

Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup> 2011  
The Second of Peter  
Part Eight  
Study Questions

1). 2Pe 2:15 *They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;*

a). What does it mean that they have ‘forsaken the right way’?

b). Who are they abandoning, even if unconsciously, in doing this?

2). What does Jeremiah 6:16-17 teach us that God did with respect to Israel that the nation chose to ignore?

a). How could God’s actions described in Jeremiah 6:16-17 be transferred into our own setting and what would this teach us with respect to ourselves?

3). Explain all you remember about ‘the way of Cain’

a). Ru 2:8 *Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. 9 "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them.*

b). What does this scripture from Ruth teach us about ‘the way of Cain’ and how to avoid it?

c). What would it look like for us to go in ‘the way of Cain’?

d). What scripture in Matthew prophetically describes the outcome of this?

4). *following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;*

a). What similarity do you see between Cain and Balaam in this scripture?

b). How does Jude present 'the way of Balaam'?

c). What difference would there be between Balaam's way and his error?

d). Where is the other place that Balaam appears in the NT? And what does the scripture say about him?

e). What is said with regards to Balaam in Revelation that is different to what we see in Peter and Jude?

f). What is significant about where we find this reference to Balaam?

g). Why are Balaam's way and error inseparable from his doctrine?

h). In the OT account what was Balaam required to do and why? And where in scripture will we find the verse that would help us understand what his way and his error refer to?

i). What does the NT have to say about the love of money and how would this connect with what we see with regards to Balaam and Israel?

i). What does scripture record about Israel while they remained at Acacia Grove and what reason is given for their action?

j). So, Basically what was the doctrine of Balaam? What counsel did he give Israel?

k). How would we know from scripture that God had made it clear to Israel that they could not sin with impunity?

l). How would we know from scripture that Israel knew exactly what God requires of them?

m). This being the case what must we conclude about Israel listening to the counsel of Balaam?

n). What does the Lord teach us through James about our propensity to sin?

5). *Re 2:14 "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.*

a). How does the doctrine of Balaam within the 'Church' parallel the doctrine of Balaam within Israel?

b). What would you say is the major theme of the doctrine of Balaam within the 'Church'?

c). Why do you think that this doctrine is so acceptable to Christians and how might we connect this with scripture concerning the last days?

d). What does scripture actually teach with regards to Christians and sin?

6). What 2 endeavors are Christians currently engaged in?

a). What is our purpose in these endeavors?

b). What has God provided in respect of this and what should we be able to say at the conclusion of these endeavors?

c). How does our enemy use the doctrine of Balaam to try to divert us from our purpose? What else might he use in connection with this doctrine?

7). 3Jo 1:9 ¶ *I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, [strengthened by Zeus] who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.*

*Jas 3:14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*

a). In what way could we connect these scriptures to the events of the rebellion of Korah that we looked at some weeks back?

b) What scriptural account in the life of David can we look at as another example of rebellion against God's appointed authority?

c). What are the warnings for us in this and what should we look for as a possible indicator of our susceptibility to the rebellion of Korah?

8). Putting the 3 OT examples of apostasy together, is there a common thread that links them all and what in particular have you learned from them?