

Biggest Losers in the Bible **Balaam**

He is relentlessly recruited to curse God's people.

- ❖ Israel's victories cause King Balak of Moab to hire Balaam (the internationally famed seer) to curse Israel and to make an alliance with Midian, Num. 22:1-7.
- ❖ God surprisingly speaks to Balaam, and Balaam surprisingly obeys God by not going . . . at first. But he wants to go and God concedes, as He does at times.

He repeatedly blesses God's people rather than cursing them.

- ❖ Along the long trip to Moab, the Angel of the Lord confronts Balaam. His donkey saves his life (22:33) and argues w/the seer who isn't seeing so well!
- ❖ Balaam gets the message and is careful only to express God's words of blessing upon Israel, much to the frustration of Balak. The series of oracles are poetic and prophetic, describing Moab's defeat and Israel's messianic king.
- ❖ Balak's attempts to change locations for a different result prove futile.

His evil advice leads God's people astray and causes many deaths.

- ❖ After Balaam leaves w/o pay we hear of Israel's sins and judgment in ch. 25. Their sinfulness leads to a plague that kills thousands and also a devastating war, Num. 25:9, 31:7,8.
- ❖ Later Balaam is named as the reason for Israel's sin, 31:16, Rev. 2:14.



Balaam's sinful legacy is repeatedly noted in the NT as a warning for us: Jd.10,11, II Pt. 2:14-16, Rev. 2:14.

Balaam's motivation was greed; and his advice centered on immorality and idolatry. Note similarity to concern in Acts 15:29, II Cor. 6:1-18.

Can you see Satan using Balaam's strategy today in our society?