

The Balaam Spirit

By J.P. Timmons

© 2010 CCI Publishing

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

September 17, 2010

I began to recognize this spirit over 30 years ago and wrote about it in the first edition of *Mysterious Secrets of the Dark Kingdom* in 1991. Unfortunately, today its operation in churches and ministries is at an all-time high. This is normally the pattern for evil spirits—unless they are dealt with in our own lives, e.g., the water spirit that causes people to steal, they only become stronger and stronger. For example, why do you think this particular water spirit (of stealing) is so strong in Nigeria? Why are so many Nigerians—more so than any other nation—involved in scams, theft, lying and deception? Have you received any emails in the last 15 minutes informing you that a person is leaving you \$150 million? We get 100's of these every day and they're getting more sophisticated and bolder.

Yet, in the Church we should expect purity, integrity, honesty and holiness—especially from the Five-fold ministers. And we expect to be told the truth, not manipulated. I've written and preached quite a bit about this, especially from 2 Peter 2 which is quite a prophetic chapter as it applies to the Balaam spirit and its blatant operation on "christian" T.V. networks today and through many so-called ministries, especially those espousing the false gospel of *prosperity* as well as many false prophetic ministries.

Now the Scriptures are quite clear that God wants His children to prosper but, again, you need to understand what that means and, quite frankly, I heard it directly from the Lord Himself in 1982 that money is not what He considers prosperity. Does the Lord bless people with finances? Clearly He does. But you need to be careful that you don't try to serve God and mammon because Jesus said you could not. Either one or the other is your "master." So in point of fact there is both a true and false gospel where prosperity and even material prosperity is concerned and you need to understand the difference.

As I've written before, I find it quite troubling that all these "christian" networks have followed this same ministry model of Balaam. Now, I know a lot about this because I've prayed about why it's happened—why they've all gone down the same path—the path or "way of Balaam." Now, I'm not against churches or ministries asking for money or taking up collections and offerings as long as it's done honestly and people know the truth about where the money is going; however, what has happened is "many" as the Apostle Peter wrote have crossed the line long ago and are fabricating lies in order to get people to give. Everything has become about money. "Brother, sow that seed of \$1,000 against that cancer you've been diagnosed with." Though we stopped watching "christian" television back in the '90s before most of the current networks were even in business, I briefly turn to these "christian" networks every month just to see how much worse it's become. Just last week I turned on one and listened to about 15 seconds of the message being preached and the "minister" said, "You know, there's just something about a \$100 dollar bill!" Friends, what happened to the true Gospel?

You see, the trouble with all these "christian" networks and the Balaam ministries is the same as a lot of churches that the Lord showed me in the '80s when I first went to Nigeria—they are not in existence because the Lord ordained them—people decided to do it on their own for their own reasons. Now you can see the problem with this if you have even a small amount of business knowledge; it's the same problem Oral Roberts had when he decided to build a \$100 million dollar Christian hospital in Tulsa years ago. It's what you would call an "over served" market if you were doing a strategic business plan for them and it's a trap from the devil—there are too many of them for the limited finances available from Christians and Christian ministries so they are all vying for the same dollars so to speak and thus they are under financial pressure all the time and so they decide to hire the Balaams, who receive a percentage of the money collected, to come on there and make up stories to get people to give beyond their means.

How do you stop it? Don't give to them! Period! Unless the Lord specifically tells you to! Your giving, especially of the Lord's money, should be like other areas of your life—through prayer. The Lord taught me this in 1980. I don't know about you but I enjoy giving to bless people, especially the poor. That's why we are glad the Lord's allowed us to have churches

in the poorest African nations. Did you know that in Malawi over two-thirds of the people live on less than \$500 a year? Bless the Lord with your tithes, offerings and alms but be faithful and spend quality time praying about where He wants you to give and not because The Balaam Network or some other network or ministry gives you a nightlight so you won't be afraid when the devil comes into your bedroom at night.

Recently, the Lord's been speaking to me about ministry models. I plan on ministering along these lines at our meetings in Alabama next month. I've been concerned about this for many years since I began a study of the prophet's office in the early '80s. My great concern is that the ministry model being exported from the USA is not only seriously flawed but is actually blaspheming the Name of the Lord Jesus and doing great damage to the Kingdom of God by: (1) driving many people of the world away from the Gospel message, and (2) destroying the young eagles (Five-fold ministers) who are born pure but become tainted through their "family" ministry model that they learned from the "successful" T.V. evangelists—"this is how you do it, sonny boy!" as I was told in my 20s by an evangelist.

Obviously, Balaam is a ministry model that will not be successful for the Kingdom, though like Gehazi, Elisha's servant, one can be rich in material things. Elisha is one of the ministry models the Lord's given me for purity, integrity and holiness. I've learned much from his life as I've studied it over the years, especially from 2 Kings 5 which also gives us a picture of the Balaam spirit operating through Elisha's servant, Gehazi. Yes, Gehazi obtained much wealth but he died a leper and he lost his ministry call and the anointing upon his life to be Elisha's successor as prophet. He's also an example of what I wrote about in the last article on *The Jacob Generation*—like Esau before him he sold his spiritual birthright for material wealth! And, in the case of Gehazi it was even more grievous because he already knew from Elisha that they were not supposed to receive anything from Namann. Remember, Namann came with a great entourage and bearing the equivalent today of about \$5-7 million dollars worth of gold, silver and goods yet even though he begged Elisha to take it all he refused. What a pure model of ministry Elisha was!

Now if you study from the book of Numbers the life of Balaam, the man from whom the Balaam spirit gets its name, you will notice that originally God did speak to him but the Lord didn't say what he wanted to hear. Then you will see an example of an *enticing word* from

the Lord; I wrote about this in *The Prophetic Voice* in case you're not familiar with it. You see, God specifically told Balaam, "Don't go with these men" (Nu. 22:12) because you cannot curse Israel "for they are blessed." I think it's important for us to stop here and clearly understand what this teaches us about curses because as Proverbs points out: "A curse undeserved does not come to rest." Though people from the Dark Kingdom may try and place curses on you those curses will not rest upon you because you are blessed! Praise God! Any curse written or spoken over you should be removed through the mighty Name of Jesus because you are blessed, not cursed.

But because Balaam was a hireling prophet who practiced divination, he wanted the large sum of money that the Moabites and Midianites were willing to pay him so he purposely tried to force the Lord to allow him to go with them and that was his undoing because if you're stubborn and rebellious the Lord will often allow you to have your own way and even give you an enticing word as He later did to King Ahab but then you must pay the consequences as both Balaam and Ahab did—with their lives.

Peter referred to this incident when writing about the "false prophets and teachers" referring to their exploitation of Christians through "greed" (2 Pe. 2:3) and he said, "many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute." (2 Pe. 2:2). Peter referred to this type behavior, i.e., being motivated by greed as "the way of Balaam" (2 Pe. 2:15).

You see my brothers and sisters, of the ten M's checklist of ministry, Balaam had a problem in at least five—money, motive, ministry, methods and morality. He probably had a problem in some of the others as well, like the "message" he preached but by all the pure measures of ministry his "fruit" was rotten and the Lord Himself told us that the primary way one recognizes a false prophet or teacher is by the fruit they produce. And we should remember from Church history that during the Apostolic Era the number one sign of a false minister was someone who had a preoccupation with money.

We need to be people of great purity and that in turn produces great power. The true Church has all the answers the world is seeking but, just as the Joshua Generation killed Balaam with the sword when they went into the Promised Land we must allow the Balaam

spirit ministries to die as well because they are bringing reproach on the Name of Jesus. What do you think God thinks about Christians giving to support Balaam ministries because they promise you something when He never ordained them and wants them to die?

Let's model our ministries not after Balaam but after those who gave everything for the Kingdom and trusted God with every part of their lives such as Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Paul and of course, Jesus. Praise the Lord! Then the world will see a demonstration of the true Gospel. Glory to God! And there will be good fruit that will abound to your Heavenly bank account! Maranatha!

