

# Jude 11 – Balaam’s Error

11 – “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.”

3759 [e]	846 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	3598 [e]	3588 [e]	2535 [e]	4186 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	4106 [e]	3588 [e]	903 [e]
ouai	autois	hoti	tē	hodō	tou	Kain	eporeuthēsan	kai	tē	plane	tou	Balaam
11 οὐαὶ	αὐτοῖς	, ὅτι	τῇ	ὁδῷ	τοῦ	Καὶν	ἐπορεύθησαν	, καὶ	τῇ	πλάνῃ	τοῦ	Βαλαάμ
Woe	to them	because	in the	way	-	of Cain	they went	and	to the	error	-	of Balaam
I	PPro-DM3P	Conj	Art-DFS	N-DFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-AIP-3P	Conj	Art-DFS	N-DFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS

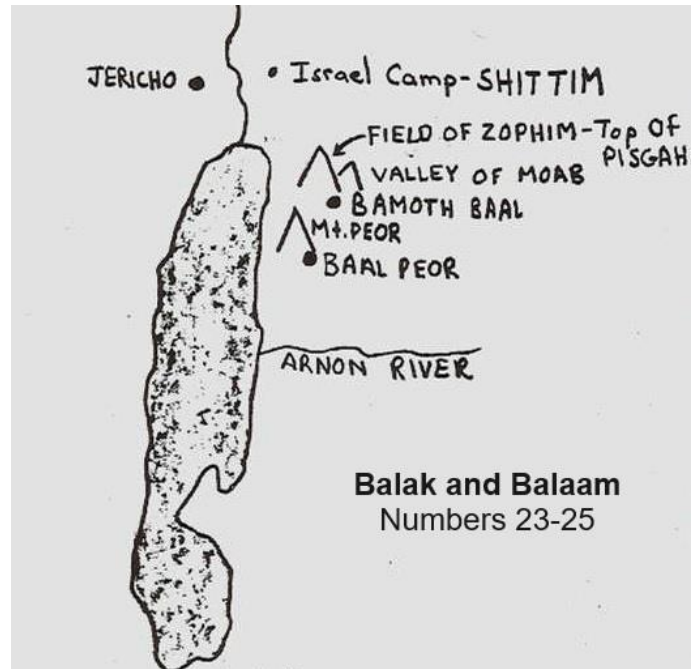
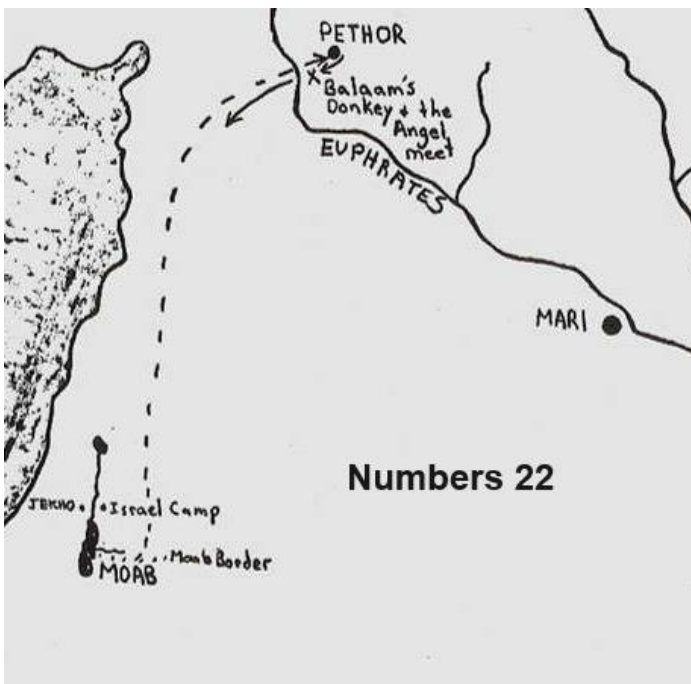
3408 [e]	1632 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	485 [e]	3588 [e]	2879 [e]	22 [e]
misthou	exechythēsan	kai	tē	antilogia	tou	Kore	apōlonto
μισθοῦ	ἐξεχύθησαν	, καὶ	τῇ	ἀντιλογία	τοῦ	Κόρε	ἀπώλοντο
for reward	they rushed	and	in the	rebellion	-	of Korah	they perished
N-GMS	V-AIP-3P	Conj	Art-DFS	N-DFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-AIM-3P

1. Jude supports verse 10 with three individuals from the OT (the previous triad of OT examples supporting verse 4 was groups from the OT identifies in verses 5-7.)
  - a. Cain
    - i. Genesis 4;4, 5, 9
    - ii. 1 John 3:12 –
 

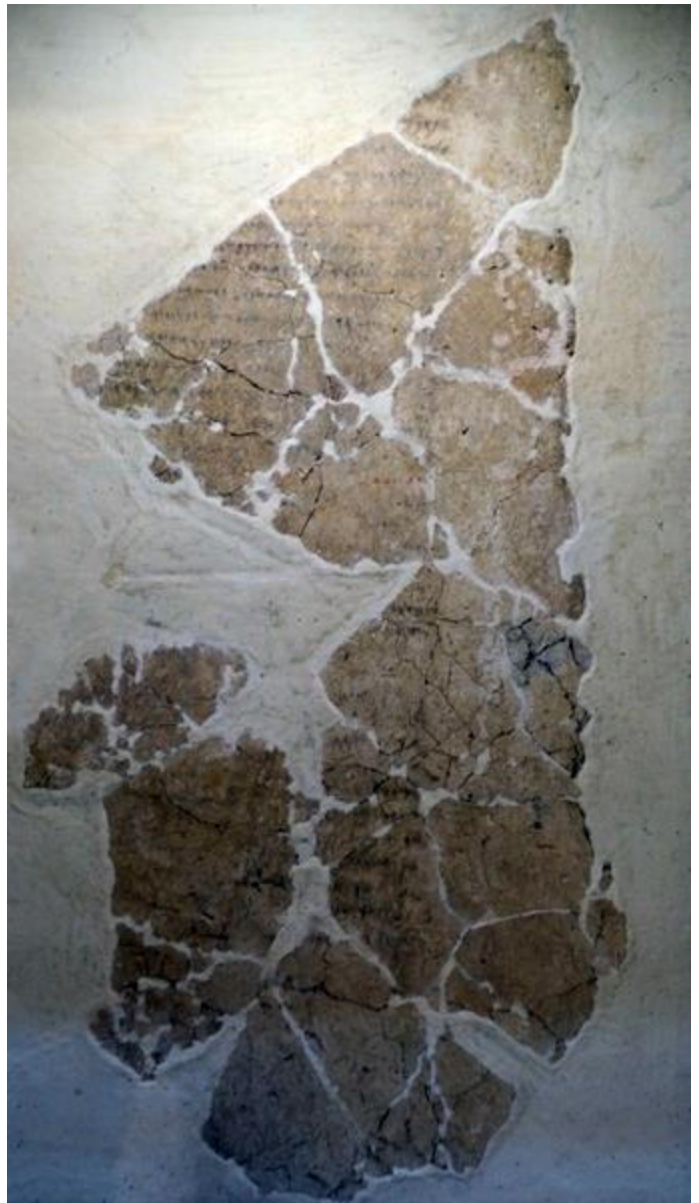
“We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.”
    - iii. Cain was a murderer, but it does not appear Jude’s apostates are murdering
    - iv. Other character flaws of Cain listed in the OT, Philo, Targum and Josephus are unloving, envious, opposite of faith and instructed others in wicked practices.
      1. The Targum (the paraphrase/explanation/interpretation of the Hebrew text of the Jewish Scriptures) quotes Cain as saying, “There is no judgement, no judge, no future life; no good reward will be given to the righteous, nor will judgment be inflicted on the wicked.”
    - v. But, Jude uses the phrase “way of Cain”
      1. The verb *poreuomai* indicates a moral or religious “walk”
      2. Devised his own way of worship
      3. Manufactured religion which slays the souls of men.
  - b. Balaam
    - i. Numbers 22-24 – Balaam could not curse Israel, they were secure in God’s love.
    - ii. Numbers 31:16 – Balaam taught Israel how to sin
    - iii. Balaam manipulated God’s people, God’s grace and God’s judgment to gain financially
    - iv. Two words:
      1. “Error” – *plane* –
      2. “They have rushed” is passive of *ekcheo* meaning “pour on” or “abandoned themselves”
    - v. Used the church for financial and personal gain

c. Korah

- i. Numbers 16
  - ii. Korah rebelled against God's established authority
  - iii. Rebelled against church authority
  - iv. The fate of the apostates of 55 AD is set firm. It can be spoken of as complete.
    1. "been destroyed" is *apolonto* – aorist tense which speaks of a completed action
2. The three examples are combined with their error which is the error being followed by the heretics in Jude's churches:
- a. "way of Cain"
  - b. "error of Balaam"
  - c. "rebellion of Korah"



Deir 'Alla Inscription from 800 BC kept in museum in Amman, Jordan found 5 miles east of Jordan River about half mile north of the Jabbok River in a Bronze Age (2000-700 BC) sanctuary. This is in ancient Ammonite territory. It contains a prophecy by Balaam who is called Ballam son of Boer in the text. It was discovered in 1967 by Dutch archaeologists, edited in 1967 and published in 2003. It speaks of a council of gods using the phrases "El Shaddai" ("God Almighty") and Elohim ("gods"). It warns of a cataclysmic disaster that was avoided by Balaam and his people.



Images below from video by Expedition Bible called  
"Archaeology for 'the Star who will come from Jazcob' "  
Link is here -- > [https://youtu.be/QRv1\\_C-I3Es?si=Zvt-yvLTJTWQHuxk](https://youtu.be/QRv1_C-I3Es?si=Zvt-yvLTJTWQHuxk)



Shittim /sheh-teem/ is today Tall al-Hammam or Tell el-Hammam (ancient Sodom)

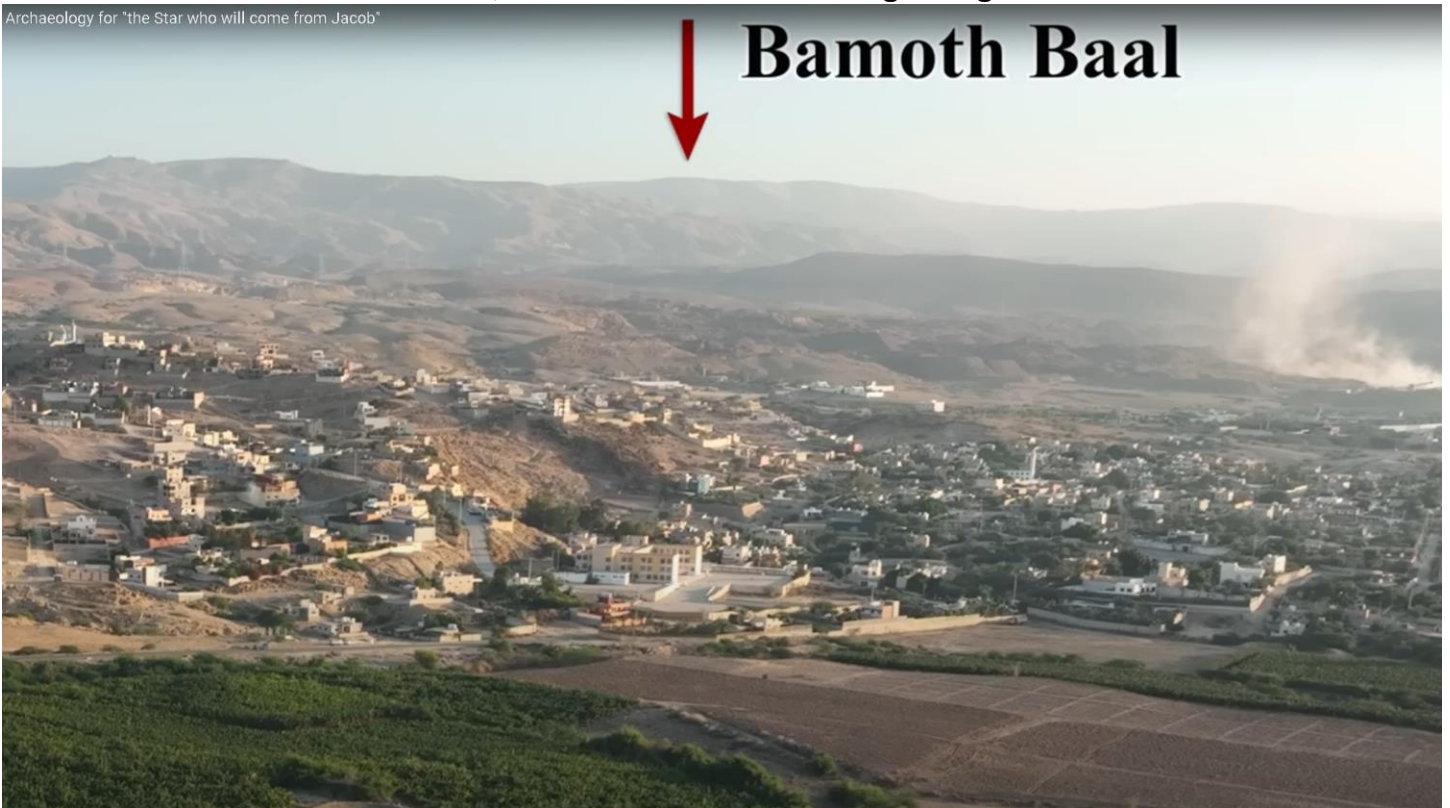


Shittim or Tell el-Hammam

**First Oracle – Numbers 24:41-23;12 - Bamoth-baal meaning “Heights of Baal”**

Archaeology for “the Star who will come from Jacob”

**Bamoth Baal**

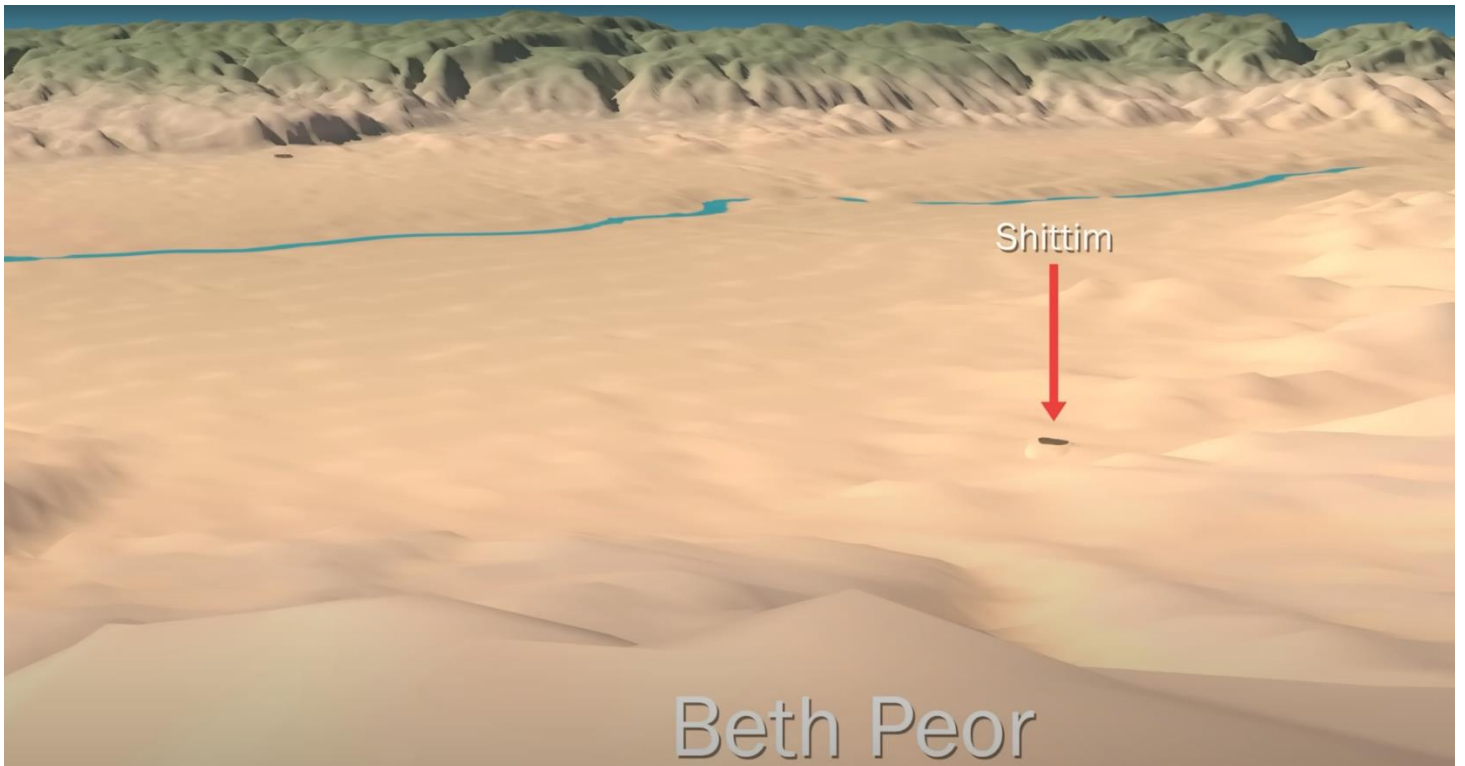




**Second Oracle – Numbers 23:13-26 - Kiriath-huzoth is Mount Pisgah.** Zophim means “the field of watchers” and besides providing a good view of the surrounding area it also provides a good view of the sky for star gazers to observe the night sky.



**Third Oracle – Numbers 23:27-24:13 – top of Peor, or Beth Peor.** At this time the Spirit of God overcame Ballam



Beth Peor





#### Fourth Oracle – Numbers 24:14-19

#### Three more oracles – Numbers 24:20-25 5

#### Baal of Peor – Numbers 25:1-5

1. 25:4 Chiefs of Israel are to be arrested and executed
  - a. The word “execute means “  
hanging”, “impalement”, at times, “tossed off a cliff.”
  - b. Carried out publicly literally is “over against the sun”
  - c. Most likely refers to impaling.
  - d. The chiefs or government officials were held responsible for the people’s actions
2. 25:6-18
  - a. 25:6 - Women weeping was part of the pagan fertility cult practice of weeping for the god Tammuz (also Ezekiel 8:14)
  - b. Phinehas’s action ended the plague
    - i. Phinehas was grandson of Aaron
3. Three executions:
  - a. The chiefs in 25:4
  - b. The guilty parties 25:5
  - c. Zimri and Cozbi 25:8