



Road Trip

ON THE VERGE OF VICTORY

July 31, 2022

Romans 8:11 – 14

Pastor Jeff Atchison, Guest Speaker

Jeff has served on pastoral staff at several churches around Ventura County since 1991. He has been serving at Calvary Chapel Oxnard since 2000, primarily as youth pastor for 16 years. He currently heads up the “Services” department, coordinating the various teams involved in church services. Jeff teaches regularly at CCO, and has written two books: Pit to Palace, and Marriage and the Gospel. He is married to Geneva, and they homeschooled their three kids (2 grads, and 1 nearly there).

MESSAGE NOTES

The Great Cosmic Joke

Numbers 25 • Background — Balaam is unable to curse Israel

Numbers 25:1 – 3 • Tragic Failure at Peor — a 40-year setback

Numbers 25:4 – 6 & 9 • The Horrific Aftermath — the wages of sin ...

Numbers 25:7 – 15 • Summary — The Plague & Phinehas

Numbers 25:16 – 18 • Big Reveal — Balaam!

Numbers 31:16 / Revelation 2:14

Three Lessons —

1. Satan Doesn't Fight Fair

- The devil can't curse you — pictured by Balaam
Isaiah 54:17 / Zechariah 3:1 – 5
- So instead, he sends temptation — like the pagan women of Peor

2. Run From Danger

- Tell yourself the truth about temptation — it is a deadly danger!
- The example is — Joseph!
- Don't Take Vacations from God — beware of idleness “under the Acacias”

3. You Are On the Verge of Victory

- Remember the Context—Israel was on the verge of victory
- We walk in Jesus' Resurrection / the Newness of Life / & His Love!
- Spiritual Attack Isn't Defeat—It is satan's desperate measures!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you have any funny personal stories, or favorite movie moments, of “snatching defeat from the jaws of victory”?
- Review the context of Numbers 25: Nearing the end of their 40–year wilderness journey, what has God done to prepare them for the Promised Land?
- “Joining to the Baal of Peor” wasn’t just about the sexual immorality; it was also spiritual treason! How was this similar to what happened at Aaron’s Golden Calf, in Exodus 32? How is it different? Does the punishment fit the crime?
- In Numbers 31:16 & Revelation 2:14, we discover it was Balaam who sent in the pagan women to defeat Israel through immorality and idol worship. He couldn’t curse Israel, but he tempted them to bring a curse down upon themselves! How is this like satan?
- Temptations never look as deadly as they truly are! How can we learn to see temptations in their true light?
- Compare Joseph’s response to Potiphar’s wife to the Israelites welcoming the Midianite and Moabite women. Why was the key to Joseph’s success? (Read Genesis 39:6 – 12)
- Israel was on the “verge of victory” when they were wrecked through devilish temptation. Why should this give us hope in spiritual attack?
- How does Jesus ultimate victory change the game for us? How do we walk in His victory?