

A repeated battle is the battle for dominion: It is constantly under threat by the enemy. Sometimes dominion is surrendered. In the passage we are going to look at, the Hebrews had dominion, but *they* surrendered it to Moab.

Numbers 25:1–3 (NLT) While the Israelites were camped at Acacia Grove, some of the men defiled themselves by having sexual relations with local Moabite women. ² These women invited them to attend sacrifices to their gods, so the Israelites feasted with them and worshiped the gods of Moab. ³ In this way, Israel joined in the worship of Baal of Peor, causing the Lord's anger to blaze against his people.

I POSITIONED FOR DOMINION:

A- God has set his people to be a people of Dominion

1. From the beginning, God gave dominion: **Gen1:26** let them have dominion over...
 - a. Dominion is the RIGHT TO RULE
2. **Gen3:15** He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.
 - a. The enemy is set for ONE position; DEFEAT... Jesus always above, crushing the head of the enemy.
 - b. Joshua had his men place their foot on the neck of the enemy with sword drawn- DOMINION!

B- In our story; God's people were living in dominion

1. Balaak & Balaam were scheming against the Hebrews to defeat them, but Balaam could not!
 - a. Even in his best efforts! **Numbers 24:12–13** So Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not also speak to your messengers whom you sent to me, saying, ¹³ 'If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord, to do good or bad of my own will. What the Lord says, that I must speak'?"
2. This is still the position God has set for believers! A place of Dominion!
 - a. **Luke 10:19** Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

II LOSING DOMINION

A- While God intends for you to have dominion, sometimes we make decisions that cost us our dominion

1. **Sexual Sin: Num25:1** the men defiled themselves by having sexual relations with local Moabite women.
 - a. They defiled themselves and released a Plague judgement on their lives... What Balaam couldn't do, they did to self!
 - b. Like Aaron & Golden Calf: They had dominion, blessing, protection, provision... but their own sin released a Plague
2. **Disobedience:** Our own disobedience can cost us... Achan & Ai... Saul & Samuel...
3. **Pride:** Pride makes us delusional, Satan's own pride led him to Rebellion!
 - a. Sampson & Delilah (I can handle)... Judas (I know better than God- For money)

B- See, sometimes it isn't the devil taking our dominion, its us surrendering our dominion.

1. We make decisions of surrender: Porn, Substances, Inappropriate relationships, Carnal appetites... we hand dominion over.
 - a. A&E chose to eat, and lost their dominion!
2. **Q:** Where are you choosing to lose? Where are you compromising? What are you turning to in secret?

III LIVING IN DOMINION:

A- Maybe you have surrendered dominion, the hope of our story is that you **CAN** reclaim dominion!

- a. But there are going to be some decisions that need to be made!
 1. **Judge Sin: Numbers 25:5** So Moses ordered Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death the men under your authority who have joined in worshipping Baal of Peor."
 - a. Judging sin may involve judging friends, family, devices, choices, habits, actions, attitudes that are tied to Baal Peor
 2. **Make Radical Decisions: Numbers 25:7–8** When Phinehas son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron the priest saw this, he jumped up and left the assembly. He took a spear ⁸ and rushed after the man into his tent. Phinehas thrust the spear all the way through the man's body and into the woman's stomach. So the plague against the Israelites was stopped...
 - a. Make radical decisions that will change the compromise: Cut off people, get a dumb phone, Install filters, be accountable
 - b. Too often men say, I CANT... Really you won't do what is necessary! You need to ask WHY?
3. **Keep the Fight: Numbers 25:16–17** Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ¹⁷ "Harass the Midianites, and attack them;
 - a. Keep pushing against the enemy... Some start making good decisions, they implement changes, then they STOP!
 - i. Thinking: *I can handle this, I don't need to be so extreme anymore, Its not a big deal...* YES IT IS
 - ii You can't let your guard down!