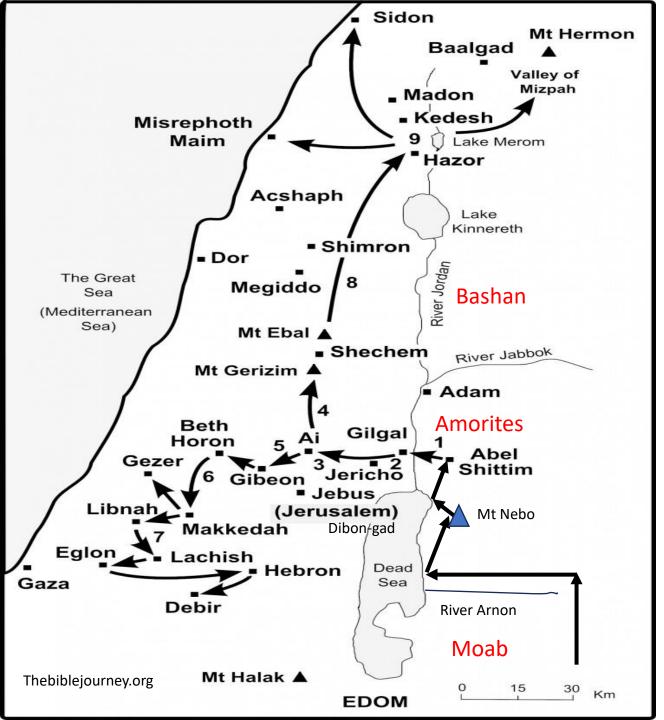


Spiritual
Lessons from
the Life of
Moses

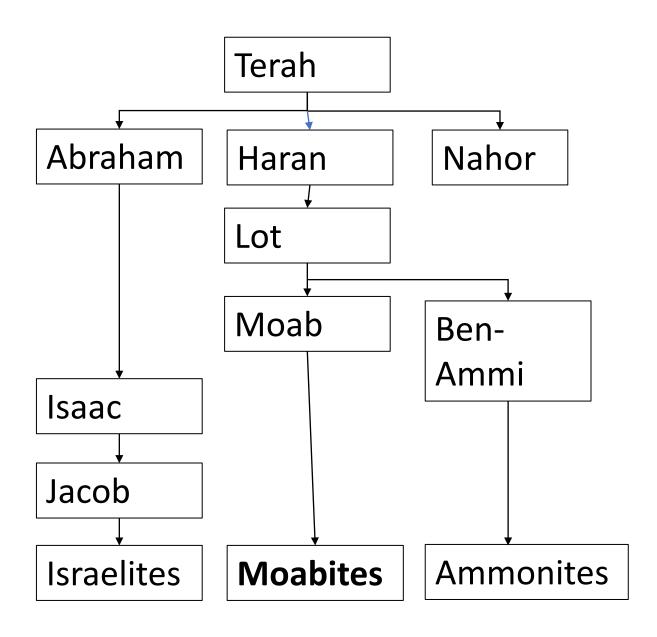
Lesson 24 -King Balak and Balaam

Num 22-27

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- (1)Background: God gave Sihon (Amorites) and Og (Bashan) to the Israelites.
- (2)The Israelites camped on the east of the Jordan River across Jericho (around Abel Shittim). (Num 22:1)
- (3)Balak, king of Moab, saw the Israelites defeating the Amorites. He was terrified of the Israelites as there were many of them. (Num 22:2-3)
- (4)Balak, king of Moab, summoned for Balaam. (Num 22: 5)



How are the Moabites related to the Israelites?

Who was Balaam?

- A non-Israelite prophet.
- Little is known about his background and the city he came from, which was Pethor.

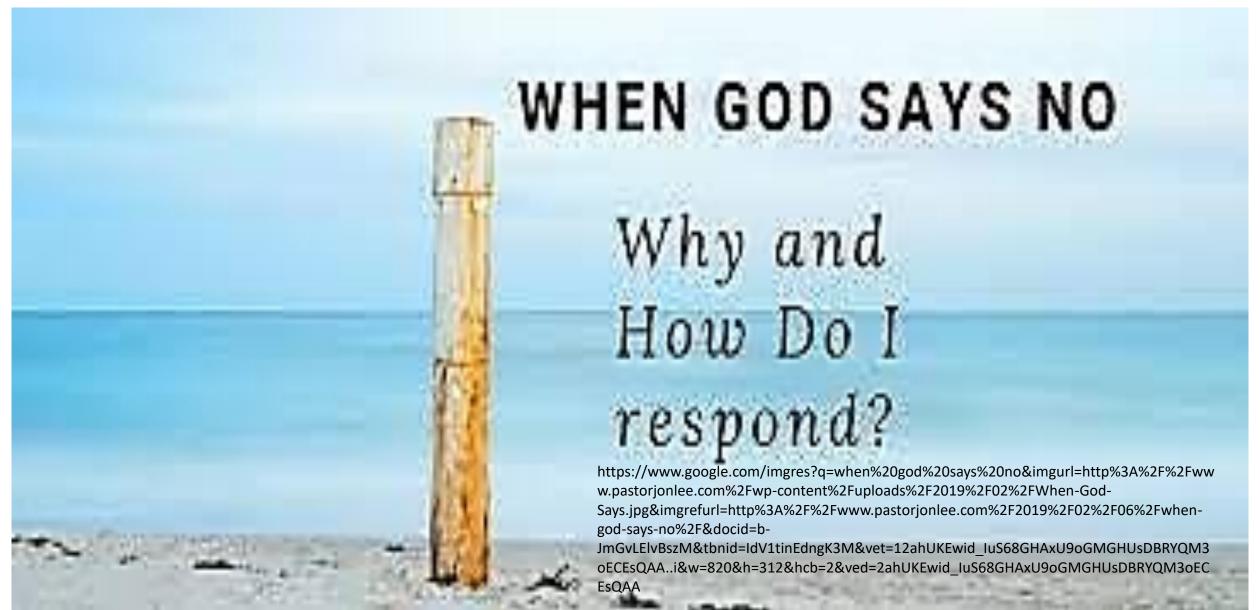


The King of Moab summons
Balaam. Numbers 22:1-20
(v16-17) They came to Balaam
with this message: 'King Balak
pleads with you to come. He
promises you great honours plus
any payment you ask. Name
your own figure! Only come and
curse these people for us.'

But, God refused to allow Balaam to go and curse the Israelites. (Num 22:12)

After much persistence from King Balak, God relented but Balaam may only do what God tells him to do (Num 22:20)

(3) Spiritual Lessons



What we should do

- (i) God said "No" to Balaam to go to King Balak to curse the Israelites (Num 22:12).
- (ii) Balaam already had God's answer not to go to curse the Israelites. But he persisted because of King Balak's repeated requests and promise of rewards. (Num 22:16, 17)
- (iii) Sometimes, we behave like Balaam. God tells us <u>not to do</u> certain things, but <u>we persist</u>.
- (iv) We persist in doing things objected to by God because of **self-interest**: there is expectation of wealth, reputation and good things for us.

(v) For example:

- We lie to protect ourselves or others
- We make risky investments out of greed, expecting high returns
- bad-mouth or put down others to elevate ourselves

(vi) How does God tell us His will in our lives?

 Prayer, the Bible, counsel of godly Christians, guidance of the Spirit, and circumstances.

(vii) Due to King Balak's persistence, God allowed Balaam to go to King Balak. But the result was not favourable to King Balak and Balaam.

(viii) Sometimes, we too persist in what we want to do, in opposition to God. In which event, we find that we will suffer the consequences of our disobedience.



Balaam and his donkey. Numbers 22:20-35 (v23-v28) Then the Lord caused the donkey to speak! 'What have I done that deserves your beating me these three times?' she asked.

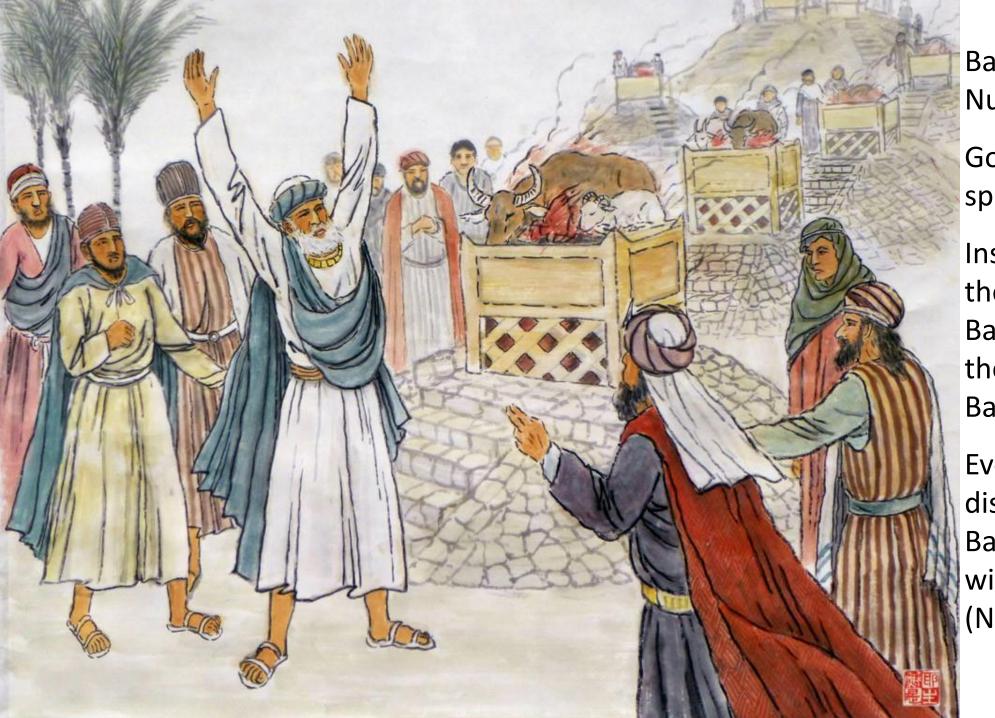
v33- The donkey saw me (angel) and turned away, if not, I would certainly have killed you.

(4) Spiritual Lessons

- (i) Balaam's journey was not smooth, as evidenced by <u>the</u> <u>angel of the Lord obstructing the passage of the donkey</u>.
- (ii) Sometimes, we also must be alert to hindrances and obstructions in what we have set out to do. These hindrances/obstructions may be indications from God that our pursuit is <u>against the will of God</u>.

For example: Repeated unsuccessful job applications for a position in a particular dubious industry may be God's way of stopping you to work in that industry.

- (iii) Eventually, Balaam was killed in a battle against the Midianites. (Num 31:8)
- (iv) Persisting against God's will may end in greater trouble. Examples: adversely affecting our health, spiritual walk, time with family etc.



Balaam's prophecy. Numbers 23:5-23:13

God controlled the speech of Balaam.

Instead of cursing the Israelites,
Balaam blessed them. This angered Balak.

Eventually, Balak dismissed Balaam. Balaam went away without being paid. (Num 24:11)

- Though God disapproved of Balaam and Balak of Moab cursing the Israelites, God also did not allow the Israelites to attack Moab.
- Deut 2:9 God told the Israelites not to provoke the Moabites to war.

(4) Spiritual Lessons

(i) King Balak and Balaam's objective was defeated. Instead of cursing the Israelites, the Spirit of God came upon Balaam and he <u>blessed the Israelites</u>.

God's blessing shows the sovereignty of God which prevailed over King Balak's evil plan for the Israelites.

If we pursue objectives in God's will, God will help us to overcome any trouble along the way. Remember that God is in control and source of all our blessings.

Heb 11:6: But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Worshipping Baal at Peor. Numbers 25:1-9

(v6-8) At Shittim, the Israelite men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women. They also began to worship the gods of the Moabites.

God was angered by the Israelites and punished them with a plague. 24,000 Israelites died.

What is sexual immorality?

Ans: Any sexual activity and thought that happen outside of marriage.

(5) Spiritual Lessons

God judged the immoral Israelite man and the Midianite woman. Their sin:

- (i) Sexual immorality
- (ii) Idolatry

We must also heed our own sins, for example:

- (i) Sexual lust (Matt 5:28-29 Looking at a woman with lust)
- (ii) Pornography: in-flight movies, internet porn.
- (iii) Living together without being married
- Social media, movies, novels and the worldly culture make sleeping together before/outside marriage acceptable and normal. But this is sexual immorality and a sin.

1 Corinthians 6:9

⁹ Know ye not that the <u>unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?</u> Be not deceived: <u>neither fornicators</u>, nor idolaters, nor <u>adulterers</u>, nor <u>effeminate</u>, nor <u>abusers of themselves with mankind</u>,

Num 26: The Second Census (the first census was in Numbers 1).



Joshua chosen as Moses' successor. Numbers 27:12-23 (v18)The Lord told Moses, 'Go and get Joshua who has the Spirit of God in him, and take him to Eleazar the priest, and as all the people watch, charge him with the responsibility of leading the people.'

Mt Nebo

Map of the Exodus:

https://blogger.googleusercontent.com/img/b/R29vZ2xl/AVvXs Ei-mPn0IBLJ30fsd285k-lrsPwy04iMrh bGkw eweiK5MpOLmnBqdhyphenhyphenMxoNqdgTVFYjuqtciXedl Ew9QPi59yoVdS0xglBpwJXeQpU-NQ76ot9pr 7MXM-QAOWWRNMta51FXnnTpY/s1600/Israel+in+wilderness.webp

Map of the Exodus The 42 Camp Sites: Bashan The Victory over Og, king of Bashan (Num 21:33-35; Deut 3:1-11) Organized and Illustrated "Then they turned and went up by the way of Bashan, and Og the king of Bashan went out with all his people for battle at Edrei." (Num 21:33 for the First Time in History AND WILDERNESS JOURNEY Naphtali Gilead ... "And Moses recorded their starting places according to their journeys by the command of the 1 Succoth P120 (Exad 12:37; Num 33:5) The route of the 12 spies Lord, and these are their journeys according to their starting places," (Num 33:2) in the land of Canaan The Conquest of Gilead (Num 32:39-42) 2 Etham DDN (Exod 13:20; Num 33:6) Exod 13:17-19:3: 40:17; Num 10:11-12:16; Deut 1:1-3:29; 34:1-8; Josh 4:19 (Num 13:21-29) 3 Before Migdol 1390 BC, Joseph's bones were buried 16 years after entry into Canaan. (Josh 24:32) (Exod 14.2.9. Num 33.7) פנים מנדול The Battle against Midian (Num 31:1-12) They killed with the sword every male, the kings of Midian, and 4 Marah מרה (Exod 15:23: Nom 33:8) 1406 BC, ~ 1st month, 10th day Mediterranean Sea ML Gerly Balaam, the son of Boer. (Num 31:7-8) "Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth 5) Elim אילם (Excd 15:27: Num 33:9) day of the first month and camped at Gligal on the eastern edge of Jericho." (Josh 4:19) 7 The Wilderness of Sin The Plains of Moab The Battle of Hormah The early stage of the wilderness journey-lost due to disobedience. (Num 14:39-45; Deut 1:40-44) "And they camped by the Jordan, from Beth-jeshimoth as far as Abel-shittim in the plains of Moab." (Num 33:49) (Ixed 16:1: Num 33:11) The last stage of the wilderness journey-victory by defeating the king of Arad in southern part of Canaan. (Num 21:1-3) 24,000 died from the plague as a result of sexual immorality. Almon-The plague stopped after Phinehas killed Cozbi and Zimri, who of Abarim 40 diblathaim 1446 BC, 1st month, 15th day committed adultery. (Num 25:1-15) 9 Alush אלוש (Num 33:13) "And they journeyed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the 10) Rephidim רפידים (Book 17:1/19:2 Num 33:14) 1407 BC, 5th month, 1st day, - 8 months before entry into Canaan (Num 20:22-29) Dibon-gad 38 & Ammon first month; on the next day after Passover Then Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the command of the Lord, and died 11) The Wilderness of Sinai the sons of Israel started out boldly in the there, in the fortieth year after the sons of Israel had come from the land of Egypt sight of the Egyptians," (Num 33:3) מדבר סיני (Excels:1-2 Num 13:15) on the first day in the fifth month." (Num 33:38) Mt. Nebo/Mt. Pisgah (Deut 32:49: 34:1-4) God shows Moses all of the Promised Land, Canaan, 12) Kibroth-hattaavah Now it came about when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead ווא אנא אנא (Num H. אנה התאוה them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near, for God Moab said, 'Lest the people change their minds when they see war, and they return to Egypt," (Exod 13.17) Rameses 13) Hazeroth חצרות (Num 11:35:33:17) The Victory over Sihon, King of the Amorites (Num 21:21–32; Deut 2:24–37) way of the Land of the Phillistines (Exad 13,17) 14 Rithmah התמה (או=33:18) "But Sihon...came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. Then Israel...took possession of his land from Arnon to the Jabbok..." EGYPT שלו (אברין פרין פרין (אברין אופר) (אברין (אברין פרין פרין אופר) Bene-jaakan 27 25]Hashmonah Bozrah 37 (Num 21:23-24) The Death of Miriam 1407 BC, 1st month, ~1 year before entry into Canaan lye-abarim 16) Libnah לבנה (Num 33:20) Then the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to the Kadesh-barnea Succoth 17] Rissah 707 (Num 33:21) wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people stayed at Kadesh Moseroth Zalmonah Punon Now Mirlam died there and was buried there." (Num 20:1) 18 Kehelathah קהלתה (Num 33-22) The Death of Moses (Deut 34:1-8) 1407 BC, 11th month, ~2 months before entry into Canaan 19 Mount Shepher הרישפר Nam 33.23) Rithmah 14 "So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, 2) Etham The Way of Shur Rimmon-perez 15 Terah• 20 Haradah חַרֶּדָה (Num 33:24) Haradah according to the word of the Lord. And He buried him in the valley of the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no man knows his burial Edom "Hence God led the people around 21) Makheloth מקהלת (Num 35/25) The Wilderness of Shur (Etham) place to this day." (Deut 34:5-6) by the way of the wilderness to the (Exod 15:22: Num 33:8) Mount Shepher 19 / 22 22 Tahath חחח (Num 33:26) Red Sea: and the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Libnah Egypt." (Exod 13:18) 23 Terah חקרת (Num 13:27) Those who were still alive from the 603,550 soldiers from the first 24) Mithkah מחקה (Num 33:28) Kehelathah census died, except Joshua and Caleb. (Deut 2:13-16) Makheloth Hor-·Baal-zephon (uncertain) 25 Hashmonah דשמנה (Num 33:29) 3 Before Migdol haggidgad 26 Moseroth חלסכו (Num 33:30) Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and 27) Bene-jaakan בני יעקן (Num 33:31) camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol :::: LEGEND :::: The Wilderness of Paran way of the Red Sea, to go around the land and the sea; you shall camp in front of Abronah 28) Hor-haggidgad הר הגדנה Okum 33:32) of Edom; and the people became impatien Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea." because of the journey." (Num 21:4) 1 ~ 42 Camp Sites during the Wilderness Journey 29 Jotbathah יְטָבְתָה (Num 33.33) • 4 Marah 30 Abronah עברנה (N=334) Journey from Rameses to the Wilderness of Sinai 31 Ezion-geber The Wilderness of Sin עצידן נבר (Nom 18:35) (אומר אווי) Journey from the Wilderness of Sinai to Rithmah (Kadesh-barnea) Elim 5] Crossing the Red Sea 32) Kadesh-barnea (Exod 14:15-31) Journey from Rithmah (Kadesh-barnea) back to Kadesh-barnea רנע ברנע (Num 1326; 201-13; 33:36) 7) The Wilderness of Sin By the Red Sea 13]Hazeroth Journey from Kadesh-barnea to Wadi (brook), Zered 33 Mount Hor הר ההר (Num 20:22: 33:37). Kibroth-The Graves of Greediness The Battle against Amalek (Exod 17:8-16) 8 Dophkah 34 Zalmonah צלמנה משוא צלמנה hattaavah 12 "So the name of that place was called Kibroth-Journey Across Wadi (brook) Zered to Gilgal "So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.... I will utterly blot out memory of hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had been greedy. (Num 11:34) (Num 33:42) פרלן 9 Alush --- Roundtrip Route of the 12 Spies in Canaan 36) Oboth חבא (Num 21:10: 33:43) and named it "The Lord is My Banner." (Exod 17:13-17) --- Rattle Route 38 Dibon-gad דיבון נד Num 3345 Rephidim 10 Battle Site 39 Almon-diblathaim Midian The Wilderness of Sinai (Num 1566) עלמן דבלתימה 40) The Mountain of Abarim 1446 BC, 3rd month - 1445 BC, 2nd month, 20th day רים (Num 27:12: 33:47) (Num 10:11-12) Remained here about 1 year Wadi/ Intermittent Stream The Ten Commandments were given. (Exod 20:1-17) 41) The Plains of Moab - The tabernacle was erected: 2nd year, 1st month, 1st day of the Exodus. (Exod 40:17) ערָבָה מוֹאָב (Nam 33:45-49) The first census of soldiers (603,550): 2nd year, 2nd month, City Scale 1: 1,150,000 1st day of the Exodus. (Num 1:1-4, 46) 42 Gilgal 27 (losh 4:19) - Worship of golden calf: 3,000 people killed. 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Red Sea

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(6) Spiritual Lessons

- (i) God appointed Joshua who had the spirit of God in him.
- (ii) This would also be evident when Joshua and Caleb were the only two out of 12 spies who were in favour of going to the Promised Land.
- (iii) In our decision to choose spiritual leaders, it must be people with evidence of the spirit of God in them eg. believers with the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal 5:22-23).
- (iv) How to appoint a new leader? Be prayerful, observe their conduct and commit the appointment to God (Num 27:15-20).

- (7) In summary, the **spiritual lessons**:
- (i) Seek the Lord's will when pursuing a task. In particular, when the going is not smooth:
 - Pray,
 - Read the bible for wisdom and understanding
 - Be led by the Spirit
 - Seek counsel from godly believers
 - Respond to circumstances
- (ii) If the Lord says "No", it is for our good.
- (iii) Keep away from sin