

Key Conclusion

Nations shall rise and fall but the king that comes out of Israel will destroy all who oppose him.

Revelation 11:15

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.*”

A Warning & Encouragement for Israel

Key Application

Don't be like blind Balaam & Balak.
Put your trust in the LORD's promised blessings.

The Folly of Balaam & Balak

Numbers 31:16, 8

¹⁶ Behold, these, *on Balaam's advice*, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord.

⁸ They killed the kings of Midian... And they also *killed Balaam* the son of Beor with the sword.

Deuteronomy 23:3

³ “No *Ammonite or Moabite* (Lot's Descendants; Gen. 19:36-38; Cf. **Deut. 2:9, 19**) may enter the assembly of the Lord. Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the Lord forever...

Trust the LORD and His Future King

Deuteronomy 23:5

⁵ But the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam; instead *the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God **loved you.***

Notes:

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#29 in Series] (Numbers 15–25) *Forty Years in the Wilderness: Part 14*

God Turned the Curse into a Blessing – Numbers 23–24

Sermon Outline – November 22, 2015

Children's Sermon: The Folly of Fighting with God

Philippians 2:14 (NLT)

Do everything without complaining and arguing...

- ❖ Why do we complain & argue?
- ❖ Why do you think we shouldn't argue with God?
- ❖ Do you think it is smart to pick a fight with God?

Big Picture

Notes:

Chapters 22-25: Further Protection from the LORD

1. God Can Speak Through a Donkey: Balaam's Oracles (22-24)
 - a. Who Own's Balaam's Heart (22; Warned by His Donkey)
(Cf. 2 Peter 2:15-16 – The prophet's "madness")
 - b. **God Turned the Curse into a Blessing (23-24)**
2. Seduction by Moab (25; Cf. 31:16 – Balaam advice)

The Folly of Balaam & Balak

Key Idea

It is folly to argue with God.

Looking for Omens

23:1-2 (3 Times) [*seven altars, seven bulls and seven rams*]

23:3

And Balaam said to Balak, “Stand beside your burnt offering, and ***I will go.*** Perhaps the LORD will come to meet me, and whatever he shows me I will tell you.”

24:1

When Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, ***he did not go, as at other times, to look for omens...***

First Oracle: “I Will Multiply Israel” (23:7-10)

“...⁸ *How can I curse whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?* ⁹ *For from the top of the crags I see him, from the hills I behold him; behold, a people dwelling alone, and not counting itself among the nations!* ¹⁰ *Who can count the*

dust of Jacob or number the fourth part of Israel? (Cf. Gen. 13:16) *Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!*"

(past, present, future; talk is cheap)

- "What have you done to me?..."
- "Must I not take care to speak what the LORD puts in my mouth?"

Second Oracle: "God is with Israel" (23:18-24)

"Rise, Balak, and hear; give ear to me, O son of Zippor:¹⁹ God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?²⁰ Behold, I received a command to bless: he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it.²¹ He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob, nor has he seen trouble in Israel. **The LORD their God is with them**, and the shout (trumpet blast; shout of joy) of a king is among them.²² God brings them out of Egypt and is for them like the horns of the wild ox.^{1 23} For there is no enchantment against Jacob, no divination against Israel; now it shall be said of Jacob and Israel, 'What has God wrought!' ²⁴ Behold, a people! As a lioness it rises up and as a lion it lifts itself; it does not lie down until it has devoured the prey and drunk the blood of the slain."

- "Do not curse them at all, and do not bless them at all."
- "Did I not tell you, 'All that the LORD says, that I must do'?"

Third Oracle: "Israel will Inherit the Land" (24:2b-9)

...And the Spirit of God came upon him,³ and he took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,⁴ the oracle of him who hears the words of God, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down (LXX – "in sleep") with his eyes uncovered:⁵ How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your encampments, O Israel!⁶ Like palm groves (valleys) that stretch afar, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the LORD has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters.⁷ Water shall flow from his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters; his king shall be higher

Notes:

than Agag², and his kingdom shall be exalted.⁸ God brings him out of Egypt and is for him like the horns of the wild ox; he shall eat up the nations, his adversaries, and shall break their bones in pieces and pierce them through with his arrows.⁹ He crouched, he lay down like a lion and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? **Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you.**"

- "...I called you to curse my enemies...! ...flee to your own place. I said, 'I will certainly honor you,' but the LORD has held you back from honor."
- "'...silver and gold, I would not be able to go beyond the word of the LORD, to do either good or bad of my own will. What the LORD speaks, that will I speak?'"

Final Oracle: Future King, Destroyer (24:14-24)

¹⁴ And now, behold, I am going to my people. Come, I will let you know what this people will do to your people in the latter days."

¹⁵ And he took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,¹⁶ the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered:¹⁷ I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: **a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel**; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

¹⁸ Edom shall be dispossessed; Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed. Israel is doing valiantly.¹⁹ And one from Jacob shall exercise dominion and destroy the survivors of cities!"²⁰ Then he looked on Amalek and took up his discourse...²¹ And he looked on the Kenite, and took up his discourse "..."Kain shall be burned when Asshur takes you away captive."²³ And he took up his discourse and said, "Alas, who shall live when God does this?"²⁴ But ships shall come from Kittim and shall afflict Asshur and Eber; and he too shall come to utter destruction."

Notes:

¹ "The metaphor, then, seems to refer to the might and power of the fabled wild ox." Ashley, T. R. (1993). The Book of Numbers (p. 480). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

² "...the name of the Amalekite king defeated by Saul in 1 Sam. 15. Of these, certain scholars see it as a specific prediction of that event, hence the defeat of Israel's oldest enemy (Exod. 17:14-16)." Ashley, T. R. (1993). The Book of Numbers (p. 492). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.