

12/26/93

Numbers 23-25

Balak has sent for Balaam in order to cause the children of Israel and in his greed for money he nearly lost his life as the Angel of the Lord waited to smite him on the road.

God allowed him to go but he could only speak the words God gave to him.

His arrival was greeted by a mild rebuke for refusing to come at first, followed by making preparations for Balaam to curse Israel.

22:41-23:12 The first prophecy of Balaam

- 22:41** Balak took Balaam the following day to the high places of Baal to observe the people of Israel.
- 1) The high places were the places of sacrifice and worship.
 - 2) The groves often were the places of sexual rites.

- 23:1-2** *The preparation*
- 1) The alters were erected.
 - 2) The sacrifices were offered.

- 23:3-6** *The proclamation*
- 1) Balaam to Balak.
 - 2) God to Balaam. vs. 4-5
 - a) The words of Balaam to God. vs. 4
 - b) The words of God in Balaam. vs. 5
 - 3) Balaam to Balak. vs. 6

- 23:7-10** *The prophecy*
- 1) Balak's purpose for seeking Balaam out. vs.7
 - * oracle “ “ means a prophetic discourse, a parable, in poetical parallelism.
 - * The word is never used of True prophets of Jehovah, but of certain songs and similes inserted in them. (Kiel) ?
 - 2) God's refusal to curse Israel. vs. 8
 - 3) Their separateness from other nations. vs. 9 (Sanctification)
 - 4) Their vast multitude. vs. 10

- 23:11-12** *The perturbation of Balak*
- 1) Balak's response to Balaam. vs. 11
 - 2) Balaam's declares his obligation to speak the words of God. vs. 12

23:13-26 The second prophecy of Balaam

23:13-15 *The preparations*

- 1) Another site was chosen by Balak.
- 2) Sophim means field of watchers or spies.
- 3) The alters and sacrifices were presented.
- 4) Balak was to wait as before.

23:16-17 *The Lord meets Balaam*

- 1) God put a word in his mouth.
- 2) God sends him back to Balak with the message.

23:18-24 The prophetic proclamation

- 1) The appeal is to Balak. vs.18
- 2) The message is, God keeps His word. vs. 19
- 3) Israel will be blessed. vs. 20
- 4) God sees Israel blameless. vs. 21a-b
* Zach. 3:1-5, Jude 24
(Justification)
- 5) God is with him. vs. 21c-d
- 6) God delivered them out of Egypt. vs. 22

7) There is no power against Israel due to God. vs. 23

8) Their sure conquest of the land. vs. 24

23:25-26 Balak's furious response.

23:27-24:14 The third prophecy of Balaam

23:27-30 *The preparation*

- 1) Another place sought. vs. 27-28
- 2) The alters and sacrifices were prepared. vs. 29
- 3) Balak offered the offering. vs. 30

24:1 Balaam perhaps saw the futility and chose not to seek the use of sorcery anymore.

24:2 The Spirit of God came upon him.

24:3-4 1) Balaam declares the source of his revelation.
2) Balaam declares his accountability of having his eyes open.

24:5-9 God's blessings (***Exaltation***)
1) God's loving care for them. vs. 5-6

- 2) God's prosperity and rulers to come. vs. 7
- 3) God's protection and promise to defeat their enemies. vs. 8-9

24:10-14 Balak's second furious response

- 1) He clapped his hands in anger to startle Balaam. vs. 10a-b
- 2) He rebukes Balaam for blessing Israel. vs. 10c-f
- 3) He commands Balaam to leave to his home. vs. 11a-b
- 4) He reminds him of the honor forfeited and that God kept him from it. vs. 11c-d
- 5) Balaam reminds Balak that he told the messengers that he could not go beyond God's word. vs. 12-13
- 6) Balaam declares his leave but not before he reveals what Israel will do to Moab in the latter days. vs. 14

24:15-25 The fourth prophecy of Balaam

24:15-16 Balaam identifies himself as the instrument of God's inspired revelation. 2Pet. 1:20-21, 2Tim. 3:16-17

24:17 The Messiah to come. Gen. 49:10, Ps. 45:6, Amos 1:5, 8

* Jesus is said to be the morning star. 2Pet. 1:19, Rev. 2:28, 22:16-17

- 1) A star is symbolic of appearance and greatness.
- 2) A septer is symbolic of rule and authority.
- 3) Moab's destruction predicted. 2Sam. 8:2

24:18-19 The destruction of Edom. 2Sam. 8:14, 1King 11:15-16, 1Chron. 18:12-13

24:20 The destruction of Amelek a type of the flesh in the scriptures.

24:21-22 The destruction of the Kenites, the relatives of Moses. Num. 10:29, Judges 1:16

24:23-24 The certainty of these taking place.

24:25 Balaam took his leave.

25:1-5 The sin of Israel

- 24:1** The Acacia Groves were the place of worship and sexual rites, in the high places. Hos. 9:10
* They ate sacrifices made to the dead. Ps. 106:28
- 25:2** The men were enticed into their sexual fertility rites and worshipped their gods.
- 25:3** The anger of the Lord was against Israel.
- 25:4-5** 1) God ordered the leaders hung.
2) Moses ordered the judges to kill every man joined to Baal.
- 25:6-9** The consequences and destruction of sin.
1) The blindness of sin in the midst of judgment. vs. 6
2) The righteous wrath of Phinehas. vs. 7-8
3) The number of dead. vs. 9
- 25:10-13** The blessing on Phinehas
1) God attributes the turning of His wrath to Phinehas' zeal. vs. 10-11
2) God promises their participation in the priesthood always. vs. 12-13, Judges 20:28, Ps. 106:30-31

- 25:14-15** The two culprits.
1) The woman was Cozbi a Midianite.
2) The man was Zimri a son of one of the leaders of Ruben.
- 25:16-18** The command to be hostile to Midian for their seduction. Gen. 37:25, 27-28