

Numbers 22-24 – Balaam’s Way & A Blessed People.

I. Balaam’s Way.

- (1-8) Balak wanted Balaam to **curse** Israel, to cripple them.

Why would Balaam invite Balak’s messengers to lodge in for the night, apparently so he could seek God’s mind on something obvious?

- (9-15) God's response to Balaam.

Who are these men with you? Don’t you know these evil men? You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.

- (16-17) Balak's messengers increase the offer to Balaam.
- (18-19) Balaam knows what to do but entertains Balak’s second offer.
- (20-21) God allows Balaam to go with Balak's messengers.
- (22-33) God's confronts Balaam through a donkey and the Angel of the LORD.
- (34-35) Balaam repents, but goes with Balak.
- (36-41) Balaam meets with Balak, king of Moab.

i. Numbers 23: Balaam’s first prophecy.

- (1-10) God meets Balaam and sends him back to Balak with a prophecy.
- (11-12) Balak's disappointed, instead of cursing Israel, Balaam blessed them.

ii. (23:13-24:2) Balaam’s second prophecy.

In this message, God rebuked Balak, and taught him that He was immortal, immutable and that He was among Israel from Egypt. Should Balaam continue engaging Balak and his offers well knowing it wasn’t God’s will?

2 Peter 2:15-16 - *They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.*

Jude 1:11 - *Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.*

James 3:7-10 - *For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we*

curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

II. (24:3-25) A Blessed Nation.

Twice now Balaam has tried to use sorcery to curse Israel. However, he utters a prophecy speaking of Israel's blessed abundance and their dominance over neighbor other nations and directly rebukes Balak for trying to curse Israel.

iii. (24:14-25) Balaam's third & fourth prophecies.

Jesus is here prophetically called **a Star** and **a Scepter**; He is glorious like a star, and has all authority to rule, as pictured by a scepter; He will eventually rule over all nations. Can a Christian be cursed?

Galatians 3:13-14 - *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree", that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Proverbs 10:22 - *The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.*

Ephesians 1:3 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...holiness, adoption, redemption, inheritance...to the praise of His glory.*

Acceptance that can never be questioned. (**Ephesians 1:6**).

An inheritance that can never be lost (**I Peter 1:3-5**).

A deliverance that can never be excelled (**2 Corinthians 1:10**).

A grace that can never be limited (**2 Corinthians 12:9**).

A hope that can never be disappointed. (**Hebrews 6:18, 19**).

A bounty that can never be withdrawn. (**I Colossians 3:21-23**).

A joy that need never be diminished (**John 15:11**).

A nearness to God that can never be reversed (**Ephesians 2:13**).

A peace that can never be disturbed (**John 14:27**).

A righteousness that can never be tarnished (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

A salvation that can never be canceled (**Hebrews 5:9** F.E. Marsh.