BIBLE STUDY

2/7/13

**Proverbs 9:1-6**

**The Woman of Wisdom**

**1.Wisdom has built her house,**

**She has hewn out her seven pillars;**

**2. She has prepared her food, She has mixed her wine;**

**She has also set her table;**

**3. She has sent out her**

 **maidens,**

 **She calls from the tops of the Heights of the city;**

**4. “Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here!”**

**To him who lacks**

**understanding**

**she says,**

**5 “Come, eat of my bread**

**And drink of the wine I have mixed.**

**6. Forsake your folly and live,**

**And proceed in the way of**

 **understanding.”**

**Proverbs 9:13-18**

**The Woman of Folly**

**13.The woman of folly is**

 **boisterous,**

 **She is naïve and knows**

 **nothing.**

**14.She sits at the doorway of Her house,**

**On a seat by the high places of the city,**

**15.Calling to those who pass by,**

**Who are making their way**

 **straight:**

**16.”Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here,”**

**And to him who lacks**

**understanding she says,**

**17.“Stolen water is sweet;**

 **And the bread eaten in**

**secret is pleasant.”**

**18. But he does not know that the dead are there,**

**That her guests are in the**

 **Depths of Sheol.**

### Genesis 16

### 13Then Hagar called the name of Yahweh who spoke to her, “You are a God who sees”; for she said, “Have I evenremained alive here after seeing Him?”  14Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi

**Exodus 18:10-11 10**Jethro said, “Blessed be Yahweh, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians. **11**Now I know that Yahweh is greater than all gods…

**Joshua 2:8-13 [Rahab said to the two spies,]** “I know that Yahweh has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. **…**for Yahweh  your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

### Ruth 1:16-17 16But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May Yahweh do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”

### 2 Kings 5:15-17 Naaman said, “Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant.” …from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but Yahweh.

### Jonah 1:14-16

**14** The sailors called out to Yahweh, “Yahweh, let us not perish for this man's life, for you, Yahweh, have done as it pleased you.” **15**So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. **16**Then the men feared the Yahweh  exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows.

**Balaam’s Story**

**NARRATOR**: [At the end of the forty years in the wilderness, the Israelites were ready to enter the Promised Land. First, they had to go through the land of Moab, on the eastern side of the Jordan. However, when the king of Moab saw the numerous Israelites from a plateau, he was fearful]. Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time. So he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor with an offer of money.

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**MESSENGERS OF BALAK TO BALAAM**: Behold, a people came out of Egypt; behold, they cover the surface of the land, and they are living opposite me. Now, therefore, please come, curse this people for me since they are too numerous for me; perhaps I may be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.

**BALAAM TO THE MESSENGERS**: I will bring word back to you as Yahweh may speak to me.

**GOD TO BALAAM**: Do not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.

**NARRATOR**: But Balaam arose in the morning, and saddled his donkey and went with the leaders of Moab. But God was angry because he was going, and the angel of Yahweh took his stand in the way as an adversary against him. When the donkey saw the angel of Yahweh standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand, the donkey turned off from the way and went into the field; but Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back into the way. Then the angel of Yahweh stood in a narrow path of the vineyards with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. When the donkey saw the angel of Yahweh, she pressed herself to the wall and pressed Balaam’s foot against the wall, so he struck the donkey again. The angel of Yahweh went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn to the right hand or the left. When the donkey saw the angel of Yahweh, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam was angry and struck the donkey with his stick. And Yahweh opened the mouth of the donkey.

**DONKEY**: What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?

**BALAAM**: Because you have made a mockery of me! If there had been a sword in m hand, i would have killed you by now.

**DONKEY**: Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I ever been accustomed to do so to you?

**BALAAM**: No

**NARRATOR**: Then Yahweh opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of Yahweh standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand; and Balaam bowed all the way to the ground.

**ANGEL**: Why have you struck your donkey three times? Behold, I have come out as an adversary, because your way was contrary to me…[however], go with the men of Moab, but you shall speak only the word which I tell you.

**NARRATOR**: So Balaam went along to Balak.

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**BALAAM TO BALAK**: Am I able to speak anything at all? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I shall speak.

**NARRATOR**: Balaam went with Balak, and Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep [to Baal]. Later Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, and he saw from there a portion of the Israelites. [Balaam told Balak to offer up sacrifices to Yahweh, hoping these sacrifices would cause Yahweh to change his mind about cursing the Israelites. Instead, God met Balaam. When Balaam pointed out that they had offered up sacrifices to Him, Yahweh put a blessing in the mouth of Balaam, so that when he returned to Balak, he blessed the Israelites below.]

**BALAK TO BALAAM AFTER HE HEARD THE BLESSING**: What have you done to me? I took you here to curse my enemies, but behold, you have actually blessed them!

**BALAAM**: Must I not be careful to speak what Yahweh puts in my mouth?

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**BALAK**: Please come with me to another place from where you may see them and curse them for me from there.

**NARRATOR**: [Balak took Balaam to another place on the plateau where they could see the Israelites, and Balak again made sacrifices to Yahweh].

**BALAK**: Now what has Yahweh spoken?

**NARRATOR**: [In response, Balaam again blesses the Israelites.]

**BALAK**: Do not curse them at all nor bless them at all!

**BALAAM**: Did I not tell you, “whatever Yahweh speaks, that I must do”?

**NARRATOR**: [Balaam again tells Balak to build altars to Yahweh. Again, Balaam spoke blessing on the Israelites.] Then Balak’s anger burned against Balaam, and he struck his hands together.

**BALAK**: I called you to curse my enemies, but behold, you have persisted in blessing them these three times! Therefore flee to your home now. I said I would pay you greatly, but Yahweh has held you back from payment.

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**BALAAM**: Did i not tell your messengers whom you had sent to me saying, “Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything contrary to the command of Yahweh, either good or bad, of my own accord. What Yahweh speaks, that I will speak”?

**NARRATOR**: [Balaam speaks one more blessing, and then], Balaam arose and departed and returned to his home, and Balak also went his way.

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**NARRATOR:** Israel stayed in Shittim, and the people began to whore with the women of Moab. The Moabites called the Israelites for sacrifice to their gods; the Israelites ate and prostrated themselves to their gods. Now Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor, so the anger of Yahweh flared up against Israel.

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[**Deuteronomy 23:5**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+23:5&version=ESV)

But Yahweh your God would not listen to **Balaam**; instead Yahweh your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because Yahweh your God loved you.

**2**“No one born of a forbidden union may enter the assembly of Yahweh. Even to the tenth generation, none of his descendants may enter the assembly of Yahweh. **3**“No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the Lord. Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the Lord forever, **4**because they did not meet you with bread and with water on the way, when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

[**2 Peter 2:15**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter+2:15&version=ESV)

Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of **Balaam**, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing,

[**Jude 1:11**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude+1:11&version=ESV)

Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to **Balaam**'s error and perished in Korah's rebellion.

[**Revelation 2:14**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+2:14&version=ESV)

But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of **Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.

NUMBERS 31:1, 7-8, 13-16