

## In The Wilderness

### Numbers 23:1-30

- As Israel is marching toward the promise land an interesting plot that is unbeknownst to them, is being against them by the Moabites and the Midianites. As Balak the King of the Moabites has enlisted Balaam a prophet for hire to put a curse on the Israelites, but since Israel does not fight their own battles, the Lord does, God intervenes on their behalf and speaks to Balaam telling him not to place a curse upon Israel because they are His people, and under His protection, this shows us that we don't have to be aware of every threat around us, as long as we have the Lord watching out for us, then we are protected.

### V1-30

- **V1-3** Balaam after being taken up to the altar of the false god Baal, tells Balak the King to get seven altars ready for service, and bring seven bulls and rams ready for sacrifice, and afterward he will prepare to hear from God. We need to backtrack some because in the last chapter the King made a request, The Lord spoke and said no, Balaam sought an alternative answer, God supernaturally allowed Balaam's donkey to resist to help him to stop disobeying the Lord, and when that didn't work, Jesus revealed Himself directly to him.
- With all of that Balaam is still seeking a third and fourth opinion on the matter, God has already spoken to him concerning His will on the matter, but this answer won't make him rich, Moab and Midian are only paying those who will curse Israel and not bless Israel. **V3-5** This might surprise people that God speaks to the disobedient and the wicked, but He does, if God spoke through a donkey who has no soul how much more will He speak to those whom He created, because its not always about the messenger as it is about the message.
- **V6-11** Balak and the other princes were waiting with great anticipation to see what their money had brought them, but instead of hearing a curse on Israel they heard a blessing upon Israel, this is not what they were paying for nor was it what they expected. Remember to bring Balaam here, Balak and the other princes ignored both distance and price, as they traveled far to get him there, and they offered him whatever price that he wanted.
- In fact if he wasn't going to curse Israel then why would he come knowing that is all that Moab and Midian was interested in? Although this is what Balak, Moab, Midian, and Balaam wanted, none of them are able to overrule God's will on the matter. I want us to look at what Balaam said about Israel in **V8-10** > as he says "**how shall he curse whom God has not cursed, and how shall he denounce whom the Lord has not denounced**".
- No nation has been blessed of Gd like Israel, not only with material blessings but also in Divine protection, this was part of God's Covenant with Abraham that He made in **Gen 12:1-3**, and it has been fulfilled throughout their history, for God has judged every ruler and every nation that has caused His people to suffer, from Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, to Nazi Germany.

- Any nation, ruler, or people who has tried to annihilate Israel God has intervened and crushed them, from Rome, to Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, during the six day war of 1967, God has supernaturally fought for them and protected them from destruction. Now He has allowed them to be disciplined for their disobedience and rejection of Him, but because of His promise that He made to them all those centuries ago God continues to put a hedge of protection around them whether they know it or not > **2 Tim 2:13**.
- **V12-14** this shows how determined the enemy is, he doesn't give up just because he's suffered a defeat or two, he will continue to try and present something that will ultimately cause us to fall. Here Balak wanted Balaam to see things from a different perspective, so he takes him up to the top of Mount Pisgah, and he offers another round of sacrifices, hoping that this change of scenery will help Balaam see things a little differently.
- **V15-24** after the sacrifices Balaam tells Balak to wait there while he goes and seeks council from the Lord, and God gives Balaam a second word to speak to Balak. Notice the first word pictured Israel as "**a chosen people because of the love of God**" this second word presents them as "**a conquering people because of the faithfulness of God**".
- **V19** says "**God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man that he should repent, has He said and will He not do, or has He spoken and will He not make it good**". V23 also says that no forces that is standing in their path or opposing them, whether it's in the natural or supernatural will prevail against Israel. What God is saying through Balaam is Israel winning or losing has nothing to do with their strength or ability, but all because of Him.
- This is very important, as even though God says it to Israel, we the church can apply it to our walk as well > Since God doesn't **lie**, that means all of His promises and Covenants are **sure**, and because He doesn't **change**, then His **character remains the same**, therefore we can always count on Him, that He will never leave us nor forsake us, for He is with us.
- **V25-26** Balak is beside himself, he cannot believe what he is hearing, he tells Balaam even if you can't curse them, then at the very least don't bless them. This is how slick Satan is, as he essentially is saying in not pronouncing a blessing or a curse, don't pick a side either way, let's just leave it up to fate, as the enemy knows being neutral in matters of Godliness and truth is picking a side, as we are either for the Lord or against the Lord there is no gray area.
- **V27-30** for a third time Balak tries to get Balaam to curse Israel, and in this attempt to manipulate the situation he moves to yet another location, and this time even goes as far as to invoke the name of the Lord in his ungodly scheme. Yes you are seeing this right, people with ungodly desires and motives will use God and His Word in an attempt to get their way.
- This is why **Acts 11:23** should be highlighted in all of our bibles, as it will take a heart that is determined, and unwavering in order for us to continue to walk faithfully with God. As the enemy is relentless in his pursuit of trying to get us to give in and give up, fulfilling the will of God for our lives, he wants us to wrongly think we cannot finish well, but that is a lie!