



Spirit of Grace

Dennis Pollock —
Teacher / Evangelist

Herald

April, 2010

Spirit of Grace Ministries
P.O. Box 2068
McKinney, TX 75070
(469) 450-2351
dpollock@sogmin.org
www.spiritofgrace.org

Donkey-whisperer

One of the most fascinating characters in the Bible has to be the Gentile prophet / soothsayer Balaam. Famously known for having a conversation with his donkey, Balaam has a lot more to his story than mere donkey-whispering. This enigmatic man attempts to curse God's people but instead is literally forced by God to bless them. He receives messages from God, has the Spirit of the Lord come upon him, and then later in desperation gives an enemy king the idea of bringing Israel down through seductive women.

I'm sure to skeptics the whole story sounds contrived and without any historical merit. As in so many other cases, archeology has proven them wrong. An ancient text was found in a remarkable discovery in Deir Alla, Jordan, in 1967. Written in Aramaic, the text begins with the title "Warnings from the Book of Balaam, the son of Beor." The writings have been dated to around 800 B. C., which would have been perhaps five to six hundred years after the Balaam incident recorded in Scripture, but appear to be copies from a book of prophetic utterances which could well have been given centuries earlier. It appears that

Balaam was a soothsayer of such stature that he developed a cult-like following that endured long after his death.

It took some time to put together and decipher the fragments, but in time many similarities between the Balaam of the Bible and the Balaam of this text became apparent. Both Balaams:

- Had a father name Beor (How many Balaams, sons of Beor, could there have been?)
- Had a reputation for a powerful ability to call down curses upon people
- Used the term "Shaddai" for deity

And the Balaam text was found within 25 miles of where the Israelites would have been camped!



**Deir Alla
Inscription**

Many liberals who want to give the impression of being open-minded will suggest that the Bible is "great literature" but there is no reason for us to believe it has any historical accuracy. In truth the archeologists have confirmed the historicity of Scripture again and again.

As a young man the brilliant literary scholar C. S. Lewis was convinced that all Christians were silly and superstitious, and that the gospel was a concoction of fantasies. In 1926 he had a visit from an acquaintance, another extremely intelligent skeptic known as the "hardest boiled of all the atheists." As they sat by the fire conversing, Lewis' friend made the remark that the historicity of the gospel message was "really surprisingly good." Such a statement shook young Lewis to the core. He remarked in his journal, "If he, the cynic of cynics, the toughest of the tough, was not safe, where could I turn?" Lewis eventually turned to Jesus.

In the end receiving Jesus requires a leap of faith, but this does not mean intelligent inquiry is not allowed. The Bible can stand up to investigation. Indeed it has a remarkable record of converting those who get too close!

2 New Series



For those who yearn to know more about the Holy Spirit-

2 New Audio CD Teaching Series:

The Holy Spirit in the Torah / The Holy Spirit in Judges

Study with Dennis as he takes you reference by reference through the Torah (1st five books of the Bible) and the Book of Judges, recognizing the amazing role of the Holy Spirit in these foundational Old Testament books. You will thrill at the exploits of these Spirit-filled sons of Israel, and you will discover that whenever and wherever God desires to bless and work through His people, the Holy Spirit is present and involved!

The Holy Spirit in the Torah (5 Lessons on 3 CDs) - \$15

The Holy Spirit in Judges (5 Lessons on 5 CDs) - \$22

Order Both Together — Torah & Judges for \$30

Prices include S/H. Send check to SOGM or order online with Paypal.

Join Us!

Spirit of Grace Ministries does not have the benefit of being supported by a local church. In our overseas meetings, we do not receive offerings—we pay for the privilege of ministry. We depend upon God to move on the hearts of American Christians to enable us to proclaim the gospel of Jesus and train God's servants for effective ministry in the developing nations where they have few resources of their own.

Will you pray about becoming a Friend of Grace? This is a program whereby you commit to supporting SOGM for one year with a gift of \$25 per month or more. The gifts could be given monthly or in one lump sum. We share DVDs of Dennis' mission trips with our friends, along with teaching CDs which will help you in your walk with Jesus.

If this ministry is a blessing to you, please consider becoming one of our friends.

Kenya This Month

Dennis is scheduled to preach in Kakamega, Kenya this month. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for this outreach. The ministry time will be from April 21—25. Pray for a great harvest of souls, for a rich outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and for effective training of God's servants in the leadership conference.

Any gifts you can give to help us meet the budget for these meetings will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for caring!

