



# If You Can't Beat Them, Join Them

Numbers 25:1-5, Numbers 31:8-18, Revelation 2:12-17



# Israel's Sin and God's Wrath

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric painting. It depicts a scene of conflict or a spiritual battle. In the foreground, a figure is shown in a dynamic, almost falling or being thrown position, with a sword or staff visible. The background shows other figures in a dark, possibly outdoor setting, with a sense of movement and drama. The overall tone is somber and intense, reflecting the biblical narrative of Israel's sin and God's wrath.

- Unknown to the Israelites, a spiritual attack had been waged against them by the Moabites and the Midianites.
- Balaam learned that God would use him to bless Israel and curse those who opposed Israel.
- Balaam found that it was impossible to induce God to curse those whom He had blessed.
- Balaam devised a devious plan for his own personal gain.



# God's Blessings Are Conditional



- Israel would be blessed only if they obeyed God's commandments.
- Specific laws were given which regulated the sexual conduct of God's chosen people.
- Balaam realized that while God cannot be changed, the Israelites could easily be turned from God.
- The Israelites were seduced to follow other gods, which brought a curse upon them.



# Israel's Waywardness



- Following Balaam's counsel, the Moabite women invited the Israelites to dinner.
- The Moabites were indicted by God for not offering "bread and water" to the Israelites when they fled from Egypt.
- The Israelites did not realize that to share a meal with the Moabites was to join them in the worship of their gods.
- By participating in the pagan sacrificial meals, the Israelites engaged in spiritual harlotry.
- Satan took what God condemned and made it a vital part of religious worship.



# God's Response



- God's instructions were cast aside by the "worship" the Israelites engaged in with the Moabites and Midianites.
- It was not that God's words were unclear, but rather that they were difficult to accept.
- God instructed Moses to publicly execute *all* the Israelite leaders.
- Leaders have a higher level of responsibility, so they serve as examples to those who follow them.
- The Israelite leaders did little or nothing to deal with the idolatry and immorality of the people.



# Conclusion

A painting depicting a scene of domestic violence. A man in a red shirt is shown in a physical struggle with a woman in a white dress. The man is holding a long, thin object, possibly a stick or a weapon, and is striking the woman. The woman is on the ground, and the man is leaning over her. The background is dark and textured, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

- Leaders are responsible for the sins they tolerate, especially those within their own family.
- Moses called for action that was less severe than what God commanded.
- Most Christians today fail to carry out Jesus' commands.
- Moses did not take the dramatic action God commanded because he knew that God would be gracious.