

## BALAAM'S END

Numbers 25:1-18; Numbers 31:1-3,8,16; Rev.2:14; I Cor.10:8; Jude 11

Balaam had tried and tried to curse the nation of Israel for Balak the king of Moab, but God did not allow him to do it. The king of Moab had promised Balaam great riches and great power if he would only curse Israel. Balaam wanted that money and power very much, and he was willing to do just about anything to get it. Since the Lord would not allow him to curse Israel, Balaam devised another way to destroy the Israelites.

This is the plan that Balaam decided on. He told king Balak that God is a jealous God. He said, "If you can get the people of Israel to turn from the worship of Jehovah, and get them involved in the worship of your gods, the Lord God will certainly punish them severely and probably even destroy them completely."

Balaam advised Balak to send some of his most beautiful women into the camp of the Israelites, so that they could entice the men to worship false gods. And this is exactly what Balak did.

At this time the children of Israel were encamped at a place called Shittim. The Moabites called the children of Israel to come and sacrifice to their false gods, and I'm sorry to say, many of the people of Israel did just that. They bowed down to the false gods of Moab and feasted with those who were their enemies. Israel joined himself to Baal-peor the false god of the Moabites, and the anger of the Lord flamed up against them.

The Lord commanded Moses to publicly execute those people of Israel who were the ones leading the Israelites in Baal worship.

At this very time a prince of Israel of the house of Simeon brought a princess of Midian into the very camp of Israel and showed to all the people his rebellion against the Lord and Lord's commands. When the son of Eleazer the high priest, who's name was Phineas, saw this great wickedness, he became zealous for the Lord and destroyed that wicked man and the Moabite women. Because Phineas took this stand for the Lord and truth, God stopped the plague that he had sent against Israel for their gross sin. During the plague twenty three thousand people died.

Then the Lord himself proclaimed a curse on the people of Midian, King Balak's people. He said that because they have trapped you with their wives, I want you to destroy them.

Not long after this, Israel went to war against Midian. They killed all the kings of Midian, and Balaam that evil prophet was also killed, for he had caused Israel by his counsel to commit sin against God in Peor. This in turn brought the judgment of God against Israel just as Balaam had predicted it would.

The Lord mentions Balaam in both the books of Jude and Revelation in the New Testament. He calls Balaam a greedy man who led the people of Israel into sin so that he could get a reward. Balaam knew the truth about God, he even told Balak of God's character, but he chose to use that knowledge to lead people into sin. He thought he could manipulate God and get what he wanted, without any consequence for his wickedness. What a fool Balaam was to take the knowledge that God had given him and misuse use it. How often people think that they can outsmart God, but they are wrong. In the end they will see that no one can fool God. He is in control and ~~an~~ ~~no~~ ~~one~~ ~~can~~ outsmart him. I'm so glad that our God reigns, and he does whatever he pleases and no one can stop him. Aren't you? When God chooses to bless a people, God will surely bless them no matter what others do.

LEARN: But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Psalm 115: 3

1. Color the scene.

2. Color all figures and cut them out.

3. Paste Balaram

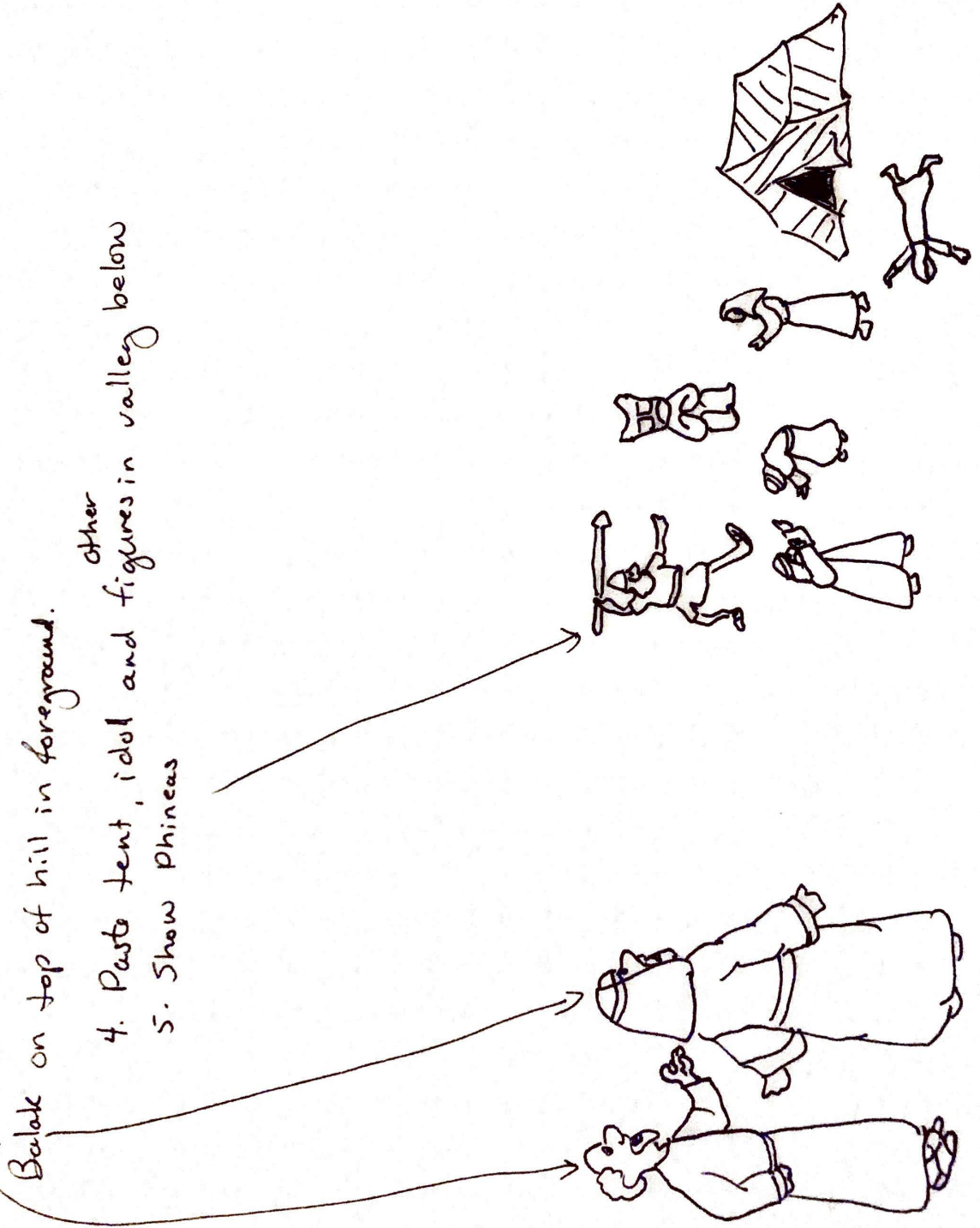
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Balake on top of hill in foreground.

4. Paste tent, idol and figures in valley below

other

5. Show Phineas





But God is in the heavens:  
he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.  
Psalm 115:3

