down upon their present strength. He looks forward to their future conquests. 5. Their courage and security. Lions lie down anywhere to rest, knowing that no one dares to meddle with them, and God's people have this same security. 6. Their influence upon their neighbours. Their friends, and those in alliance with them, are happy. But their enemies, and those in arms against them, are certainly miserable.

Question

1. What does Balaam seem to boast about?
2. What does Balaam admire about Israel?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we have security in God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

Praise: Psalm 147 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS

Saturday - Numbers 24:10-14 - Evil Plans

We have here the conclusion of this vain attempt to curse Israel, and the total abandonment of it. Balak breaks out into a rage against Balaam, expresses both in words and gesture the highest degree of anger at the disappointment. He accuses Balaam of cheating him. He expels him from his country and tells him that he will no longer honour him. If Balaam had been voluntary and sincere in his obedience to the word of the Lord, though he lost the honour Balak planned to give him by obeying, God would have made that loss up to him abundantly. Balaam tries to excuse the disappointment. God has restrained him from saying what he would have said, and constrained him to say what he would not. Balak ought not to be displeased, not only because Balaam can't help it, but because he has told Balak before that he must depend upon the Lord for what to say. Balaam endeavours to atone for it. Though he can't do what Balak wants him to do, yet he will gratify his curiosity with some predictions concerning the nations about him. With this he hopes to pacify the angry prince. He will satisfy Balak with an assurance that, whatever Israel will do to his people, it is all in the distant future; so that he, for his part, doesn't need to fear any mischief or hurt from them, in his days there shall be peace. Balaam will also show Balak a way of hurting Israel without cursing them. We are not told here what advice Balaam gives Balak, but we are told afterwards what it is, ch. 31:16. He counsels him to entice the Israelites to idolatry, Rev. 2:14. Since he can't get permission from God to curse them, he puts Balak in a way of getting help from the devil to tempt them.

Question

1. How does Balak react to the third blessing?
2. How does Balaam respond?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

Praise: Psalm 148 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com