

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 14

Angels

Scripture: Numbers 22-24; 31:6-8

Objects to have:

A large door made of poster board or construction paper, etc. Make the door so that it will open and close; you could use a brass fastener as a doorknob.

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

In the Bible there are so many good stories! The best part is that they are all true. When we hear or read a Bible story, we learn some things that God wants us to know.

God tells us about some men and some women; He tells us about some boys and some girls. He also tells us about some angels. Angels are not men or ladies. Angels are not boys or girls. Men and ladies will never become angels. Boys and girls will never become angels. Angels are special beings that do special work for God. They are God's messengers and God's "soldiers," or "policemen."

In our Bible story for today is an angel who was very busy for God. In fact, he probably got tired doing the job God had for him. First, our Bible story starts by telling us about a man and other men.

Telling the story:

Balaam—say his name with me—Balaam was a good man. He trusted in God. He believed every word in the Bible. He believed everything that God said to him.

Let's pretend that this door is the door to Balaam's house. (Fasten the door up on the wall or on a board, fastening it so that the door will open and close.) For miles around, people knew who Balaam was. People knew that God's power was upon Balaam.

Something was happening a few miles away from Balaam's house. Millions of people were on the move. Millions of people were traveling from one country into another country. A king who lived near Balaam saw these millions of people coming toward his country. It was the king of Moab who saw the Israelites coming toward his country. He was scared. He was frightened because there were so many Israelites coming. He was frightened because of the stories that he had heard about the Israelites. He had heard of all the wonderful things that the true, living God had done for them. He had heard how God had made them powerful. The Israelites could fight any war and win it because God was on their side.

The king of Moab began to wring his hands. He called for some of his men. He said to them, "Let's think about what we shall do." The men who worked with the king of Moab—his name was Balak—waited for their leader to give his orders. Balak, the king of Moab, suddenly said, "I know what we should do. There is a man whose name is Balaam who can help us." King Balak pointed to some of his less important men. He said to them, "Go to Balaam. Tell him to come with you. Tell him that King Balak is calling for him."

And so it was that there came a knock at the door of Balaam's house. Knock, knock, knock. Balaam went to the door. There stood those men from the country of Moab, servants of King Balak. Balaam said, "Yes, what can I do for you?"

The men said, “We are servants of the king of Moab. King Balak told us to come to see you.” Hmmm, that could make a man feel pretty important! It would make anybody feel important to think that the king’s servants had come to see him with a message from the king!

Now, Balaam knew about the people of Moab. Balaam knew that they were people who did not worship the true, living God. He knew that on top of one of their mountains was an altar where they wickedly worshipped an idol.

“What is your message from the king of Moab?” asked Balaam.

What had I said about Balaam? I had said that Balaam was a good man and that he trusted God.

Balaam opened his door wide to these men. He said, “Come in, gentlemen.” Oh, Balaam, you are in danger! God has commanded us never to let anyone come into our house who would teach us false teachings. Balaam not only let those men from Moab into his house, but he invited them to stay overnight!

Then Balaam did decide to go to another room and talk to God about these men. Immediately God said to Balaam, “Who are these men that are in your house with you?”

Balaam said to God, “The king of Moab has sent for me.” I think Balaam was pretty proud of the fact that this king had sent for him. “See, Lord, that king knows that I could bless anyone for You or cause bad to happen to anyone for You. He knows how important I am.”

God said to Balaam, “Thou shalt not go with them. King Balak wants you to say that the Israelites are bad and cannot win a war. The Israelites are My people. I have blessed them. Don’t say anything bad about them!”

Balaam got out of bed the next morning and went and told the messengers of the king of Moab what God had told him. When they returned and told their king that Balaam would not come, the king was angry. He decided to send some more men; men who were more important than the other men. He figured that eventually he could win Balaam over to him by giving him honor and attention.

These more important men came to Balaam’s house. Once again there was a knock at the door. Once again Balaam should have realized the danger that stood at his door. Someone in Moab could lead him into wrongdoing and away from God’s commandments.

Balaam went to the door. He saw these very important men from the king of Moab. He said to them, “Come in, come in. What may I do for you?”

The messengers of Balak said to Balaam, “Our king will give you a lot of money. He will give you honor. Just come. If you will pray against the Israelites, we will win a war against them.”

Balaam said, “Stay here tonight. I will find out if God has any more to say about it.” Now God had already told Balaam not to go to Moab. God had already told Balaam not to curse the Israelites. What God has commanded is what God will keep on commanding!

During the night, God said to Balaam, “Do not go with those men unless they come to your room to get you.” The next morning Balaam just got out of bed, got ready, and went with those messengers. He had disobeyed God. God had told him not to go with them unless they came for him. Balaam got on his donkey and started on his way to Moab with those men who had come from King Balak.

No doubt Balaam felt very important to think that he was going to go see a king. He was going to go visit King Balak of Moab; but, king or no king, Balak was a wicked man. Balaam should have stayed home as God had ordered him to do.

Balaam was riding his donkey. Suddenly, God sent an angel. God sent an angel from Heaven to stand in the middle of the road. In the hand of the angel was a long, sharp sword. The donkey saw the angel. God did not let Balaam see the angel. The donkey did not want his owner Balaam to be cut by that sword which the angel was holding. The donkey turned off the road and went into the field. Remember, Balaam could not see the angel. For the donkey to get off the road made Balaam angry! Where was his donkey going? Balaam whipped his donkey and made him get back on the road—the road toward Moab—the road toward the country where Balaam was not supposed to be going.

The angel of the Lord ran on ahead. He stopped in the road again. This time the road led between two mountains. There was no field on either side of the road at this point. There the angel stood with his sword drawn. The donkey saw the angel. He did not want to walk into the angel and have Balaam killed, so he pushed himself against the wall. In so doing, he crushed Balaam's foot. Balaam beat the donkey horribly. It made Balaam so angry that his donkey pushed into the wall, but we know why the donkey did that. The donkey was trying to avoid the angel that had the sword drawn in his hand.

Once again the angel ran on ahead down the road. He stopped in the roadway again where there was another narrow place. This time, the place was so narrow between the two mountains that there was no way to turn at all. At this point when the donkey saw the angel, he fell down under Balaam; the donkey would go no further. Balaam just beat and beat and beat that donkey in order to try to get him to go.

Then God made the strangest thing happen. God made the donkey open her mouth and talk! The donkey said, "What have I done to you? Why have you hit me these three times?"

Balaam was so angry with the donkey that he did not even seem to notice that it was strange that a donkey was talking to him. Balaam said to the donkey, "You have made fun of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand. I would kill you now."

The donkey answered Balaam, "For years I have been your faithful animal. Do you think that I would ever do bad toward thee?" Then the Lord let Balaam see the angel with the sword in his hand. Balaam was sorry that he had beaten his animal. The angel talked to Balaam. Balaam fell on the ground on his face. The angel said, "Balaam, you have been stubborn and disobedient. Go on your way to Moab."

Balaam had been so determined to disobey God, that God just let him go his way. Balaam went and made friends of the king of Moab. Oh, Balaam still said that he trusted God, but Balaam was telling King Balak to sacrifice to his idols while Balaam was sacrificing to his God. Balaam seemed to think that it was all right for that king to go on worshipping his idols.

Balaam said to Balak, "I cannot curse the Israelites for you. I could suggest this, however. The Israelites are people that have been blessed of God. I think that you ought to work hard to make friends of the Israelites. Have your young girls go and make boyfriends of the Israelite young men. With the Israelites in your families, then they will not want to fight you."

Oh, Balaam, how bad you became! You first let wicked men into your house to stay there overnight. Then you decided to go into their country and have meetings with the wicked king of that wicked country. Then you advised those wicked people to work hard to win over God's people to their way of life. Look, Balaam, at what you have done. Hear the crying in the houses of God's people? Some of those people are having to be killed because of the sin that the Moabites have forced them to commit. Look out, Balaam. A war is starting. God's people are starting to kill the wicked enemies around them. Here comes an Israelite soldier to your house. He has his sword drawn, and that is what happened to Balaam, children. An Israelite killed Balaam in battle. Why did God let that happen to this man who used to preach what God wanted him to preach? It was because Balaam himself had become so disobedient that God could not let him live any longer.

That's a sad ending to our Bible story for today. I'm telling it to you so that you will look out for danger. God's angel tried to stop Balaam, but he wouldn't stop. Balaam wouldn't obey God, but let's always obey God. We should not make friends of people who do not love Jesus. When you get bigger, do not ever go on dates with boys or girls who do not know Jesus as their Saviour. Do not be like Balaam, who had to be killed by God because he had made friends of the wicked Moabites and King Balak.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Numbers 22:31, *"Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face."*