

## In The Wilderness

### Numbers 24-25

- While the children of Israel are traveling in the wilderness, unbeknownst to them a spiritual battle is happening on the high places where they worship the false god Baal. Balaam the false prophet for hire has been offered a fortune by Balak the King of Moab if he would place a curse upon Israel as they travel toward the people of Moab and Midian, but God has intervened both times and instead of a curse Balaam has spoken a blessing upon Israel to the dismay of Balak, this is where chapter 24 is going to pick up the story.

#### V1-25

- **V1** here we can see why Balaam was so comfortable around the altars of the false god Baal, as he himself indulges in occult false worship being someone who practices sorcery, and yet despite all this falsehood and ungodliness God still spoke to him in the midst of his disobedience. So Balaam on the two previous occasions did try and bring a curse upon Israel but he couldn't, for the Lord protected Israel and prevented him from doing so.
- Neither ignorance nor disobedience will stop God from getting His message across to people, that's why we will all be without excuse as to why we didn't serve Him. **V2-9** for a third time God speaks through Balaam, and in each prophecy it has gotten worse for Balak, in the first one Balaam fails to curse Israel, in the second he blesses Israel, and now in the third he curses Balak, telling him how futile it is to stand against His people, even quoting **Gen 12:3** "how He will bless them that bless Israel and curse them who curse Israel".
- **V10-14** Balak is thoroughly frustrated at this point, its more than he can take as he slaps his hands together and tells Balaam just go back home, and since your now representing Israel's God you can thank him for stopping you from getting paid! Balaam tries to excuse himself and blame God by telling Balak I told you before its not me it's the Lord, I've tried to go beyond what He says but I can't, He only allows me to speak what He has said and not what I want, in fact He's not finished He has something else He wants you to know.
- **V15-16** this prophecy starts similarly like the third one with a recognition that true understanding comes only from God, but tis prophecy is so overwhelming that it knocked Balaam off his feet and left him prostrate on the ground. You would think that Balak in seeing this and Balaam in experiencing this remarkable encounter with the Lord would have brought them both to the place of submission and faith with the Lord but it doesn't.

- **V17-19** he sees a Star and a Scepter rising out of Israel, it's a beautiful picture of the coming Messiah Jesus Christ ruling and reigning over all the nations that surround Israel. **V20-22** he tells them how Amalek the very first nation to attack Israel when they came out of Egypt would be defeated and eventually wiped out, which is why you don't see anybody claiming to be an Amalekite today, the Kenites who lived among the Midianites in the Mountainous regions, how hiding in the mountains like an eagles nest won't save them from the Assyrians.
- **V23-25** finally he says how Assyria also will be conquered specifically those who travel in ships this speaks of the western powers that eventually swallowed up the Mediterranean maritime powers Rome in particular. God showed Balaam how Israel traveling through Moab and Midian not only impacted the present but also the future, and how Israel and its blessings would last far longer than escaping his and Balak's attempt to curse them.
- After speaking this it says Balaam got up and went home, and after hearing this Balak gets up and leaves, but notice it what it doesn't say, that either one of them became a believer. Why is that important, because next week we will see that both Balaam and Balak because they didn't surrender to God neither did they accept His will, and leave Israel alone.