

fortune-teller, to curse Israel. When God kept Balaam from doing this, Balaam advised Balak to have the women of Moab entice the Israelite men with sexual favors to join in the religious festival honoring Baal; and by thus doing avoid a confrontation between Moab and Israel. This actually worked for a while, until the Lord brought a plague on the Israelites and put 24,000 of them to death; then they turned from this evil

God has set limits to human conduct, limits that sinful human beings often desire to break through. These limits are expressed as moral and spiritual laws; and these laws are universal and apply to all human beings without exception.

One contemporary expression of this desire to break out of the limits God has set for human conduct is found in the so-called pro-choice movement. The leadership of this movement claims that "reproductive freedom is the cornerstone of women's rights," by which they mean that women who become pregnant have the absolute right to decide whether the babies they have conceived will be born and live or be killed before they are born.

One of the ethical paradoxes of our time is that a number of people in this country are totally opposed to the execution of human beings who are clearly guilty of premeditated, cold-blooded murder, and yet many of these same people are also totally in favor of the execution of unborn babies who are guilty only of being unwanted or inconvenient or burdensome.