

The backstory is that Balak, the King of Moab, sends a messenger and wants to hire Balaam for a pretty good sum of money. The money that is being offered is too good to pass up and it supersedes all else in the life of Balaam.

His overwhelming desire for money causes Balaam to throw himself in with reckless abandon and he pays a terrible price for it, just as will the false teachers.

The story of Balaam and his material delusion can be found in Numbers 22 through 24. We're not go through these chapters. You know the story already and if you want to refresh your memory you can read them as homework.

Money drives churches today. There are always pastors asking for money and mainline denominations make sure they pass out the tithing envelopes every month.

In fact, money has become such an issue in churches that there is always a "building fund," "new bus ministry," and we'll be glad to take your 10% tithing to fund each of these and many of you can give more! So fork it over.

This church has never asked for a penny in the 38 years that Joe has been the pastor. Neither has Joe Griffin Media Ministries, nor has Philippi Freedom Ministry. Check out our policy on giving...it's grace all the way. If God is in it, He will provide the money.

There is never a charge for any of the material the three ministries provide. Never ever; you will never be asked to give a penny.

Anything that is given should be given in grace – by grace oriented believers - and funds goes to the furtherance of the dissemination of Bible Doctrine.

Joshua 13:22 calls Balaam a "diviner." Let's look at Colonel Thieme's book on "Satan and Demonism":

"You shall not eat anything with the blood, nor practice divination or soothsaying." (Lev. 19:26)

"There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer." (Deut. 18:10)

Divination is the attempt to foresee or foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge usually by means of interpreting omens or by the aid of supernatural powers. Clairvoyance, palmistry, dowsing, and psychometry are the media of the diviner. God expressly forbids participation in such practices.

“For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.” (1 Sam. 15:23a)

The fascination with fortunetelling and psychics corroborates the success of divination as a satanic scheme to distract people from the plan of God. Interest may begin as innocent curiosity: reading a horoscope in the daily newspaper, calling a psychic hotline, playing with a Ouija board or tarot cards. The popularity of Eastern religious ideas has made divination more acceptable. These and other long-suppressed demon pursuits surface periodically like scum on a pond to spawn a plethora of evil practices condemned in Scripture.

“Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.” (Lev. 19:31)

“Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; their blood guiltiness is upon them.” (Lev. 20:27)<sup>1</sup>

God has revealed through biblical prophecy many future events, but in His wisdom, He has withheld certain information from mankind (Deut. 29:29). Though the Bible provides only a broad sketch of the future, God has supplied all the knowledge we need to enter into a personal and permanent relationship with Him. The Bible delineates every guideline, every principle required for living the Christian life. Yet, despite these perfect provisions, attempts to foresee the future by means other than those revealed by God continue to entice mankind. The future is best left in the Lord’s hands.<sup>2</sup>

We know prophets predict the future, but a “diviner” is not a prophet.

Not only does he predict the future, but a “diviner” influences it by his prediction.

---

<sup>1</sup> The death penalty for mediums was part of the Mosaic Law intended for governing the nation Israel and is no longer applicable in the Church Age.

<sup>2</sup> Satan and Demonism R.B. Thieme, Jr., 6<sup>th</sup> Edition 2018. Divination, (pages 23-24)

Divination requires interpreting omens by the aid of supernatural powers. It can well be a satanic scheme to distract people from the plan of God.

So, with Balaam's divining skills, he was approached by the Balak, the King of Moab.

Moab was one of the areas in Palestine that the Jews were told not to mess with. They bypassed Moab.

But Balak, King of Moab, was afraid of Israel and he wanted to do something to stop Israel's conquest of the land.

So, Balak hires Balaam for the express purpose of cursing Israel. Balaam accepted the deal because of the financial win-fall for him (Numbers 22:7).

### **Doctrine of Money:**

#### Definition:

1. The English word "money" is derived from the Latin *mōnēta*:

*Mōnēta*: the Roman money was coined in the temple of Juno Mōnēta; hence *moneta* as: a, the mint, the place where money was coined: b, coined metal, money.<sup>3</sup>

2. Money is the medium in which prices are expressed, debts are discharged, goods and services are paid for, and bank reserves are held.
3. The term may be regarded as comprising common money or currency, coins, bank notes, or paper money which is circulated.
4. Money is the means of stating the prices of goods and services, as well as expressing debts, salaries, wages, rents, etc. Money is a medium of exchange whereby goods and services are paid for, and debts are discharged.
5. Money serves as a reserve for ready purchasing power. Therefore, money is the only complete liquid asset.

---

<sup>3</sup> MD. P. Simpson, "*Mōnēta*," in Cassell's Latin Dictionary, (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, Inc., 1968), 378.

6. Money is unique among economic goods. It is regarded, not as wealth, but as a device for exchanging and measuring wealth.
7. An increase in the quantity of money in a nation does not necessarily constitute an increase in the country's wealth. Inflation is the increase of the quantity of money in a nation but decreases the nation's wealth.

### The History of Money:

1. There have been many different objects used for money, such as barter, slaves, gunpowder, oxen in Homeric times, elephants, cattle, stones, wool, barley, wheat, and timber. The most widely used medium is gold and silver. Before coins came into use, money was measured in terms of rings, bars, talents, and various systems of weights.
2. Coin money was first invented by Croesus, King of Lydia, 561- 546 BC. Darius I, called the Great, 550-486 BC, king of Persia, picked up the idea and used coined money. The Phoenician traders did the same and it spread all over the ancient world.
3. There were three kinds of coins in the New Testament times:
  1. Imperial Roman coins.
  2. The provincial coins based on the old Greek standard.
  3. Israel had its own standard.
  4. Paper money did not come into use until the French Revolution.

### The Bible reveals the legitimate function of money:

1. For monetary transactions. The shekel was a rolled piece of metal, first mentioned in Genesis 23, where Ephron sold Abraham the field, including the cave in which he buried his wife, Sarah:

Genesis 23:15: "My Lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is it between me and you? So bury your dead." (NASB)

2. Money was used to pay taxes according to Matthew 22:17–22, Mark 12:13–17, and Luke 20:20–26. The Bible only recognizes 10% for taxation.
3. Money is the medium of exchange to transfer property or ideas from one person to another.

4. Thus, capitalism is the biblically authorized medium of exchange that allows goods and services to be produced for the purpose of supplying others with their necessities and interests.
5. Unfortunately, some look on possession of wealth as cupidity: “the inordinate desire, especially for wealth; or greed.”
6. Yet, it is the biblically documented system of exchange that allows individuals or groups to transfer things of value from one owner to another, which results in both parties pleased with the outcome.
7. Giving of money is an expression of the royal priesthood and required in:  
  

2 Corinthians 9:6: “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”  
(NASB)
8. Money is the economic system that enables citizens of a national entity to function as a unit to provide an environment within which all can benefit collectively from the efforts and generosity of each other.
9. It is the free-enterprise system within a free society that enables individuals to benefit from the efforts of others, each dependent upon the efforts of others to supply their needs.
10. Money is legitimate, its accumulation is legitimate, and its use is permissible.

### Monetary Reversionism:

1. Money can become a wonderful slave or a cruel master, depending on your spiritual condition (Jude 11).
2. The deceit of Balaam was monetary lust. Don’t ever let money become your master.
3. The Greek word *plánē* connotes areas of deceit regarding money.

(1) Money cannot buy salvation. The spiritual death of our Lord was the purchase price for our salvation.

(2) Money cannot buy love.

(3) Money is not a means of happiness.

(4) Money is not a means of security (Matthew 6:24-33).

(5) Money cannot buy everything. There are many things that money cannot buy, such as true love, perfect happiness from God, stability of soul, peace of mind.

4. While Balaam is the illustration of monetary reversionism we're studying, there are other examples in scripture:

(1) Solomon in Ecclesiastes 5:10-6:2. (Money corrupted Solomon.)

(2) Balaam in Jude 11 and Revelation 2:14-15 (Lust for money destroyed Balaam.)

(3) Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-10 (They used money for approbation from other believers.)

(4) Lust for money can destroy right priorities for life (James 4:13-14).

5. Money related to right perspective and mental attitude is taught in 1 Timothy 6:3-11

6. Monetary reversionism is taught in James 5:1-6.

The dangers of money to a believer is covered in:

Hebrews 13:5: "Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, keep on being content with what you possess. For He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

Vs. 6: so that we confidently say "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

Vs. 8: "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. (NASB)

Dangers of money to the unbeliever:

1. Unbelievers can't buy salvation (Mark 8:36-37; 1 Peter 1:18-19).
2. Money causes a rich man to have faith in wrong objects (Mark 10:25).
3. Money hinders the unbeliever from seeking salvation (Luke 16:19-31).
4. Money has credit with people but no credit with God (Proverbs 11:4). The righteousness of God is the credit you need to live with God forever.
5. Money does not mean prosperity (Proverbs 11:28).
6. Money does not mean capacity for life (Proverbs 13:7 & 11).

A couple of final points in regard to money:

Profiting on Bible Doctrine – neither the Gospel nor Bible Doctrine are for “sale.”  
Revelation 22:17; Micah 3:11; 1 Timothy 6:3-5.

Daniel refused money for interpreting the “handwriting on the wall” (Daniel 5:5-17), but God rewarded him with money and position anyway (Daniel 5:29).

Abraham refused money from the King of Sodom (Genesis 14:23), but God rewarded him with vast wealth.

Paul refused to make an issue out of money from the generally wealthy believers in Corinth (2 Corinthians 11:7-8) as it would distract from his teaching there.

2 Corinthians 11:7-8: “Was it a sin for me (Paul) to lower myself in order to elevate you (Corinthians believers) by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge?”

Vs. 8: I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you.” (Even though Corinth was a rich Church Paul received financial and logistical support from other congregations so as to not make an issue out of money). (NIV)

PROVERBS 10:22: “It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.” (NASB)

Purchase the Gold of God. The Gospel and Bible Doctrine are free gifts holding the unfathomable and fantastic wealth of all time and come directly from God's grace (Revelation 3:18; 22:17; Acts 3:6).

REVELATION 22:17: “The (Holy) Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty (+V – positive volition) come; let the one who wishes take the water (the Gospel of salvation) of life without cost (free it’s a gift).” (NASB)

REVELATION 3:18: “I (Jesus Christ) advise you (Church at Laodicea) to buy from Me gold (Bible Doctrine) refined (By the Pastor/Teacher and taught to his congregation) by fire so that you may become rich (that we can reach spiritual maturity), and white garments so that you may clothe yourself (with fantastic rewards), and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed (to make visible); and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see (the believers only sees God through Bible Doctrine).”



Back to Balaam and his scheme verses God's plan. The same is true with false teachers, as well: their scheme versus grace and doctrinal orientation.

It may seem like the false teachers do, but they really never do. The justice of God is always in operation and God protects those who are hungry for Bible doctrine. God provides the message for those who want it, and He always will.

But you've got to beware of some of these false teachers who would be very glad to pull the wool over your eyes and take your wallet and kill your spiritual advance.

God's plan is not foiled by Balaam, or by the schemes of those who are going to outsmart God. God will not be mocked! Don't ever forget that.

In the end, Balaam's real intent never changed. Even with a talking donkey, he didn't get it. In spite of God's command, in spite of the failed divination, money superseded all of that.

The same is true of false teachers: they refuse to teach the truth, but they want the money.

The false teachers of Jude's time mixed the false with the true and that was the deception, the delusion, and it still is today.

In Balaam's duplicity, God still worked through all of his falsehood for the best interest of His people. He always does that. Never forget: evil does not deter God's plan or His words.

God allowed Balaam to continue. This is God's permissive will for Balaam, in spite of Balaam's greed and his paganism. Even though false teachers then, and today, are in opposition to God's plan, God can use them to show the nature of falsehood, and, specifically, of their falsehood.

This is why Jude is warning the churches of the false teachers' attitudes and characteristics. The churches can then compare truth with the falsehoods.

You must separate the lie from the truth, and you can't do that without Bible doctrine in your soul.

God can turn evil into good for believers, but the believer must be alert and doctrinally informed.

PRINCIPLE: The only way to give money to this church, or any of the ministries associated with this church, is in grace. Then, the money is used in the dissemination of Bible doctrine.

Grace orientation is what Grace Doctrine Church is all about. Our pastor has taught us grace and you cannot beg or ask for money when you're teaching grace. God supplies the money!

There is nothing like hearing falsehood, realizing its false, and then understanding the truth to advance your spiritual life.

Never forget, when evil surrounds you, God still has a plan and a purpose, and no evil is going to stop it; no false teacher is going to stop it. So, trust His plan and don't fall for the delusions. That is the faith-rest rationale for your life.

We need to continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, so that the falsehoods may be identified and avoided, and you get an acceleration of your spiritual advance.

Communicators of the Word of God must teach truth and, sadly, we can see the results today of very little truth being taught.

So, Balak, the King of Moab meant what Balaam was going to do to Israel for evil. Balaam was hired by Balak to curse Israel, and, instead, it would reveal God's blessing to Israel to all the peoples of Palestine.

After Balaam spoke the words that he was paid not to speak, Israel was blessed rather than cursed.

Balaam, instead of cursing, would actually present the God of Israel in all of His glory, and in all of His power, as the only God.

Let's take a look at how God turns cursing into blessing.

Balaam tells Balak that Israel enjoys the very presence of God among them. The God of Israel with them, not against them. This is a reference to the Shekinah Glory in Numbers 23:12b.

In Numbers 23:19, Balaam reveals the God of Israel when he's supposed to be cursing God's people.

Numbers 23:19: “God 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 it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (NASB)

Balaam says, “God is not a man” and then he says, “that he should lie.” – God is perfect truthfulness! He is veracity.

He goes on to say, “Nor a son of man, that He should repent.” – God's righteousness is perfect. He never has to say He's sorry. He never has to apologize for something that He might have done wrong. He never does anything wrong.

Next Balaam says, “Has He said, and will He not do it?” – God is immutable (another one of God's attributes). Balaam is speaking the Word of God through him and therefore, whatever Balaam says, that is what God is going to do.

Finally, he says, “Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” – God is perfect truth. He's absolute veracity.

Even when beset by such evil as Balak, Israel will suffer no misfortune from Balaam's strong delusions.

Moab, a very powerful kingdom, is against Israel. Balaam, a very powerful pagan prophet, is against Israel. Israel will suffer no misfortune at the hands of these people.

Instead of a curse, which is what Balaam is getting paid to do, Balaam pronounces God's plan for Israel. That they worship and love Him alone.

PRINCIPLE FOR US: Don't let current events upset you. God's word lives and abides forever. Truth will never disappear, and God will never forsake you. He will never leave you and, no matter what happens, you are still in God's hands.

So, Balak and Balaam didn't get anything, but Israel did. Deuteronomy 23:5b is an address to Israel on this very subject.

Deuteronomy 23:5: “Nevertheless, the Lord your God was not willing to listen to Balaam, but the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you because the Lord your God loves you.” (NASB)

This is the whole story of Balaam, and it's defined right here in Deuteronomy 23:5b.

This is the warning that Jude wants all of us to understand. Israel refused to understand or heed the blessing of God through Balaam.

In the end Balaam lost his life in defying God, which is the fate of all false teachers (Joshua 13:22).

In Jude's analogy (Jude 11b), churches must beware of following the footsteps of the greedy false teachers. It is spiritually destructive and sometimes can lead to the sin unto death. It's the short way to reversionism. Making money your God.

According to the second illustration of Jude 11, the false teachers in the church are identified by their hunger for profit (money).

Balaam, the pagan diviner, went all out for money. Likewise, the false teachers do the same thing. Hence, they are recognized by their trait of greed. They are actually con-men in a society today where money is God.

Jude 11: “Woe to them (the apostates), because they have been led into the way of life of Cain (jealousy and arrogance), “they, (the false teachers), have run with reckless abandon to the strong delusions of Balaam which is monetary lust (materialism lust).”

Next, we have the final part of Jude 11c: “and perished in the rebellion of Korah.”

Now, we come to the third analogy of verse 11, which concerns a man named Korah and Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16).

We have seen Cain and his mental attitude sins and murder, and we have seen Balaam and his lust for money. Now we come to probably the most obscure of the three illustrations Jude uses to describe the false teachers or “dreamers” of verse 8.

Korah's problem was that he had a lust for power in Israel. So, we've had mental attitudes, sins, and murder, we've had money, and now we have lust for power.