

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 01 Dec 2019	Numbers 01-09	God Leads
2) 08 Dec	Numbers 10-14	God Judges
3) 15 Dec	Numbers 15-20	God Requires
4) 22 Dec	Numbers 21 / Matthew 1	God Saves
<b>5) 29 Dec</b>	<b>Numbers 22</b>	<b>God Calls</b>
6) 05 Jan 2020	Numbers 23-27	God Commissions
7) 12 Jan	Numbers 28-36	God Expects
8) 19 Jan	Deuteronomy 5 & 19	Valued
9) 26 Jan	Deuteronomy 1-4	Honored
10) 02 Feb	Deuteronomy 5-6	Loved
11) 09 Feb	Deuteronomy 7-18	Revealed
12) 16 Feb	Deuteronomy 20-30	Chosen
13) 23 Feb	Deuteronomy 31-34	Promised

**INTRODUCTION**

- A talking donkey – Was this a myth or a miracle?
  - ♦ How do you defend your faith when skeptics can legitimately question such strange occurrences and ask us to “prove it”?
- Apologetics to the Rescue...
  - ♦ Apologetics is the study and practice of giving answers for the reasonableness and truth of the Christian faith. The word comes from the Greek apologia and means “to give a defense.” In 1 Peter 3:15 Christians are commanded to give an apologia to anyone who asks the reason for the hope that lies within us.

Passage	Comments
Numbers 22:1-5	<p><b>Desperate Times Call for Desperate Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balak “saw” that Israel had totally annihilated his neighbors, the Amorites, and his turn was next</li> <li>• What would you do to survive a genocidal onslaught?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would you run away (but what if your friends &amp; family could not flee with you)?</li> <li>• Would you fight to the last man?</li> <li>• Would you hire mercenaries to fight with you?</li> <li>• Would you leave no stone unturned and hire a seer who had the uncanny ability to curse your enemies?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
22:6-41	<p><b>A Talking Donkey Teaches Balaam about God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v6. Balaam was a non-Jewish seer/prophet/diviner who had a reputation of successfully cursing or blessing people ..... <b>But, was Balaam saved?</b></li> <li>• True, God “came to Balaam” but God also conversed with other unrighteous people</li> <li>• Balaam recognized God, but he preferred the wages of unrighteousness ..... <b>2Peter 2:15, Jude 11; Rev 2:14</b></li> <li>• v18. In Balaam’s favor, he did refer to God as his God</li> <li>• vv28-30. Did that donkey really talk? Did a serpent really talk with Eve? Did God create the universe in six 24-hour days about 6000 years ago? Did men really live almost 1000 years? Was there really a global flood? Did the sun really stand still during the time of Joshua? Did the sun really move backwards during the reign of Hezekiah? Was Jesus really born of a virgin? Did Jesus really walk on water? And did Jesus really rise from the dead?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considering sound principles of linguistics, biblical hermeneutics, and all those events were written in historical prose and not as allegorical stories ..... <b>YEP!</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Note: God conversed with other unrighteous people</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God told Cain to watch his attitude or sin would master him ..... <b>Gen 4:7</b></li> <li>• God told King Abimelech to return Sarah back to Abraham ..... <b>Gen 20:3</b></li> <li>• God gave the Witch of Endor a vision of Samuel ..... <b>1Sam 28:12</b></li> <li>• God told Nebuchadnezzar he would lose his sanity ..... <b>Dan 4:5, 31-32</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Other Strange Occurrences in the Bible:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking snake (Satan) ..... <b>Gen 3:15; Rev 12:9 &amp; 20:2</b></li> <li>• Men living nearly 1,000 years ..... <b>Genesis 11</b></li> <li>• Resurrection of the dead (10) ..... <b>1Ki 17:17-24; 2Ki 4:32-37; 2Ki 13:20, 21; Lu 8:51-55; 7:11-15; Jn 11:41,42; 10:18; Mat 27:52; Acts 9:39-42; 20:9,10</b></li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
• Sun stood still for 24 hours	<b>Joshua 10:12-14</b>
• Sun going backwards during Hezekiah’s day	<b>2Kings 20:8-11</b>
• Jacob’s spaceship	<b>Gen 28:12</b>
• Ezekiel’s spaceship	<b>Ezekiel 1:15-28</b>
• Jonah swallowed by a “fish” for 3 days	<b>Jonah 1:17-2:10</b>
• Virgin Birth	<b>Mat 1, Luke 1</b>
• Countless healings by Jesus and His Apostles/Disciples	<b>Mat-Acts</b>
• Talking statue with the ability to kill	<b>Rev 13:15</b>

**Reasonable Substantiation vs Reasonable Doubt**

- Since the Bible has proven to be reliable in many other incidences (historically, archeology, astronomy, behavior sciences, etc.) we should give it some leeway when unprovable incidences are given
- Can the resurrection be scientifically proved? Only by accepting mathematical probability of prophetic fulfillment in Jesus Christ
- Can the resurrection be historically verified ..... Yes  
 ...Beyond all doubt? No. Beyond reasonable doubt? ..... Yes

**Side Note:** The Christian faith is not a blind faith. Unlike every other religion in the world, including atheism, our faith is based on substance – reliable, historical, and scientific evidence.

**Historical Fact #1.** We have more historical evidence that Jesus lived (10 secular sources) than we do of Jesus’ contemporaries, Tiberius Caesar (only 4 historical sources) & Augustus Caesar (8)

**Scientific Fact #1.** Mathematical probability of just 10 out of 365 Messianic prophecies being fulfilled and referring to anyone else other than Jesus Christ is nil

**Scientific Fact #2.** Cosmological and teleological arguments and evidence for a logical design of the universe and for life on earth give credence to God’s existence (Src: “I don’t have Enough Faith to be an Atheist”, Geisler & Turek)

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- The best defense when defending the Bible is ALWAYS START WITH THE BIBLE. Apologetics include:
  - ♦ Critical Thinking (ask the hard questions)
  - ♦ Logic and reason (based on absolute truth)
  - ♦ Presuppositions and Biases (ours and theirs)
- Check it out: <https://answersingenesis.org/apologetics/>

**NEXT WEEK: Numbers 23-27.** Can someone witness God’s miracles, even work miracles, receive specific instructions from God, and receive prophecies from God, and still not be a heaven-bound saint? .....cf **Matthew 7:22**



Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Numbers 22:22-34) 08-29-2003  
**“I’M NOT CRAZY. THE DONKEY TALKED!  
 IT TALKED, I TELL YOU!”**