

**Message #26****Numbers 24:1-25**

We may remember that Balak, the King of the Moabites (22:4), had hired Balaam to travel to curse Israel. Balak hired Balaam, some demonic religious forecaster for hire, to prophesy against Israel. He paid big money to have him come do that. But every time Balaam was going to prophesy, God Himself showed up and told Balaam what to say.

Balak was a man used to getting his own way, but the problem is Balaam would not curse Israel because God would not let him. Balaam was not a godly man. He was a guy given to the dark arts of witchcraft and God sovereignly intervened and would not let Balaam curse Israel.

Not only did God not let him curse Israel, He made Balaam a spokesperson for Him. This is one of the great stories of the sovereignty of God.

**WHEN ANYONE SEES THE TRUTH OF GOD CONCERNING ISRAEL, AND COMMUNICATES THE TRUTH OF GOD CONCERNING ISRAEL, IT WILL ANGER THOSE WHO ARE NOT RIGHT WITH GOD.**

Balak did not like what he was hearing so he took Balaam to different spots in an attempt to get him to prophesy against Israel, but it did not work.

According to **verse 1**, when Balaam saw that God was pleased to bless Israel, he decided there is no point to this. He could not curse Israel. Balaam was so cognizant of this reality that he decided not to seek anymore omens from the Satanic world. Looking for omens and signs is not the mark of a solid faith. In fact, looking for signs is evil (Matt. 12:39; 16:4).

What Balaam decided to do was to head to the wilderness where Israel was camped. He set his face on heading to the wilderness. He left Balak standing by the altar (23:29-30), and then apparently he decided to retire from this assignment and started heading toward the wilderness where Israel was camped.

According to **verse 2**, Balaam saw Israel camping tribe by tribe, just as God had established it. God had ordered the structure of how Israel was to be camped and it would have been impressive for him to see.

When he saw this, the Spirit of God came upon Balaam and He revealed truth that would not make Balak happy and it does not make many nations happy to this very day.

We may observe from **verses 2-3**, the following:

- 1) The Spirit led this discourse. **24:3a**
- 2) The Spirit led this oracle. **24:3b**
- 3) The Spirit opened the eyes and let Balaam see these things. **24:3c**
- 4) The Spirit opened the ears and let Balaam hear the words of God. **24:4a**
- 5) The Spirit let him see the vision of Almighty God. **24:4b** This is a vision of "Shaddai."
- 6) The Spirit caused Balaam to fall down, but he did see this. **24:4c**

Balaam falls down on his face before Almighty God. This is something many of God's people don't do. Truth is, when one is controlled by the Holy Spirit, one will bow down before God. Balak has hired Balaam to curse Israel and Balaam is down on his face before the God of Israel.

So this is all produced by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God overtakes a Satanic man for the purpose of revealing this oracle. This language clearly shows that what Balaam says is a God-inspired, faithful statement that is worthy of acceptance because it is Divine Revelation

At one time, Balaam had been blind to truth, but God's Spirit opened his eyes and he could now see it clearly. **Do not ever underestimate the Sovereignty of God in being able to open up blinded minds and hearts; even the mind and hearts of people demonic and Satanic.**

From **verse 5** we learn that this prophetic Spirit-led discourse concerns Israel and where she will ultimately live. The idea of "fair tents" and "dwellings" is the idea of a delightful place to live. Israel is seen as having a very comfortable place to live because of the blessings of God.

What Balaam sees are four parts to this:

**PART #1** – The prophetic visions of Balaam. **24:6-9**

Balaam revealed the following realities in the hearing ear of Balak:

**Vision #1** - The place where Israel dwells will be a wonderful blessed place. **24:6-7a**

Now what is described here is the beauty of where the tents and dwellings are located:

**(Reality #1)** - It will be a place of beautiful stretched out valleys. **24:6a**

The valleys are long and wide and spread out. No one is cramped.

**(Reality #2)** - It will be a place that is like a garden beside the river. **24:6b**

There will be no lack of good water where Israel lives.

**(Reality #3)** - It will be a place of beautiful trees. **24:6c**

What is described here is a beautiful garden-type place that is not barren, not rocky and not a desert. Israel saw a lot of that on the way to her land, but once in the land, it all changes.

The cedar trees are strong trees and the aloes are trees that can grow to 100-120 feet tall. They are known for their resin that makes perfume.

**(Reality #4)** - It will be a place of flowing water. **24:7a**

The description here is that there is an abundance of overflowing water coming as a blessing of God. All of the seed of God will be blessed with wonderful water. Israel will have amazing prosperity. Her land will be a land of milk and honey, of “beauty and bounty.”

**Vision #2** - The place where Israel dwells will have the great King who will reign. **24:7b**

There is no question that this is a prediction of the reign of Jesus Christ. Psalm 89:27 predicts that a Davidic King would reign one day who would be “the highest of kings of the earth.” That king is none other than Jesus Christ.

Now one of the most dominant kings was a king named Agag. Apparently the name “Agag” was the name of a powerful king, who was dominant in the world at the time of this prophecy.

We do know that hundreds of years later there was an Amalekite king with this very name who was ultimately toppled by Saul (I Sam. 15:8). Agag was a name like Ceasar. What Balaam sees is that one day Israel will have a King stronger than the mightiest king on the face of the earth. That King will be Jesus Christ.

**Vision #3** - Israel will dominate and destroy all enemies because God is on her side. **24:8-9a**

Balaam says God brought Israel out of Egypt and He is on her side fighting for her and attacking her enemies like the horns of a wild ox. But it doesn’t just end with Egypt. God will devour all of Israel’s adversaries. Nations will fall and He will crush them and shatter them. Not only is God like a wild ox, He is like a crouched lion. He is ready to spring up and destroy all of Israel’s enemies.

**Vision #4** - Everyone who blesses Israel will be blessed. **24:9b**

God actually confirms through the mouth of a demonic man that He will bless those who bless Israel.

**Vision #5** - Everyone who curses Israel will be cursed. **24:9c**

Now remember Balaam has been hired to curse Israel. Instead, he says everyone who curses Israel will be cursed.

Now as Balaam was revealing this to Balak, you can imagine that it did not make him happy.

**PART #2** – The responses of Balak to Balaam’s prophetic vision. **24:10-11**

According to **verses 10-11**, Balak was not happy with this vision. Balak’s anger burned against Balaam and he clapped his hands together violently and he responded to Balaam with four responses:

**Response #1** - Balak said I called you to curse Israel my enemy. **24:10a**

**Response #2** - Balak said you have blessed Israel three times. **24:10b**

**Response #3** - Balak said you need to get out of here and go home. **24:11a**

**Response #4** - Balak said I would have honored you, but the LORD has held you back. **24:11b**

What a bunch of nonsense. Balak says you could have struck it rich here. You could have had lots of money and fame. What he says, “the LORD has held you back from honor.” You have been deprived by the God of Israel. You are a loser because you have obeyed God.

You may be certain of this. God will not ever forget about those who obeyed His Word. He will honor and exalt those who humbled themselves to him.

**PART #3** – The response of Balaam to Balack. **24:12-14**

Balaam had seen and heard enough and he responded in three ways to Balak:

**Response #1** - I told your messengers how I would operate right up front. **24:12**

**Response #2** - I told your messengers that no matter how much you gave me I would not be able to do anything contrary to the God of Israel. **24:13**

**Response #3** - I am going home but before I go home I want to predict what will happen to you. **24:14**

Balaam says before I go, I want to tell you what will happen to Israel and to you.

**PART #4** – The final prophetic vision of Balaam to Balak. **24:15-24**

Now this final vision of Balaam gives us an amazing prophetic glimpse of Israel’s future and what will happen to Israel’s enemies.

According to **verses 15-16**, Balaam says what I am about to tell you is not coming from me. Almighty God has let me see these things. God permitted Balaam to see a prophetic plan that was not immediately on the horizon. Prophecy may only be known and understood by those who God permits to see it and understand it. It must be produced by the Holy Spirit so if someone is not yielding to the Holy Spirit, they will never get it.

Now there are eleven observations we want to see from Balaam’s vision:

**Observation #1** - The prophetic plan is focused on a real man. **24:17a**

There will be some real person identified as “him,” a male who will fulfill this.

**Observation #2** - The prophetic plan concerning that man is not now. **24:17b**

The plan concerning this special man was not in the immediate present time. In other words, the Person I am talking about is not presently here.

**Observation #3** - The prophetic plan concerning that man is not near. **24:17c**

The fulfillment of this prophetic plan would be in the future, but not the immediate future.

**Observation #4** - The prophetic plan will focus on One Person who will come from Jacob's line. **24:17d**

There will be a heavenly star from Jacob's line who will be here as a man. He will come from heaven but will be a real man in Jacob's line.

**Observation #5** - The prophetic plan will focus on a scepter-ruler who will come from Israel. **24:17e**

A heavenly man king ruler will come from Israel and will dominate the world. We know who this is because God the Father said that this is a reference to Jesus Christ His Son (Hebrews 1:8).

**Observation #6** - The scepter ruler will crush all of Israel's enemies. **24:17f**

This not only includes Moab, who is representative of all enemies who curse Israel, but also He will tear down the sons of Seth. We take this to refer to all humanity who hates Israel. Seth was a son of Noah through whom Jesus Christ actually was born (Luke 3:38). What I understand this to mean is that the scepter-ruler will destroy any nation or individual who rejects Him and hates Israel. One could be Gentile or Jewish. All enemies will be crushed one day.

**Observation #7** - The scepter-ruler will take possession of enemy territory. **24:18a**

People and places who were Israel's enemies will become Israel's possessions.

**Observation #8** - Israel will perform valiantly. **24:18b**

David wrote a Psalm that described the fact that God had been angry with His people but then delivered them. He wrote: "Through God we shall do valiantly, and it is He who will tread down our adversaries" (Psalm 60:12).

**Observation #9** - One from Jacob's line will have total dominion over everything. **24:19a**

Isaiah predicted one would come who would have all the government of God on His shoulders, who would be the mighty God (Isaiah 9:6). Balaam is seeing the same Person.

**Observation #10** - One from Jacob's line will destroy the enemy remnant from the city. **24:19b**

We believe this is a reference to what Jesus Christ will do in Jerusalem. The remnant of unbelievers and enemies of God and Israel will be destroyed.

**Observation #11** - In the future, the entire enemy world will be destroyed. **24:20-22**

Balaam says this one will defeat the Moabites, the Edomites, the Amalekites and the Kenites. These were all enemies who lived in modern day Arab territories.

In fact, Balaam says no one will live apart from God decreeing it. In other words, this will be a time when no one will survive unless this one permits it.

God will direct ships to come attack places He wants to destroy. This has reference to the fact that Israel would be attacked over the years, but in the end God will destroy all enemies.

**Verse 25** says when Balaam was done, he headed out for home and so did Balak.

I'll bet old Balak was sorry he ever invited Balaam to come to see him.