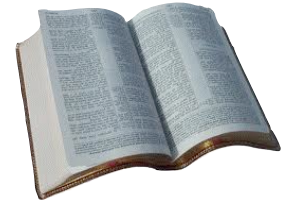


Balaam



Israel's Fundamental Promoter of Apostasy!

The Doctrine of Balaam

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT THE VERSE BELOW WAS ADDRESSED TO THE PASTOR

"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."

(Revelation 2:14)

In our last article, (The Common Salvation,) We referred to the fact that some promoters of apostasy are unsaved and some are Believers, such as the apostasy promoting pastor mentioned in the verse above. We will see in this article that although Balaam sounded like a solid fundamentalist, he was unsaved. He was one of the greatest hypocrites on the face of the earth at that time.

He Talked Like A Fundamentalist

Chapter 22:13

Balaam refused to go with the enemies of Israel.

"And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you."

Chapter 22:18

Balaam sounded like a fundamental leader.

"And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more."

Chapter 22:38

Today, most fundamental leaders would welcome this man to preach in their local church.

"And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak."

Chapter 23:8-10

He sounded fundamental here.

"How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied? ...Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!"

Chapter 23:12

Would Balaam be welcome to preach at our national meetings?

"And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?"

Chapter 23:18-20

Balaam's bold statement to the king of Moab.

"Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor: 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? Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it"

Chapter 24:13

Are there any fundamental leaders preaching stronger than this?

"If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak?"

How Did Jude See Balaam?

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Jude said, Balaam was one of those men who, "...crept in unawares." Jude said, that Balaam had "...turned the grace of God into lasciviousness." **Jude said Balaam went to Hell when he died.** (v.13)

How Did Joshua See Balaam?

Joshua 13:22 - Joshua saw this fundamental sounding leader as, "*Balaam...the soothsayer.*"

How Did Moses See Balaam?

Deuteronomy 23:4 - Moses said, "...they hired against thee Balaam..."

Numbers 31:16 - Moses said, "*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.*"

How Did Nehemiah See Balaam?

Nehemiah 13:2 - Nehemiah reminded God's people how Balak had, "...hired Balaam against them..."



How Peter Saw Balaam

Second Peter 2:15 - Peter knew that, "*Balaam...loved the wages of unrighteousness;*"

Balaam Died Fighting Against God's People

Numbers 31:8 - Moses recorded his death saying, "*And they slew...Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.*"

Joshua 13:22 - Joshua said, "*Balaam also the son of Beor, the soothsayer, did the children of Israel slay with the sword among them that were slain by them.*"

Unfortunately, they were too late. Israel fell deep into apostasy. Revelation 2:14 tells us "*...Balaam, taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*" Numbers 31:16 tells us "*...Israel, through the counsel of Balaam,*" committed a "*trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.*"

Twenty-four thousand Israelites died in that plague because they allowed a fundamental sounding leader to promote apostasy in Israel. We can only guess how many churches will die under

the direction of our modern day fundamental sounding promoters of apostasy.

"Written For Our Admonition"

First Corinthians 10:11 plainly says, "*Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*"

Jeremiah warned God's people not to let the "*diviners that be in the midst of you, deceive you.*" (Jeremiah 29:8) Israel didn't listen, will we? Balaam was used of Satan to introduce apostasy among God's people. He was very successful because God's people were unaware of what he was up to.

Apostasy Promoting Pastors In Our Age of Apostasy

All seven of John's letters in the Revelation were addressed to the pastors, not to the people. As previously mentioned in Revelation 2:12, John addresses his letter to the pastor at Pergamos. In verse fourteen God's message to the pastor was, "*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.*" (v.14)

The Pastor At Pergamos Was Doing A Great Job In Many Areas.

The Lord said, "*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.*" (v. 13)

"But"

The pastor allowed some to hold to "*...the doctrine of Balaam.*" The warning was plain, The Lord said, "*Repent; or else,*" however the pastor did not turn from his compromising position. As a result, by the time we get to the Laodicean church, Balaam's doctrine is full blown and the

church is in such a sick state that we read the Lord is no longer welcome. In Revelation 2:1 we find Christ walking in their "...midst." In Revelation 2:20 Christ said, "*Behold I stand at the door.*"

As previously mentioned, some promoters of apostasy are unsaved and some are Christians. Balaam was unsaved. The pastor at Pergamos was a Christian. God warned the pastor to, "*Repent or else.*"

"Not of The People"

The name Balaam means "...not of the people," although, he talked like he was one of God's people. We must always remember that *talk is cheap*, it is the *walk* that costs us something. Balaam was an unsaved fundamentalist, who was used of Satan to introduce apostasy among God's people.

God Was Angry!

The Book of Numbers presents us with a very angry God. Nine times in Numbers we read of the anger of the Lord being "*kindled.*"

A few examples of God's Anger...

- **Numbers 11** - *God sent a Fire and a plague.*
- **Numbers 12** - *God struck Miriam with leprosy.*
- **Numbers 14** - *When the spies returned with their evil report God was ready to kill all Israel as one man.*
- **Numbers 16** - *God opened the ground and swallowed those who were sowing discord against the leadership of Moses.*
- **Numbers 16** - *Some people complained and God killed 14,700 people.*
- **Numbers 21** - *When people continued to complain God sent snakes to kill the complainers.*
- **Numbers 25** - *At Baal-peor another 24,000 died.*
- **Numbers 32:14** records, "*the fierce anger of the LORD toward Israel.*"

God Was Very Angry With Balaam

In Numbers 22:33 we read that God was so angry with Balaam he told him if it had not been for his donkey, He would have killed him.

King Balak Was Having A Bad Day

As we begin Numbers twenty-two, Israel is at the end of her wilderness wanderings. God's people are defeating her enemies, and they have advanced to the border of Moab. We read that

King Balak's followers were "...sore afraid" and they were "...distressed." (v.3)

A 400 Mile Trip

Balaam, who is mentioned forty-nine times in the Book of Numbers, lived in Pethor which was located almost 400 miles from Moab. It took about a month to travel one way from Moab to Pethor. The name Pethor means "*soothsayer.*" This place was a hotbed of "*soothsayers*" or diviners. Balaam was the most famous diviner in the city.

Balak Should Have Talked With Moses

Balak was concerned about being attacked, however, Moses was not about to attack Moab. Deuteronomy 2:9 says, "*And the LORD said unto me, (Moses) distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle.*" Balak wasted a lot of time and energy because he did not talk with someone who was in touch with God. Many people, including many Christians, make the same mistake today.

Don't Change Our Lifestyle!

The biggest concern the people of Moab had was the fact that Israel was about to change their lifestyle. In verse four we read, "*And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field.*" Unsaved people do not fear Christians today because they might attack, they simply do not want their lifestyle changed.

"A People Come Out From Egypt"

In verse five Balak referred to Israel as "...a people come out from Egypt." It had been about forty years since God's people had come out of Egypt; however, those who rejected God remembered what God had done through His people forty years earlier.



It was in the same timeframe that Rahab said, "For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt..." (Joshua 2:10)

The Christ-rejectors Are Watching Us

Hebrews 12:1 says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"

Balak Wanted The Best Soothsayer

Verse 6 - "Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed."

Balak knew exactly *who*, and *what* Balaam was. Sometimes the unsaved have more insight than Christians. Luke 16:8 tells us "...the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

Balaam was a soothsayer who was for sale.

- **Deuteronomy 23:4** - "...they hired against thee Balaam..."
- **Nehemiah 13:2** - "...hired Balaam against them..."
- **Second Peter 2:15** - "Balaam...loved the wages of unrighteousness;"



"Rewards of Divination"

Verse seven tells us they came to Balaam "...with the rewards of divination in their hand." The Hebrew word for divination is translated "witchcraft" in First Samuel 15:23.

Balaam Eagerly Entertained The Big Shots Who Knocked On His Door

Balaam, "...loved the wages of unrighteousness;" Therefore, we read, "And he said unto them, Lodge here this night..." (v.8) God commands His people, today, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, (**the doctrine of Christ**) receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (Second John 1:10,11)

"If There Come Any"

One has to wonder what part of "any" is too difficult to understand. The difference between the doctrine of Balaam and the doctrine of Christ is very obvious.

Birds of A Feather Flock Together

Verse 9 - "And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee?"

This is one of those questions recorded in the Bible that God already knew the answer to. In Genesis 3:9 God asked Adam, "...where art thou?" God knew where Adam was, however, He was giving Adam an opportunity to confess *where* he was.



Not Who Are These Men?

God did not ask Balaam *who* the men were that visited his home that night. He asked him "*what*" they were. You can tell *what* a person really is by who he or she will allow to be their friends.

You Tell On Yourself

You tell on yourself by the friends you seek,
By the very manner in which you speak,
By the way you employ your leisure time,
By the use you make of dollar and dime.
You tell what you are by the things you wear,
By the spirit in which you burdens bear,
By the kind of things at which you laugh,
By the records you play on the phonograph.
You tell what you are by the way you walk,
By the things of which you delight to talk,
By the manner in which you bear defeat,
By so simple a thing as how you eat.
By the books you choose from the well-filled shelf:
In these ways and more, you tell on yourself.

— Author Unknown

God in His mercy was showing Balaam *what* he really was. He was giving him an opportunity to confess *what* he was, and *what* he wasn't. However, like Judas, Balaam remained on his determined course to his doom. ("The blackness of darkness forever" - Jude 1:13)

"With Thee?"

Those men that were *with* Balaam were *against* God and so was Balaam. The phrase "*with thee*" is found fifteen times in the Book of Numbers. All but one deals with God's people and who they were *with*. One deals with Balaam and who he was *with*.

Balaam ignored God's question concerning *what* those men were and in his stupidity thought he would bring God up to date concerning Balak's problem. (See verses 10-11)

Verses 12-14 "*And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed. And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you. And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, (400 miles) and said, Balaam refuseth to come with us.*"

King Balak had been waiting for an answer for about two months, however, he was not about to give up on hiring his famous soothsayer. Balaam obviously had no interest whatsoever in the will of God. He was simply using this situation as a negotiating tool to get more money from Balak. He, "...loved the wages of unrighteousness;" (Second Peter 2:15)

The Negotiating Continues

Verses 15-17 - "*And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they. And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me: For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.*"



A Risky Response By Balaam

Verse 18 - "*And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.*" Again, Balaam is not the least bit interested in the will of God. He is simply enjoying playing the money game with Balak. Balaam realized that Moab was "*sore afraid*" and they were "*distressed*," (V.3) because of the, "...people come out from Egypt." **That is why we read Balaam said**, "*Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more.*" (V.19)

The Mercy of God

It is only by the mercy of God that God deals with Balaam at all, however, like Balaam's New Testament counterpart, Judas, Balaam ignores all of God's mercy and continues with his focus on finances. John 12:6 tells us that Judas "...was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein."

God's Response To Balaam

Verse 20 - "*And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do*"

First, we must realize that Balaam did not get God to change His mind. Verse twenty-one says, "*God's anger was kindled because he went.*" God was simply giving Balaam another chance to make a right decision. Balaam was only interested in continuing his negotiations with Balak and he only heard what he wanted to hear.

God said, "*If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them.*" We read nothing of them coming to call Balaam that morning. All Balaam heard was what he wanted to hear, which was, "...rise up, and go with them."

Verse 21 - "*And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.*" Balaam was in his glory as he left town with these high officials from Moab. Remember, Pethor was a hotbed of soothsayers and Balaam

was chosen above them all. If this was happening in our day the cameras from CNN would be reporting the story of these princes and Balaam, leaving town. Balaam "...saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab."

"God's Anger Was Kindled."

Verse 22 - "And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him..."



There are Old and New Testament references to "...angels of the Lord," "...an angel of the Lord," and "...the angel of the Lord." When the definite article "the" is used, it is specifying a unique being, separate from the other angels. The angel of the Lord speaks as God, identifies Himself with God, and exercises the responsibilities of God. In some of these appearances, those who saw "the angel of the Lord" feared for their lives because they had "seen the Lord." Therefore, it would seem that "the angel of the Lord" is a theophany, (a visible manifestation) of the Lord in physical form. In verse 22 the Lord became Balaam's "adversary."

From this point on The Lord's dealing with Balaam changed. God had warned saying, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." (Genesis 6:3) Balaam had crossed the line. God's anger was kindled to the point that He was ready to kill Balaam. In verse thirty-three the LORD said, "...unless she (Balaam's donkey) had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive."

No doubt Balaam was very embarrassed as he lost control of his donkey before the high officials from Moab. They were probably laughing at him and wondering how Balaam could possibly defeat

the nation of Israel since he couldn't even control his one little donkey. The story of Balaam's donkey is recorded between verses 22-31. In verse 31 we find Balaam, "...flat on his face." The Lord tells Balaam that his way was "perverse" before Him.

To be perverse is "...to show a deliberate and obstinate desire to behave in a way that is unacceptable, in spite of the consequences." **To be obstinate is**, "...to stubbornly refuse to change one's opinion or chosen course of action, despite attempts to persuade one to do so."

That is the Lord's description of Balaam. Keep in mind that Balaam talked like a fundamentalist; however, the Lord saw him as he really was. First Samuel 16:7 says, "...man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

"I have sinned"

Verse 34 - "And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, **I have sinned**; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again."

Balaam and Judas Iscariot both said, "I have sinned," however, neither of them were forgiven. What a lesson is recorded here for us. We seem to think that we can live the way we want and when we are ready, God will surely be standing patiently ready to forgive. **One other person in the New Testament said, "I have sinned."** That person was forgiven. The prodigal son was in the wrong place and he knew it. Unlike Balaam or Judas, he repented and he was forgiven. (The story is found in Luke chapter fifteen).

The Doctrine of Forgiveness

First, there can be no forgiveness without repentance. In Luke 17:3,4 Jesus said, "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and **if he repent**, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, **I repent**; thou shalt forgive him."



Second, there can be no sincere repentance, if the Holy Spirit is not involved. When Peter preached in Acts chapter two his listeners were convicted by the Holy Spirit. As a result, we read they repented.

Third, the Spirit of God does not always strive with man. (Genesis 6:3) For example, Hebrews 12:17 says, *"For ye know how that afterward, when he (Esau) would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."*



Balaam and Judas had both crossed the line. At some point they grieved the Holy Spirit once too often and their fate was doomed. Let us be warned that from that point their lives would serve only as a bad example. *"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."* (First Corinthians 10:11)

God was not interested in Balaam's prayer to get out of trouble. Balaam said, *"...if it displease thee, I will get me back again."* Our prayers to get out of trouble or to stay out of Hell do not impress God. Jesus said, *"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* (Luke 13:3)

Balaam Becomes God's Puppet

Like Pharaoh, Herod, and others in the Word of God, Balaam was about to become another one of God's puppets to teach a lesson to those who will be willing to learn. That is the reason the Lord said, *"Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak."* (Verse 35)

God Spoke Through Balaam's Donkey

Now He Will Speak Through Balaam

From this point on in the story God will speak through Balaam just as He had done with his donkey. Chapter 1:28 tells us *"...the Lord opened the mouth of the ass."* Now we read, *"...the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth."* (Numbers 23:5)

In chapter 23:12 we read *"And he (Balaam) answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?"*

- **Chapter 23:16** *"And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth..."*
- **Chapter 23:26** *"All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?"*

All the fundamental talk coming from Balaam was what God had put in His puppets mouth. Balaam must have been more embarrassed now, than he was when God was speaking through his donkey.

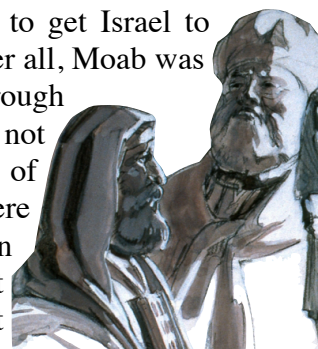
"Balaam's Solution For Balak's Problem"

Verse 14 - *"And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise (translated "counsel" 25 times) thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days."* Balaam counseled Balak and as a result we read in Numbers 31:16 - *"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."*

Psalm 106:28-31 tells us *"They joined themselves also unto Baal-peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead. Thus they provoked Him to anger with their inventions: and the plague broke in upon them. Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed..."*

The Result of Balaam's Counsel

1. **"They joined..."** Balaam advised Balak not to fight Israel but to get Israel to mingle with them. After all, Moab was related to Israel through Lot. Moab was not following the ways of God, however, they were family. The new plan was, let's just forget our differences and get together. **What was God's reaction to that?**



- a. **Numbers 25:3** - *"And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel."*

b. **Numbers 25:3** - "And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor."

2. **"They ate..."** God's people began to feed on what Moab had to offer.
3. **"Thus they provoked Him to anger with their inventions."** The Hebrew word translated inventions is *ma'alal*. It has been translated "doings" thirty-five times. If you study the account carefully, you will find it was the young people in Israel who were duped into the apostasy. The same is happening today as fundamental, promoters of apostasy promote the doctrine of Balaam.

The doctrine of Balaam is still with us today, and is being promoted by both saved and unsaved fundamentalists. Never in the history of what we call fundamentalism have we been so enticed to compromise the truths of the Scriptures, and join with those who are guilty of spiritual fornication.

4. **"Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment."** Phinehas was the son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron. His zeal for the Lord inspired a remnant to stand true to the things of the Lord. That remnant not only rushed to the door of the tabernacle to **confess** Israel's sin and to plead for God's mercy, **they rose up** when the majority failed, and stood **to defend the cause of the Lord**.

Romans 11:4-5, referring to Israel's defection says, "But what saith the answer of God...I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. *Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant...*"

"Watch Out For The False Prophets"

Peter ended his life warning us about those who would follow, "...the way of Balaam" (Second Peter 2:15)

Second Peter 2:1 - Peter warned, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall

bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

Several Obvious Things

1. **False teachers would be "among" us.**
2. **They would bring in "damnable heresies."** The teaching that repentance is not necessary for salvation is a doctrine that will damn a soul to an eternity in Hell. It is a **"damnable"** heresy.
3. **Peter warned that the promoters of apostasy would be "...even denying the Lord."** The Greek word translated *denying* is *arneomai*. It has been translated "...refused" in Acts 7:35 where referring to Moses it says, "...whom they refused saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge?" Today's apostate promoters, both saved and unsaved, are blatantly *denying* the Lord's instructions concerning how He wants things done.
4. **Peter warned that the "damnable heresy" would be taught by Christians.** He said these apostate promoters will be denying the Lord, **"...that bought them."** The Greek word translated *bought* is *agorazō*. It has been translated *"redeem"* three times in the New Testament.
5. **Peter warned that this heresy would bring "swift destruction."** The word destruction has been translated *"waste."* (Matthew 26:8, Mark 14:4)

6. **They will have a large following.** Verse two tells us "And many shall follow their pernicious ways;" The word pernicious is the same Greek word translated *destruction* in verse one. Many shall follow their ways to destruction.

Two Types of People

- a. Saved pastors teaching destructive ways.
- b. Those that follow them.

The second group represents the second generation of unsaved victims of the new no repentance prayer for salvation. Peter continued the chapter concerning the judgment that they will

face. Verse thirteen tells us, "...they feast with you," while "...following the way of Balaam." Verse three says, "...their damnation slumbereth not."

Jude 1:4 warns "For there are certain men crept in unawares...turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

Two different charges are leveled against these promoters of apostasy.

1. They Are Guilty of Turning.

To turn is to go in a different direction. It is impossible to turn from one direction without traveling in another. The word lasciviousness refers to *unbridled desires*. These promoters of apostasy have their own personal desires and turn away from being bridled or controlled by the Lord.

2. They Are Guilty of Denying.

We have previously seen that the Greek word denying is *arneomai* and refers to refusing the Lord's command to have control. In our age of Laodicean fundamentalism, we find the Lord standing outside the door of His church watching all the activity going on inside, to which He is not welcome to join.

"Beloved" - V.1

"But Beloved" - V.17

"But Ye Beloved" - V.20

Jude, in his warnings against apostasy, does not leave us in the dark as to how to handle ourselves in this age of compromise and blatant defection by the leaders of fundamentalism.

Jude began verse one in a very positive manner and ended in verses 24-25 in a very positive manner. Verses 17-25 gives us the formula for having our churches and our families survive in our age of Laodicean fundamentalism. I conclude this article with those verses. The reader who will take the time to study them carefully will be encouraged.

Jude 1:17-25

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20 **But ye, beloved,** building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Promoters of Apostasy

Like Balaam, apostate promoters of today will not preach a new heresy, they will speak the words of righteousness and truth, and will appear as ministers of light.

Like Israel of old, the people's hearts will be won through apostate promoters speaking "...great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration..." (Jude 1:16)

Then, when he has won the hearts of his followers the apostate preacher will "turn" (Jude 1:4) down an easier road, "...even denying the Lord that bought them." (Jude 1:4)

Like Balaam, at this point, they will promote their doctrines of apostasy, and the people will be deceived.

God has plainly warned that in the last days, there shall come deceivers **among** His people in increasing numbers. **It is time** to realize that everyone who calls himself a fundamentalist is not Scripturally fundamental.

It is time to exercise discernment and sound Biblical judgment.

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God..."

(First Peter 4:17)