

Youth Worship

BETHANY INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's kind of church, where God is touching lives, and people care for people.

WELCOME TO YOUTH WORSHIP!

We can come boldly before the throne of God because of the sacrifice that our Lord Jesus has made. Cognizant of our sinfulness, let us come with grateful and sincere hearts to worship the LORD!

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THE FIERCENESS OF HIS ANGER

While the LORD is full of compassion (Psalm 78:38), He is also to be feared for the fierceness of His anger on those who reject Him and who remain unrepentant. The 10 plagues unleashed upon Egypt culminated in the death of the firstborn in the land.

“

⁴⁹ He cast on them the fierceness of His anger,
Wrath, indignation, and trouble,
By sending angels of destruction *among them*.

⁵⁰ He made a path for His anger;
He did not spare their soul from death,
But gave their life over to the plague,

⁵¹ And destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt,
The first of *their* strength in the tents of Ham.

”

PSALM 78:49-51

1. The plagues in Egypt were an execution of
God's judgement Exodus 12:12

a. Out of the fierceness of His anger

b. His wrath

c. His indignation

Psalms 78:49a

3. The death of the firstborn

a. The LORD sent angels of destruction among the people

Psalm 78:49b

b. God made a path for His anger

Psalm 78:50a

c. He subjected the lives of the firstborn to the plague Psalm 78:50b

d. All the firstborn in Egypt were destroyed Psalm 78:51; Exodus 12

e. But the children of Israel were spared

Exodus 11:7

FEARING THE LORD

Trouble awaits those who resist and reject the LORD. Forewarnings were given to Pharaoh, giving him many chances to repent and submit to the LORD. However, he hardened his heart and rejected God time and again.

The fierceness of God's anger is most terrifying. May its manifestation recorded in the Scriptures serve as a warning for us to lay aside our pride and approach the LORD with reverential fear!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE

26 JULY 2025

Prelude

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

Call to Worship

Pastor Benjamin Chong

Opening Prayer

Pastor Benjamin Chong

Song Leading

1. Ancient Words
2. Seekers of Your Heart

Hannah Hoo and Ong Yanning

Pianists: Gabrielle Wan and
Rayne Quek

Scripture Reading

Text: Numbers 23:1-12

Chloe Tang and Thaddeus Heng

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Benjamin Quah

Message

“How shall I curse whom God has
not cursed?”

Text: Numbers 23:1-12

Pastor Benjamin Chong

Closing Prayer

Pastor Benjamin Chong

Offering

Postlude

Pianist: Rayne Quek

MY NOTES

26 JULY 2025

**“HOW SHALL I CURSE WHOM
GOD HAS NOT CURSED?”**

N U M B E R S 23:1-12

WORSHIP SONGS

Ancient Words

By Lynn DeShazo

Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart;
Oh, let the ancient words impart.

Words of Life, words of Hope
Give us strength, help us cope;
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us Home.

Chorus:

Ancient words ever true,
Changing me and changing you;
We have come with open hearts,
Oh, let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our Faith
Handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice;
Oh, heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart;
Oh, let the ancient words impart.

Chorus

(end)

Seekers of Your Heart

By Dick Tunny, Melody Tunny, Beverly Darnall

Until we give You first place,
Until we let You begin
To fill us with Your Spirit,
Renew us from within,
Nothing matters;
Nothing's gained.
Without Your holy presence,
Our lives are lived in vain.

Refrain:

Lord, we want to know You,
Live our lives to show You
All the love we owe You;
We're seekers of Your heart.

Because Your heart was broken,
Because You saw the need,
Because You gave so freely,
Because of Calvary,
We can now be called Your own
Complete creations,
Filled with You alone.

Refrain

(end)



REVIEW OF GOD'S WORD

Let us review what we have learnt at our last Youth Worship!

YWS MESSAGE - 19 JULY 2025

“GOD’S ANGER WAS AROUSED” NUMBERS 22:22 NUMBERS 22:22-41

²² Then God’s anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.

²³ Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. ²⁴ Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, *with* a wall on this side and a wall on that side. ²⁵ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall; so he struck her again. ²⁶ Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there *was* no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. ²⁷ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam’s anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

Numbers 22:22-27

1. God’s Anger

- a. It was directed at Balaam
- b. Reasons for God’s anger:
 - i. He went against God’s commandment
 - ii. He was hired to curse the children of Israel

2. God still gave Balaam a chance

- a. The Angel of the Lord stood against Balaam
- b. He became an Adversary to Balaam

3. The donkey

- a. He saw the Angel of the Lord
- b. But Balaam could not see the Angel of the Lord
- c. He tried to avoid the Angel of the Lord
- d. He crushed Balaam's foot
- e. He sat down and refused to move

THE DONKEY SPOKE TO BALAAM

²⁸ Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

²⁹ And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

³⁰ So the donkey said to Balaam, "*Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?*"

And he said, "No."

Numbers 22:28-30

OPENING THE EYES OF BALAAM

³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. ³² And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because *your* way is perverse before Me. ³³ The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live."

Numbers 22:31-33

1. The Lord had enabled the donkey to speak to Balaam
2. Balaam had struck his donkey three times
3. The donkey queried Balaam

"What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"
Numbers 22:28

4. Balaam's reply

"Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"
Numbers 22:29

5. The donkey reasoned with Balaam

"*Am* I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since *I became* yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?"
Numbers 22:30

6. Balaam's response to the donkey

"No."

Numbers 22:31

7. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Balaam

a. Why had he struck his donkey three times?

b. Rebuke of Balaam

i. His way was perverse to God

ii. The donkey had in fact saved his life three times

iii. If he had moved forward, Balaam would have been killed

iv. The donkey would have been spared

BALAAM'S CONFESSION

³⁴ And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back."

³⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Numbers 22:34-35

1. Balaam expressed:

a. Some remorse

b. Also his ignorance of the presence of the Angel

c. He offered to return home

2. The Angel's word

- a. He may carry on with his journey
- b. But he can only speak what he has been instructed to do

3. Balaam went with the princes of Balak

BALAK'S CONVERSATION WITH BALAAM

³⁶ Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which *is* on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory. ³⁷ Then Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honour you?"

³⁸ And Balaam said to Balak, "Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak." ³⁹ So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kirjath Huzoth. ⁴⁰ Then Balak offered oxen and sheep, and he sent *some* to Balaam and to the princes who *were* with him.

⁴¹ So it was, the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people.

Numbers 22:36-41

1. Balak remonstrates with Balaam

"Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honour you?"

Numbers 22:37

2. Balaam's response

"Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak."
Numbers 22:38

3. Balak offers worship

4. He sent part of the offerings to Balaam and his princes

LESSONS FOR US TO LEARN

¹⁵ They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

¹⁶ but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

2 Peter 2:15-16

1. The danger of forsaking the right way and going astray

2. Balaam's love for the wages of unrighteousness

3. The donkey restrained the madness of the prophet

REFLECTIONS

YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS


Esther Tang

RECAP

Last week at Youth Worship, we studied and revisited Numbers 22. Balaam was not a mere diviner, he had knowledge of the LORD, and the LORD even came to him. However, Balaam compromised on his faith and ended up walking in a way that was perverse to the LORD, by going against the LORD's commandments, and thus the LORD stood against him. However, the LORD gave him a chance by allowing his donkey to see the Angel of the LORD, before opening Balaam's eyes too. Balaam showed some remorse for what he had done. He was allowed to meet with Balak, but he must only speak what God instructs him to.


REFLECTIONS



This lesson was a reminder to me of the danger of worldly influences, and how it can negatively affect my walk of faith. These negative influences could come in various forms, whether it be in the form of social media content I see online or things I hear from friends. More often than not, I find myself being exposed to an array of information on social media reels or posts, and I realise how easy it is to simply believe what I read. These posts are often intentionally misleading, and may even be presented as from the Scriptures. However, such information may be untrue or partially false, and could even affect me in my walk of faith, by planting doubt or uncertainty in my heart and mind.



This lesson also gave me a different perspective on how the LORD may warn us when we walk in a way that is displeasing to Him. For Balaam, it was through his donkey that God rebuked him. Despite this, Balaam foolishly reprimanded the donkey, even beating it! I am reminded that the LORD can use various ways to warn us when we walk astray. God, in His grace and love, provides me with His Word to guide me, and also people around me, such as my parents, pastors, and teachers. They are people sent by the LORD to instruct and guide, so that I can walk in a way that is pleasing in His eyes. And yet, I find that when I am given advice, I frequently take it for granted, and sometimes even get upset or frustrated with them. This stubbornness can hinder me in my faith, through having a heart that is unwilling to listen to the LORD's guidance. This lesson opened my eyes to see how the LORD could be guiding and redirecting my paths through the people whom He sends to help me. I am seeking to learn to set aside my stubbornness, and to instead learn to trust in the LORD's leading and plan for me.


In my first year of Junior College so far, I found myself facing many new challenges, in terms of workload, of fitting in with others, and these have impacted my walk of faith in some ways. In trying to fit in with others, I was very tempted to follow their mannerisms and actions so that I would be included, or avoid being alienated.





But many of these actions included foul language, gossiping, and things that I know would not honour the LORD. In choosing not to join in their actions, I admittedly found that it was harder to fit in with certain groups of people. However, I saw the LORD's continued hand in guiding and encouraging me. Whether it was through the words of encouragement from His people, or even from the weekly messages that spoke deeply to my heart, reminding me of His presence each and every day.

This lesson was my reminder to remain steadfast in my faith, and not to let influences of others cause me to compromise on it. After learning this lesson about how Balaam, and his perverse ways, turned the LORD against him, I am deeply challenged to be more wary and cautious of the influences around me, and to grow deeper in my knowledge of the Word so that I can also guard my heart against them.



YOUTH WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

Grace Wong


Recap

Welcome back to Youth Worship! Last week, we read from Numbers 22:22–41, where God’s anger was aroused because Balaam chose to go with Balak’s messengers, even though God had told him not to go or to curse Israel, for the people were blessed. Although Balaam said the right things outwardly, his heart was not right. He was willing to compromise God’s commandment for personal gain.

Reflection

This passage reminds me of the importance of living intentionally and guarding not just my actions but also the motives of my heart. As I prepare to start work, it speaks directly to my heart not just about outward obedience, but about what truly motivates me inside.


Balaam said all the right things on the surface, yet his heart was drawn to the rewards offered by Balak such as money, status, and worldly honour. God saw through his words and exposed the compromise in his heart.



This made me reflect on my own life. As I was going through the process of signing my work contract, I found myself fixated on the salary. Though I know in my mind that I do not need to seek recognition or measure my worth by money, I realised my heart was still quietly chasing after financial reward. That moment showed me how easy it is to start compromising not through dramatic disobedience, but through subtle shifts in desire.

Like Balaam, I might say I want to follow God's will, but if I am not careful, my actions can show that I still long for comfort, status, or success more than I long to please God. These small compromises reveal what I truly value, reminding me of the need to guard my heart diligently.

This passage reminds me of the danger of forsaking the right way and going astray, even while doing the right things on the outside. In 2 Peter 2:15, it says Balaam loved the wages of unrighteousness, and his example warns me not to trade faithfulness for fleeting gain.



Personal Challenge

So my prayer is to cultivate a heart that seeks to please God above all else not just in what I say, but in how I live, work, and make decisions. This means checking my intentions often, especially when faced with opportunities that seem rewarding but might pull me away from God's purpose. As I begin work, I will remember that my calling is to honour God and not compromise on my faith to chase after what the world defines as success.

AN EGYPTIAN BEATING A HEBREW

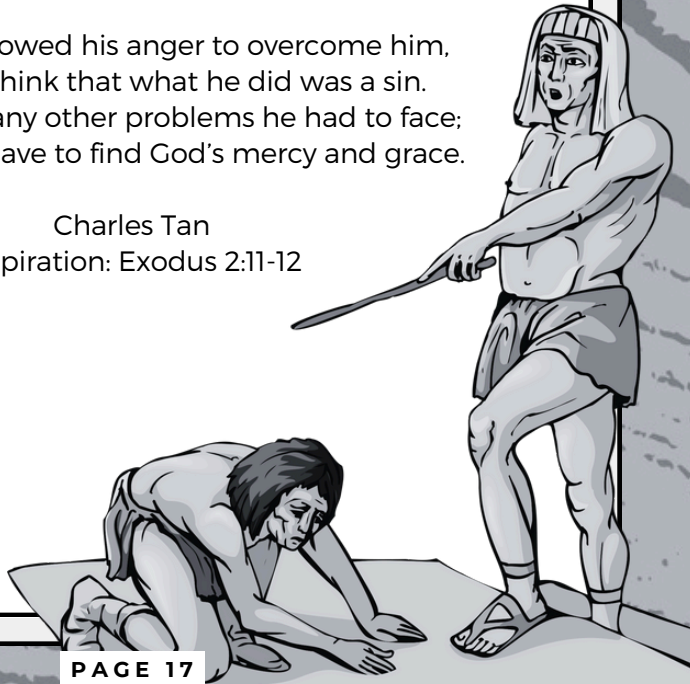
The years flew by and Moses became a man;
But he was not fully aware of God's great plan.
He knew right from wrong in his upbringing;
He sought to be upright in his bearing.

He came across an Egyptian beating a Hebrew;
The anger in Moses' heart grew and grew.
He was filled with anger against the Egyptian;
Moses had become a man of violent action.

He looked around to ensure no one saw his deed;
If he was reported he would be in trouble indeed.
He buried the Egyptian in the desert sand;
He thought that he had everything in hand.

Moses had allowed his anger to overcome him,
He did not think that what he did was a sin.
There were many other problems he had to face;
Moses would have to find God's mercy and grace.

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Exodus 2:11-12



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating BETHANY'S 50+2 ANNIVERSARY

Theme: "From glory to glory"

The LORD has bestowed bountiful blessings upon our Church! May we unite our hearts to offer grateful worship as we celebrate our Anniversary!

Date: 24 August 2025

Venue: Shangri La

Time: 10.30am (Worship)
12.00nn (Fellowship Lunch)

Main Lunch Programme:

Scan the QR code to book your seat today:



NEXT YWS



2 AUG 2025

“God is not a man that He should lie” Numbers 23:19

Text: Numbers 23:13-26

Even after a failed attempt to curse Israel, Balak persisted in his cause while Balaam was still seeking to earn his reward. A second set of costly offerings was presented at another high place, with hopes for a different outcome. Balaam and Balak have failed to comprehend God. The LORD would use Balaam to take up a second oracle that focuses on the Person of the LORD.



Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church