

Outline

- I. Many people think that the sin Balaam was rebuked for in the New Testament was when he went to meet with King Balak and the angel stood there along the way, about to kill him.
 - A. Yes, Balaam was wrong, and the angel would have killed him; but the New Testament rebukes Balaam for something else (Rev. 2:12-14).
 - B. Balaam taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the Israelites—to entice them to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication.
 - C. Many Israelites participated, and the wrath of God came on them.
 - D. The only way God's people could be overcome was if they rejected their own covenant.

- II. Before Christ came and established the New Covenant, people who gave themselves over to demons through idol worship had no cure.
 - A. Like cutting out a cancer in order to save someone's life, so was purging the human race from demon-possessed individuals back then.
 - B. It was actually an act of mercy toward humanity as a whole to just kill all the men, women, children, and animals who participated in demonic rituals.
 - C. This helped keep the evil from spreading further and protected what purity remained.

- III. Your receiving God's blessing isn't up to Him; neither is it up to the devil.
 - A. It's up to you.
 - B. You are the one who establishes whether or not God's blessing comes to pass in your life.
 - C. You are the one who empowers a curse.

IV. Your life is going the way of your thoughts.

- A. If you're thinking, *Cancer is incurable*, you're the one who put that value on cancer.
- B. You're the one who believes the curse, receives negative things, and despises God's words.
- C. Deuteronomy 28 says that no sickness, no disease, and nothing that comes against you will ever be able to stand in your way.
- D. If you don't see that blessing in operation, it's you who chose not to believe.

V. Perhaps you haven't been able to have a child.

- A. Deuteronomy 7:14 says,

Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

- B. Exodus 23:26 says,

There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.

- C. You have been blessed regarding conception and childbirth.
- D. You have to appropriate these promises by faith.
- E. Go to the Word of God.
- F. Find out what the Lord has said about you and mix it with faith.
- G. The blessing is stronger than the curse!

VI. Unless you respond to a curse in fear, it's causeless, and "*the curse causeless shall not come*" (Prov. 26:2).

- A. I know that people don't empower curses intentionally.
- B. But they are speaking all of their doubt and unbelief.

Living in God's Best

- C. No, you don't deny that you have a problem.
- D. This is where some people have been turned off and offended.
- E. If I had something wrong, you might hear me answer, "Well, I have this, but..." Then I'd turn around and speak the greater truth: "In the name of Jesus, I'm healed. This thing is bowing the knee."
- F. I deny that the problem is going to win.
- G. I'm going to speak the faith of God!

VII. Examples abound of people who have defied the odds regardless of color, background, location, or social situation.

- A. If someone has mistreated us, we need to release ourselves by forgiving them and then move on.
- B. Unforgiveness and hatred empower the curse and stop the blessing.
- C. We can't control everybody else; all we can do is control ourselves, and most of us could really stand to improve on that (Gal. 5:22-23).
- D. God has blessed us, and it cannot be reversed!
- E. We need to start empowering the blessing by faith and stop fearing what people have said about us and what they have done to us.
- F. This is the better way to receive!

VIII. God's blessings are voice-activated.

- A. You have to say them.
- B. Words created you and everything in the physical realm that you can see.
- C. So, start speaking your blessing!
- D. Encourage yourself.
- E. When the doctor says that you're dying, say, "Not today, praise God!"

Discipleship Questions

1. What was the stumbling block that Balaam taught Balak to cast before the Israelites (Rev. 2:12-14)?

2. What was the only way God's people could be overcome?

3. *Discussion question:* What do you think about your covenant with God, knowing that if you reject it, you can be overcome?

4. It was actually an act of _____ toward humanity as a whole to just kill all the men, women, children, and animals who participated in demonic rituals.

- A. Mercy
- B. Vengeance
- C. Peace
- D. Wrath
- E. Joy

5. *Discussion question:* Knowing that you are the one who empowers God's blessing in your life, how are you going to do it?

Living in God's Best

6. Your _____ is going the way of your thoughts.
7. *Discussion question:* In what ways have you despised God's words?
-
-
-
8. True or false: You have been blessed regarding conception and childbirth (Deut. 7:14 and Ex. 23:26).
9. You have to _____ these promises by faith.
10. True or false: The blessing is stronger than the curse only if you believe it.
11. Unless you respond to a curse in fear, it's _____ (Prov. 26:2).
12. True or false: You don't have to empower a curse intentionally for it to work.
13. If you _____ all of your doubt and unbelief, you are empowering the curse.
- A. Recall
 - B. Speak
 - C. Command
 - D. Survey
 - E. Write
14. *Discussion question:* Why do you think that denying the problem has turned off and offended some people?
-
-
-
15. Instead of denying that you have a problem, what should you deny?
-
-
-

16. What do you need to do if someone has mistreated you?

17. According to Galatians 5:22-23, who can you control?

- A. Everyone
- B. No one
- C. Yourself
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

18. *Discussion question:* In what ways have you allowed fear to stop God's blessing in your life?

19. How do you activate God's blessings?

20. What will happen if you don't speak your blessing?

- A. It will still work
- B. It won't work
- C. Nothing important
- D. Someone else will get it
- E. God will use an animal to speak it

Living in God's Best

21. *Discussion question:* How often should you encourage yourself?

22. True or false: When the doctor says you're dying, you should believe it.

Scriptures

NUMBERS 24:25

And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

REVELATION 2:12-14

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; [13] I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. [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.

NUMBERS 25:1-3

And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. [2] And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. [3] And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

NUMBERS 25:9

And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

NUMBERS 31:15-16

And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive? [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.

NUMBERS 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

DEUTERONOMY 7:14

Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

EXODUS 23:26

There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.

PROVERBS 26:2

As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

PROVERBS 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

PSALM 91:2

I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

HEBREWS 11:3

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.