A recap of lessons learned from the past



Over the last several years there have been essential sermons that have aided in our understanding of God's plan for Israel, the role of gentiles and the satanic stratagem being used in an attempt to thwart what God has planned. We are adding a tab on our app called Israel where all of those sermons will be in one place as well as a youtube channel we started called Biblical Israel Q and A where all of these resources along with youtube shorts that we are creating in an effort to champion israel which is a core value of The Arising Church.

Last week, a few of us attended a conference at Moody Bible Institute called: Opposing the new christian antisemitism and I want to credit Dr. Don Sweeting who is a chancellor at the Colorado Christian University with some key insights he shared from the story of Balaam in the book of Numbers.

What is so special about the story of Balaam in the book of Numbers is that almost every major principle that we have been discussing concerning Israel and the nations is all together in chapters 22-23. This story embodies how gentiles

who are followers of Christ and bear the image of God should respond in these uncertain times.

The first 3/4 of the message will be an expository message from the book of Numbers.

Numbers 22:

2 *Balak son of Zippor saw all that the Israelites had done to the Amorites.* ***3*** *And the Moabites were greatly afraid of the people, because they were so numerous. The Moabites were sick with fear because of the Israelites.*

Fearing the prosperity of Israel

In our foundations study in Exodus 1, Pharaoh comes to the same conclusion:

Exodus 1:9-10a ESV

And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. **10** Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply…

It's not just the envy and fear that has existed from the beginning between the nations and the family of Abraham, their fear actually causes them devise strategies in an attempt to destroy them

4 *So the Moabites said to the elders of Midian, “Now this mass of people will lick up everything around us, as the bull devours the grass of the field.” Now Balak son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at this time.*

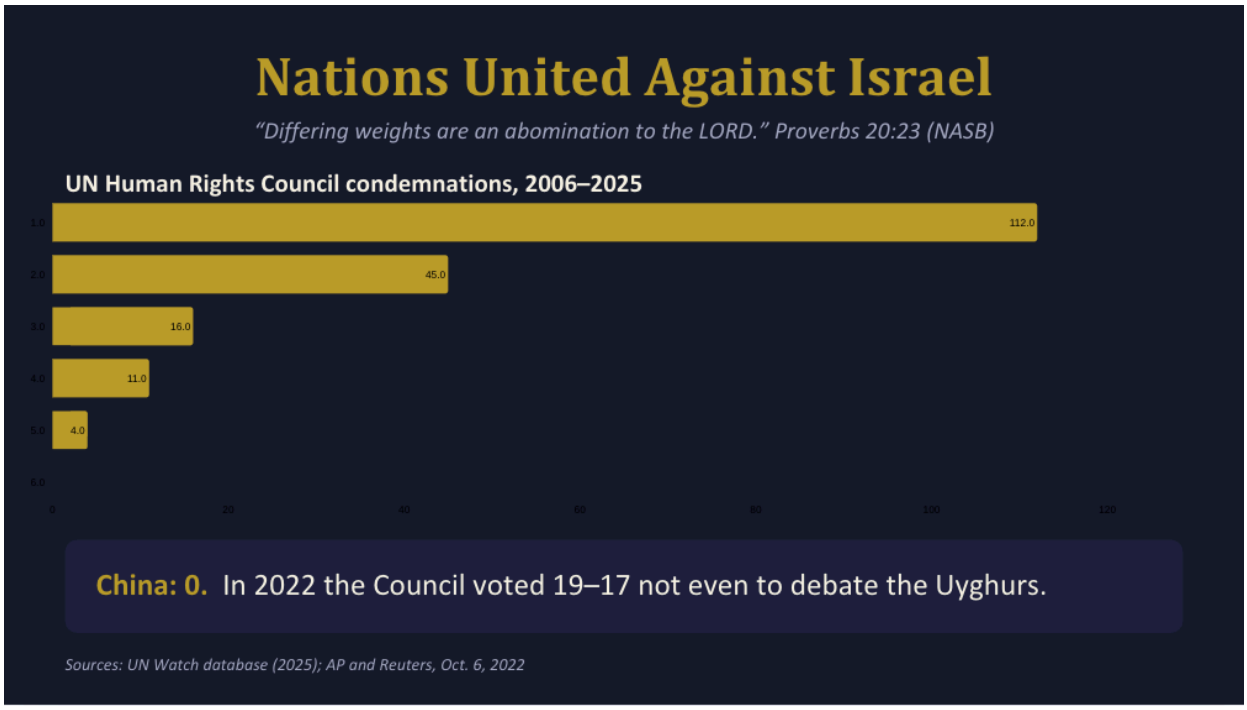
Alliance between enemies over hatred of Israel

The world has been watching in surprise as the LGBT community has aligned themselves with muslims who would happily kill them in shared hatred for Israel. Their alliance doesn't make any sense except that they are loyal to the same master who wants to destroy God's people. Moab and Midian were previously at war with each other.

Genesis 36:35 (NIV 1984)

> *"When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the country of Moab, succeeded him as king. His city was named Avith."*

When Moab was at war with Midian previously, they called on help from Edom to win the battle. Now these two nations who were at war with each other unite to find a way to destroy Israel.
Their common fear of Israel led them to make peace and cooperate against Israel. There is a coordinated satanic strategy to unite the nations of the world against Israel.



Remember we have said this before but it bears repeating, back in 2007 the UN created a permanent resolution against Israel to hold a debate about them at every single session, a scrutiny shared by no other country in the world. So at every regular session, three times a year, Israel gets its own dedicated debate. This happens with no other country.

And just so no one listening to or watching this thinks highly of themselves for speaking up for muslims in gaza because the media has convinced you that Israel is the world's largest threat to muslims, the Uyghurs (wee-gurs) in china are a turkic ethnic group mostly muslim living mainly in the Xinjiang region of northwest china. There are roughly 11 to 12 million of them. Starting in 2017 china detained an estimated one million or more of these people in what were called vocational training centers with widespread reports of forced labor, mass surveillance and forced sterilization and the destruction of mosques. China denies abuse and calls the program counterterrorism. In 2022 the UN human rights office released an assessment and a UN report found possible crimes against humanity. After this, several muslim majority countries voted no to even debate or discuss this. The only muslim country to vote yes was somalia. They shot down even talking about it.

Proverbs 20:23 says "differing weights are an abomination to the Lord."

Nations that otherwise would have nothing in common have united in shared fear, jealousy and hatred of Israel and it is an abomination. Let's continue on with our text.

5 And he sent messengers to Balaam son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the Euphrates River in the land of Amaw, to summon him, saying, “Look, a nation has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are settling next to me. **6** So now, please come and curse this nation for me, for they are too powerful for me. Perhaps I will prevail so that we may conquer them and drive them out of the land.

Strategic Disinformation

It's important for you to know the meaning of Balaam's name:



This story that we are reading and that many of you have been familiar with for years involves a foreigner, someone who is not of the people of Israel and how God commands him to respond to someone who is trying to get him to curse Israel. This is a message for our time and if any of you have been wondering how to think and how to respond to a world that seems to be forming a coalition to wipe out the Jewish people this message is for you.

Balak makes the statement "they cover the face of the earth" as in, they are everywhere, even right beside me AGH!! Come and curse them!!! So that we can drive them from the land!

Balak couldn't defeat Israel head on so he hired a voice to come and curse them. This is the exact strategy that Hitler employed with Joseph Goebbels to use propaganda to turn people against the Jews. Yad Vashem, the holocaust museum in Jerusalem records that Hitler aimed to create the illusion that the German people had but one enemy: the Jews.

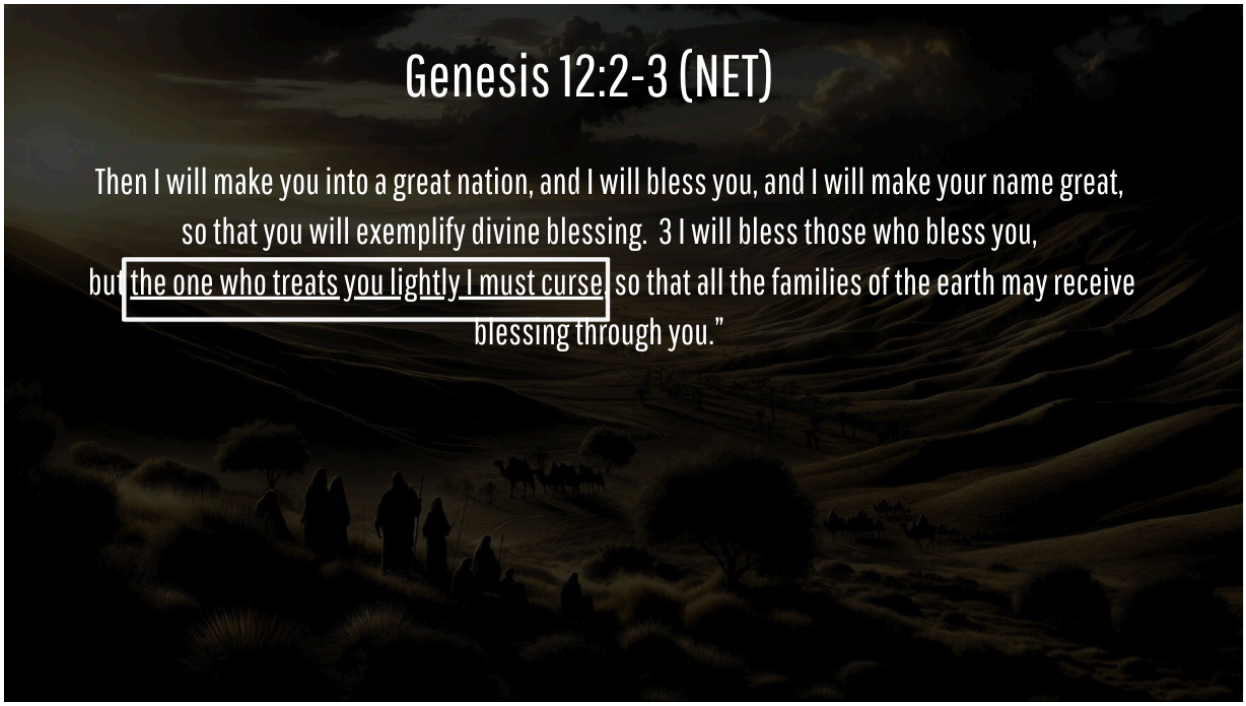
Goebbels himself stated the fundamental idea behind the Nazis' propaganda machine: "the great mass of people in the simplicity of their hearts are more easily taken in by a big lie than by a little one."
In Hitler's book mein kampf He explained that propaganda is not meant to be used on scientifically trained intellectuals because, as propaganda is not logical, rational, or scientific, the intellectuals will not be swayed by it. Rather, he said, propaganda is meant for the masses who cannot comprehend logic and intellect, but can be convinced of anything if their emotions are manipulated. Hitler further stated that since the masses have very little intelligence and are quite forgetful, the key to propaganda is to keep repeating the same ideas over and over again until they are understood by and engraved on the mind of even the slowest person.
There is not one hitler and one joseph goebbels today there are many. Newspapers, signs and magazines, trucks with load speakers driving through the streets of Germany promoting Jew hatred have been replaced with algorithms on social media and media outlets repeating the same script…the result is the same. A coalition being unified and prepared to do whatever it takes to eliminate the problem of the one enemy the world needs to eradicate…the Jews.

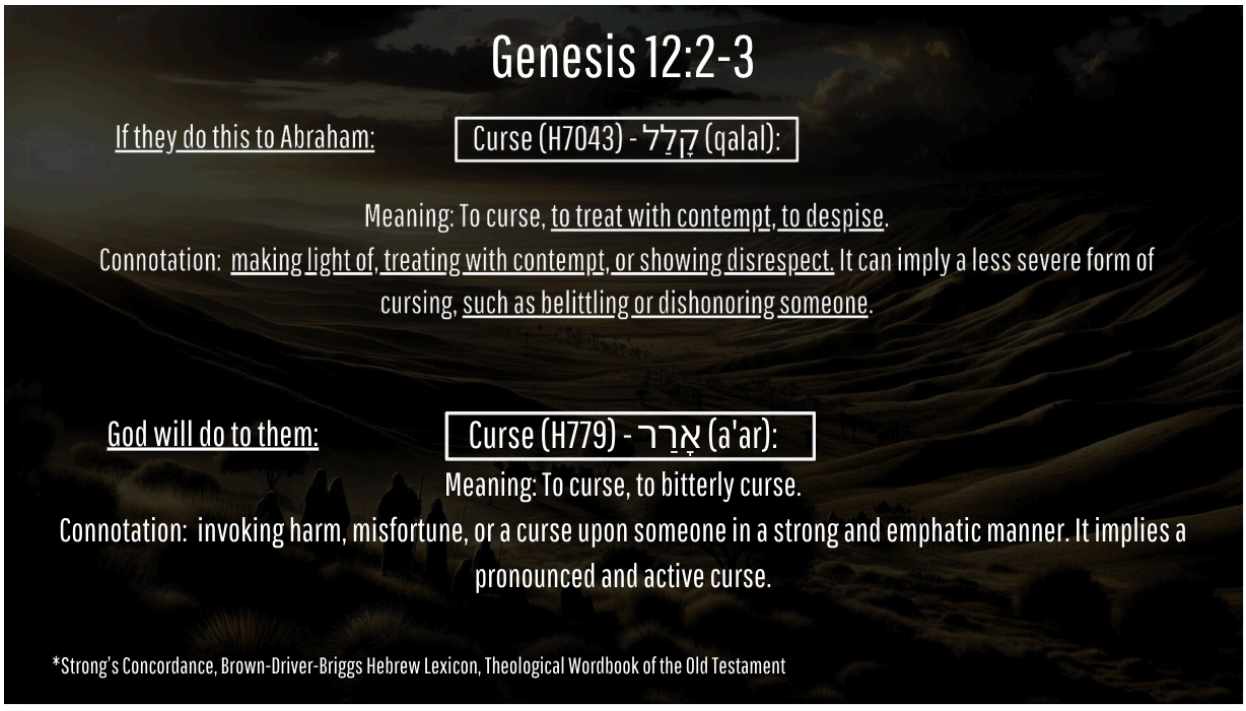
Back to the text

V.6 *For I know that whoever you bless is blessed, and whoever you curse is cursed."*

Here Balak uses language that should quickly draw your mind back to the covenant that God made with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. Whoever blesses you will be blessed, and whoever curses you I will curse.

Make no mistake, the efforts of the balaks of the world embody a direct attack on the Abrahamic covenant. Satan wants to eliminate the people, take away the land and destroy the promises of God that were given to Abraham and his descendants. This is a spiritual war.





Neither Balaam, nor Balak, nor you or anyone else has the authority to bless or curse over God, but watch what happens.

7 So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the fee for divination in their hands. They came to Balaam and reported to him the words of Balak. **8** He replied to them, “Stay here tonight, and I will bring back to you whatever word the Lord may speak to me.” So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam. **9** And God came to Balaam and said, “Who are these men with you?” **10** Balaam said to God, “Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent a message to me, saying, **11** ‘Look, a nation has come out of Egypt, and it covers the face of the earth. Come now and put a curse on them for me; perhaps I will be able to defeat them and drive them out.’” **12** But God said to Balaam, “You must not go with them; you must not curse the people, for they are blessed.”

They don't just want them to be cursed, they want to defeat them and drive them out of their land.

13 So Balaam got up in the morning, and said to the princes of Balak, “Go to your land, for the Lord has refused to permit me to go with you.” **14** So the princes of Moab departed and went back to Balak and said, “Balaam refused to come with us.”

15 Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more distinguished than the first. **16** And they came to Balaam and said to him, “Thus says Balak son of Zippor: ‘Please do not let anything hinder you from coming to me. **17** For I will honor you greatly, and whatever you tell me I will do. So come, put a curse on this nation for me.’”

Increasing pressure to curse

When the first group that came to sway Balaam to curse Israel could not succeed, Balak increased the pressure through sending higher profile individuals more numerous than the first time along with more honor.
Higher profile individuals are coming out to curse or condemn israel than ever before to pressure the rest of the people to join them in cursing and condemning

israel. It does not matter if it is politicians, hollywood stars, human rights activists, the pressure is increasing all around to agree to curse Israel.

18 Balaam replied to the servants of Balak, “Even if Balak would give me his palace
full of silver and gold, I could not transgress the commandment of the Lord my
God to do less or more. **19** Now therefore, please stay the night here also, that I
may know what more the Lord might say to me.” **20** God came to Balaam that
night, and said to him, “If the men have come to call you, get up and go with
them, but the word that I will say to you, that you must do.” **21** So Balaam got up
in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.
22 Then God’s anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the Lord
stood in the road to oppose him.

Now most people are familiar with this part of the story, An angel that Balaam can't see comes to block his way and the donkey turns aside 3 times, Balaam becomes angry with the donkey and beats him each time. But why, if God allowed him to go, was God angry at him going. Let's continue on and we will see.

31 Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord
standing in the way with his sword drawn in his hand; so he bowed his head and
threw himself down with his face to the ground. **32** The angel of the Lord said to
him, “Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? Look, I came out to
oppose you because what you are doing is perverse before me. **33** The donkey
saw me and turned from me these three times. If she had not turned from me, I
would have killed you but saved her alive.” **34** Balaam said to the angel of the
Lord, “I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood against me in the road. So
now, if it is evil in your sight, I will go back home.” **35** But the angel of the Lord said
to Balaam, “Go with the men, but you may only speak the word that I will speak to
you.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Rushing to oppose (Your way is perverse)

In verse 32 God makes it clear that the reason the angel was standing opposed, the reason He was angry was because this way that Balaam was taking was perverse before God.



Though Balaam was a seer and professed to only speak the words of God, his blind eyes still needed to be open and he did not realize that he was opposing God. He needed to be confronted and reminded not to speak anything against what God had decreed. This is true for the majority of believers today, because the pressure has increased and something inside them still longs to go with the crowd, they end up opposing God. The CJB actually says God bars Balaam's way because he was rushing to oppose God. I pray that God would open the eyes of believers everywhere so that we will not have a perverse way before Him as it concerns how we speak about Israel.

Balaam Meets Balak

36 When Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at a city of Moab that was on the border of the Arnon at the boundary of his territory. **37** Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not send again and again to you to summon you? Why

did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?” **38** Balaam said to Balak, “Look, I have come to you. Now, am I able to speak just anything? I must speak only the word that God puts in my mouth.” **39** So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kiriath Huzoth. **40** And Balak sacrificed bulls and sheep, and sent some to Balaam, and to the princes who were with him.

We will read verse 41 in the CJB because it captures what is going on:

41 In the morning Balak took Bil‘am and brought him up to the high places of Ba‘al; from there he could see a portion of the people.

Where does Balak take him? To the high places of Ba'al, a foreign god. In fact, Balak is going to do this at three different places. Each high place that he goes to the king and the princes of moab go with him and they build 7 altars offering 7 bulls and 7 rams to their gods while overlooking the people of Israel.

This is spiritual warfare! Not just a battle between people, but a battle between the gods of the nations and the God of Israel!

Let's relook at a few important slides that we covered in Exodus, Daniel and during our sermon In the face of my enemies.

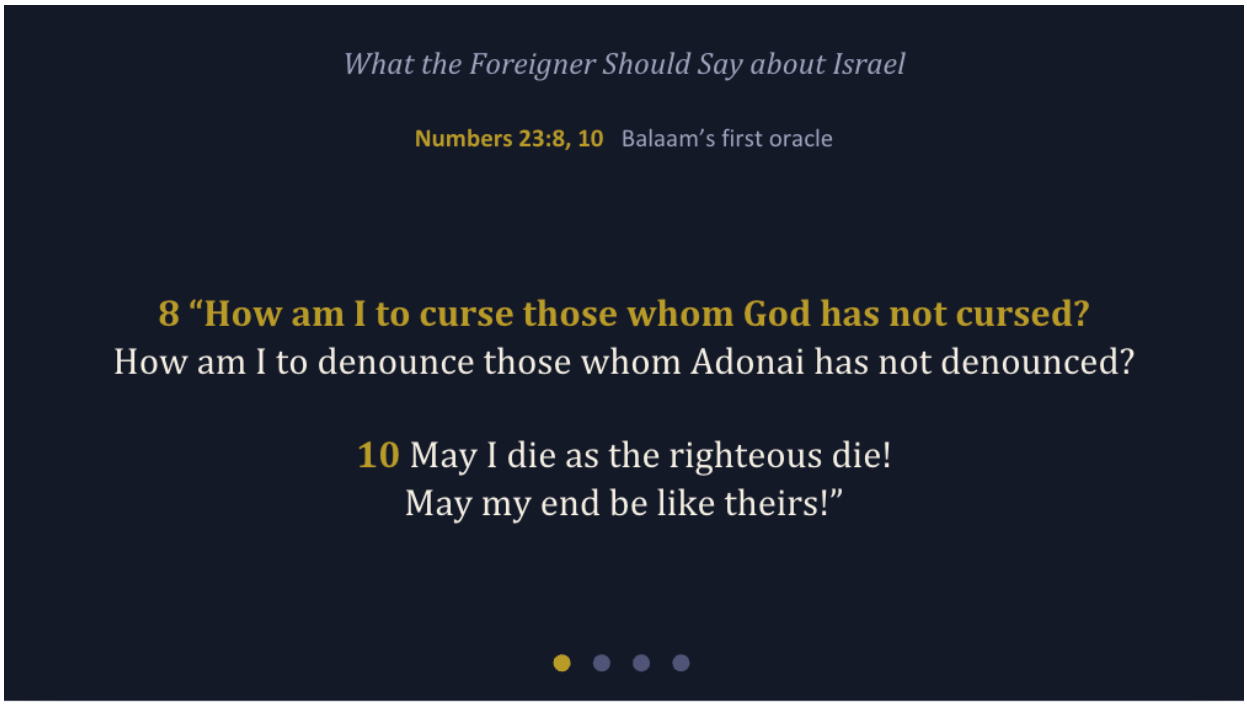


Consistently God allows His people to appear to be trapped as the gathered powers seek to destroy them. He does this to teach His people to rely on Him and to get maximum glory.

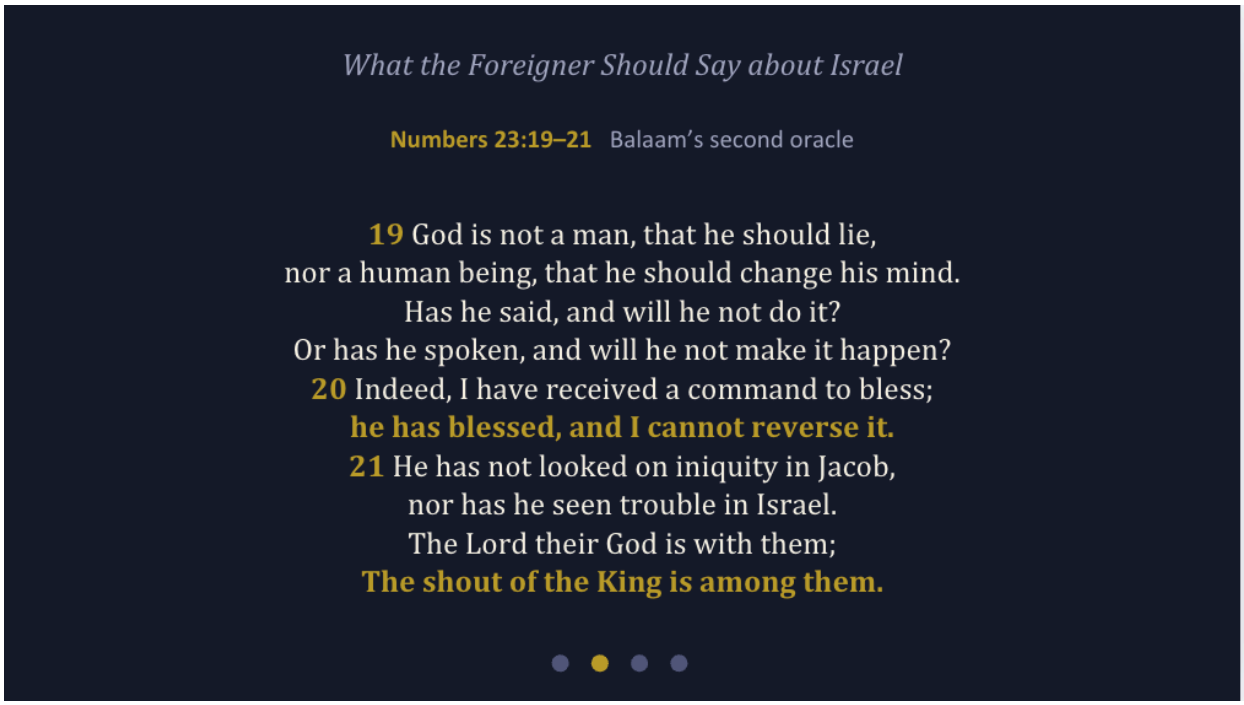


Our story finds the people gathered once again as the leaders and rulers together with their gods attempt to destroy the people. But we know the story, the God of Israel protects and defends His people right in the face of their enemies.

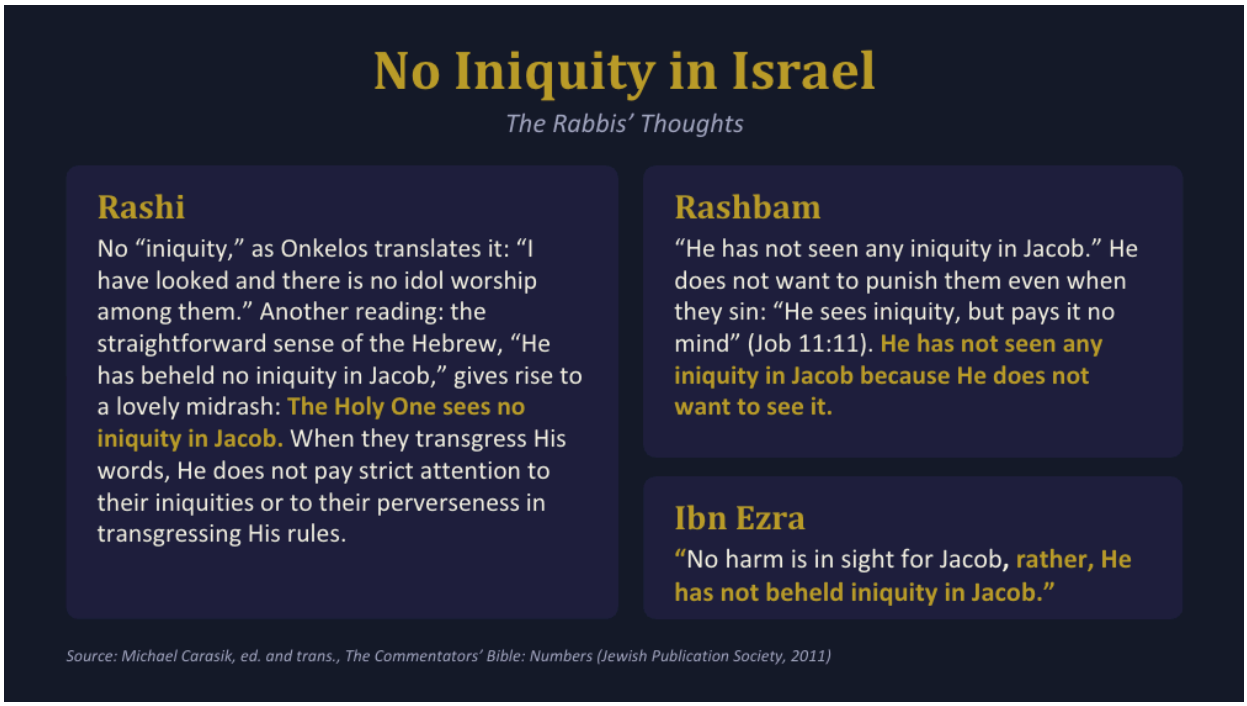
Each of the three times that Balak asks Balaam to curse he takes him up to high places.
I want to read you a portion of what Balaam says the first two times because it is instructive for us today:



And the second time:



Now wait a second…no iniquity in Israel? Remember where they are in their historical timeline. They have defeated Sihon and Og but they have not yet gotten to Gilgal where their reproach is rolled away. They are still in the middle of an entire generation dying off who did not believe and go into the promised land. As 1 Corinthians 10 describes it they have tested God in the desert and God was not pleased with most of them. You could safely say that not everything in Israel had been resolved and you could even go so far as to say that God was still in the middle of disciplining His son Israel. But what was the foreigner who spoke the words of God required to say??? Nothing bad about them. Listen to the thoughts of the Rabbis.



If that sounds weird to you let me remind you of the analogy that we gave months ago concerning this very thing. If someone who hated my wife came up to me and said, Nick can't you agree that sometimes Lyndie sticks her nose where it doesn't belong, I would not in an effort to show myself reasonable agree with them, I would correct them and highlight the fact that they have a problem with God. I have conversations and dealings with my wife but she is my precious one and if an enemy of God comes to disqualify her, to highlight a portion of her life and get me to agree to speak negatively or curse her I would have nothing to do with their speech. This should really cause us to rethink how we speak about the church to outsiders as well. The inhouse prophets consistently called out sin in their people but when an outsider who hates them has something to say when they really have no business speaking about their government or the way they choose to handle specific aspects of warfare they should be very careful lest they find themselves speaking against God. Even when nations were used to discipline Israel, if they went just a little too far or enjoyed it just a little too much God would turn and punish them for their part.

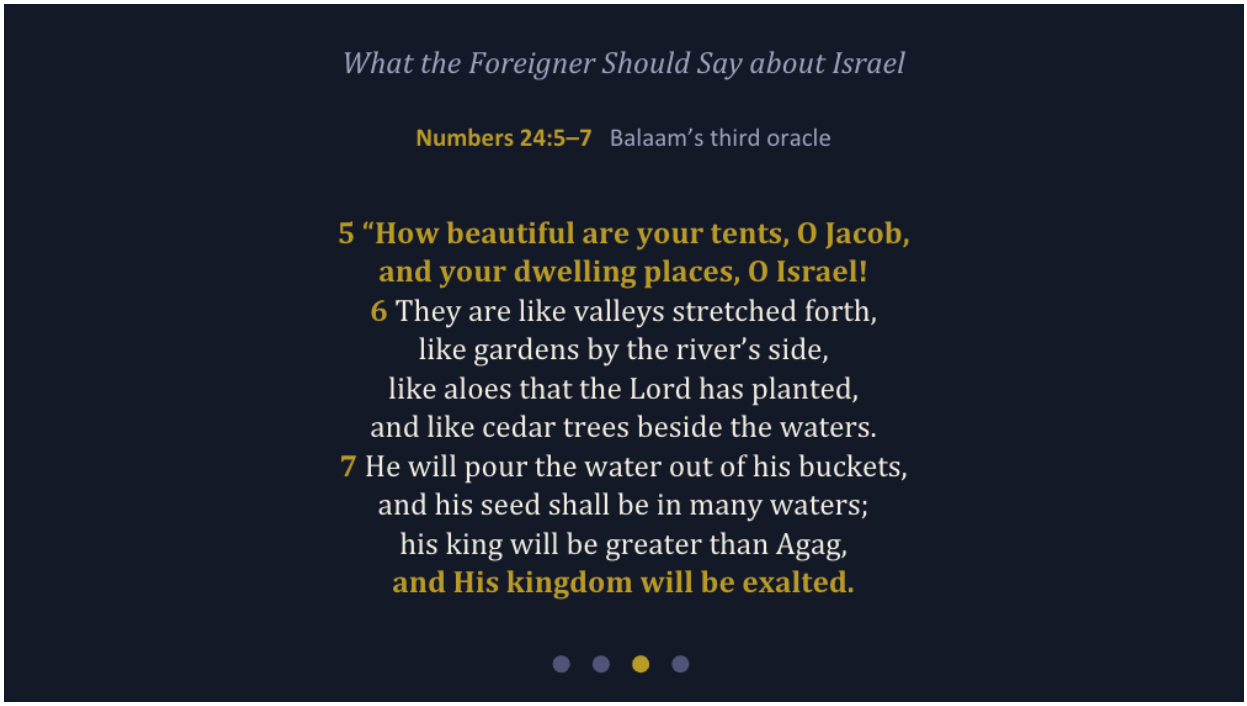
Be very careful when people who hate Israel and the Jews try to show you just a portion of Israel and get you to agree to curse them…you will find yourself opposing God…

We find out at the 3rd place that Balak takes Balaam which is Ba'al Peor that prior to each of these blessings he was making divination to hear from God which was a pagan practice to hear from God. At each of these places we see that Balaam was only shown a portion of Israel in 22:41 and 23:13. But what happens when he sees all of Israel? When he sees them ordered by their tribal encampments around the tabernacle, designed according to God's commands? Let's read:

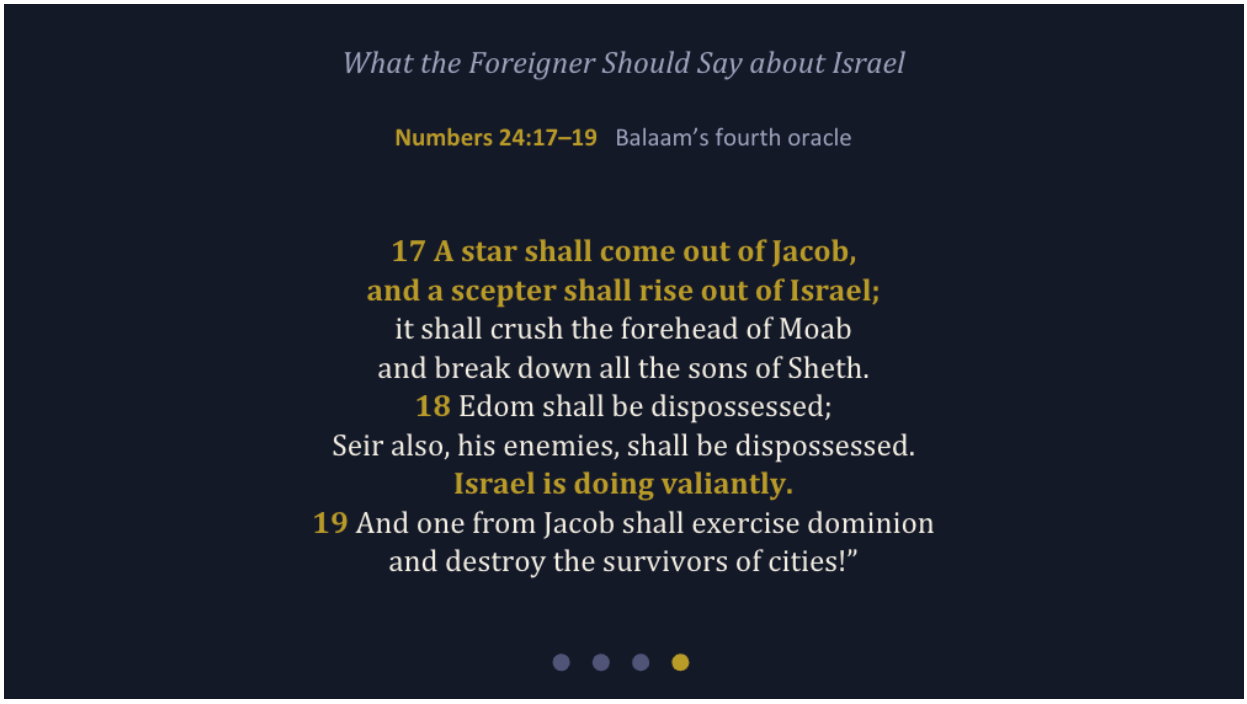
Numbers 24:1-3 ESV
When Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not go, as at other times, to look for omens, but set his face toward the wilderness.

2And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him,
3and he took up his discourse and said,

Balaam was no longer double minded, he no longer sought omens through divination but was instead filled with the Spirit. In the same way, when believers understand the full plan of God through Israel and are filled with the Spirit then what they pronounce is not only in alignment with God, they see the beauty of what He is doing:



Balak becomes incensed with Balaam but Balaam says follow me and let me tell you what is to come for you in the last days:



When Balaam sees the plan of God and is full of the Holy Spirit he begins to prophecy about their coming redemption and victory over their enemies!

So what should believers be saying during this time? The words that God commands the foreigner to speak!

Consider this:



The 70 nations of the world as counted by the 70 grandsons of Noah conspire together to kill the 1 nation that belongs to God: Israel.

Psalm 83 ESV

1 O God, do not keep silence;
do not hold your peace or be still, O God!
2 For behold, your enemies make an uproar;
those who hate you have raised their heads.
3 They lay crafty plans against your people;
they consult together against your treasured ones.
4 They say, “Come, let us wipe them out as a nation;
let the name of Israel be remembered no more!”
5 For they conspire with one accord;
against you they make a covenant—

70 against 1, conspiring together to plot against God's plan of salvation for the world. Why would 70 fight against God's plan to bless the whole world?

Listen also to Psalm 2

1 Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,
3 “Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us.”
4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
6 “As for me, I have set my King

on Zion, my holy hill.”
7 I will tell of the decree:
The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
9 You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” (didn't we just read this about Israel in Balaam's prophecy as he was filled with the Spirit?)
10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
11 Serve the Lord with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
12 Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Who are we talking about here? Is it Jesus, or is it Israel?

Isaiah 53 which speaks about the suffering servant, most Christians agree that this is specifically talking about Jesus, but Jews would say this is talking about Israel…so who is right? It is of course about both.

During Jesus' day, the ruling council of Israel, known as the Sanhedrin, was almost certainly structured around seventy rulers, with the traditional number reaching seventy-one when its presiding leader was included. This pattern reaches all the way back to Moses. In Numbers 11:16–17, God commanded Moses to gather seventy elders from among Israel's leaders, placing His Spirit upon them so they could share the burden of governing His people. This became the biblical model for Israel's highest council. The Jewish oral tradition, preserved in the Mishnah (Sanhedrin 1:6), explicitly describes the Great Sanhedrin as consisting of seventy-one members, counting Moses together with the seventy elders, while also preserving a tradition of seventy. Even the first-century Jewish historian Josephus records appointing seventy elders to govern Galilee (*Jewish War* 2.570–571). So when we encounter the Sanhedrin in the Gospels, we are looking at a ruling council whose traditional structure reflects the seventy elders whom God originally appointed through Moses.

So we again have 70 going against 1 though it is God's plan of salvation. In light of this, consider these familiar passages when placed together with their similar language.

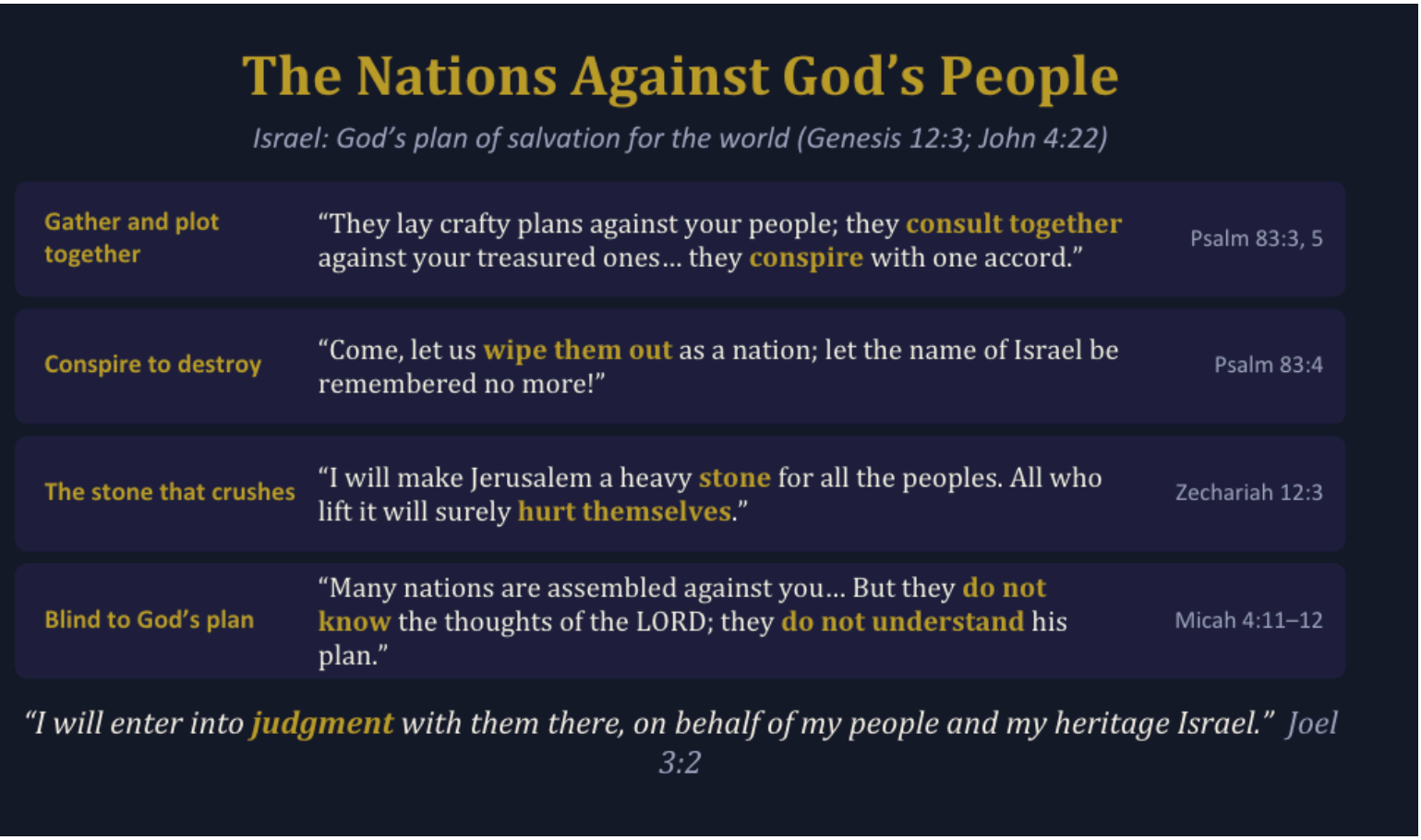
(Go back and forth comparing the parallels:)

The Rulers Against God's Anointed

Jesus: God's plan of salvation for Israel (Matthew 1:21)

Gather and plot together	"The chief priests and the elders of the people gathered… and **plotted together** in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him."	Matthew 26:3–4
Conspire to destroy	"But the Pharisees went out and **conspired** against him, how to **destroy** him."	Matthew 12:14
The stone that crushes	"The one who falls on this **stone** will be **broken to pieces**; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."	Matthew 21:44
Blind to God's plan	"None of the rulers of this age **understood** this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."	1 Corinthians 2:8

*"…because you **did not know** the time of your visitation."* *Luke 19:44*



e wanted to wash his hands of this conflict with Jesus but he was still guilty. John 12:42 makes it clear many of the rulers believed in Jesus but said nothing because they did not want to lose their place. The my is fine with you wanting to be an innocent bystander but there is no such thing. If you have ever ght if I'd have been alive in Jesus day, I like to think I would have recognized Him as the messiah or I like ink that if I'd have been alive during the holocaust I would have stood against the nazi's and hitler, well have your chance right now…do you sense the subtlety and the deception involved in the world turning nst Israel…it's hard to know exactly what to do but let me tell you one last story of Joseph of Arimathea:

23:50-52 ESV
ow there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the ncil, a good and righteous man,
ho had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God.
his man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

short term destiny of the Jews may seem like a losing battle, but you have to rid yourself of the fear of
h and being associated with something that looks like it is losing in the arena of popular opinion and
your stand. If you are looking for the kingdom of God, do not consent, do not go along with, align
self with the kingdom of God and make your stance clear and plain.