

God loving His people

Numbers 23:1 And **Balaam said unto Balak,** Build me here **seven altars,** and prepare me here **seven oxen** and **seven rams.** 2 And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and **Balaam offered on every altar a bullock and a ram.** 3 And Balaam said unto Balak, **Stand by thy burnt offering, and I will go:** peradventure **the Lord will come to meet me:** and **whatsoever he sheweth me I will tell thee.** And he went to an high place. 4 And **God met Balaam:** and he said unto him, I have prepared seven altars, and I have offered upon every altar a bullock and a ram. 5 And **the Lord put a word in Balaam's mouth,** and said, Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak. 6 And he

returned unto him, and, lo, **he stood by his burnt sacrifice**, he, and all the princes of Moab. **7** And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, Out of the mountains of the east, saying, **Come, curse me Jacob, And come, defy Israel.** **8** **How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed Or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied?** **9** For from the top of the rocks I see him, And from the hills I behold him: Lo, the people shall dwell alone, And shall not be reckoned among the nations. **10** Who can count the dust of Jacob, And the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, And let my last end be like his! **11** And **Balak said unto Balaam**, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and,

behold, **thou hast blessed them altogether.**

12 And he answered and said, **Must I not take heed to speak that which the Lord hath put in my mouth?** **13** And **Balak said** unto him, **Come,**

I pray thee, with me unto another place, **from whence thou mayest see them:** thou shalt see but the

utmost part of them, and shalt not see them all: and **curse me them from thence.** **14** And he brought him into

the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and **built seven altars,** and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar. **15**

And he said unto **Balak, Stand here by thy**

burnt offering, while I meet the

Lord yonder. **16** And **the Lord met**

Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus. **17** And when he came to him,

behold, he stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab

with him. And **Balak said unto him, What hath the Lord spoken?** 18 And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; Hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor: 19 **God is not a man, that he should lie; Neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?** 20 Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; And **I cannot reverse it.** 21 **He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, Neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: The Lord his God is**

with him, And the shout of a king is among them.

22 God brought them out of Egypt; He hath as it were the strength of an unicorn. 23 Surely **there is no**

enchantment against Jacob, Neither is there any divination against Israel:

According to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel,

What hath God wrought! 24

Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, And lift up himself as a young lion: He shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, And drink the blood of the slain. 25 And **Balak**

said unto Balaam, Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all. 26 But Balaam

answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, **All that the Lord speaketh, that I must do?**

27 And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto another place; **peradventure it will**

please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence. 28 And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward Jeshimon. 29 And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here **seven altars, and prepare me here seven bullocks and seven rams.** 30 And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar.

1. Continuing with what you know isn't right
 - a. Balaam is an evil man
 - b. He isn't serving God but himself
 - c. He wants the money and the fame
 - d. He is willing to be used for the wrong purposes
 - e. God made it clear to Balaam in the last chapter that He didn't want Balaam participating in all of this cursing of His people
 - f. They started by Balaam participating in a worship to Baal
- Numbers 22:39 And **Balaam went with Balak,** and they came unto Kirjath-huzoth. 40 And **Balak**

offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that were with him. ⁴¹ And it came to pass on the morrow, that **Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal,** that thence he might see the utmost part of the people.

g. Now Balaam will build 7 altars and sacrifice 7 oxen and 7 rams ^{Numbers 23:1} And **Balaam said unto Balak,** Build me here **seven altars,** and prepare me here **seven oxen** and **seven rams.** ²

And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and

Balaam offered on every altar a bullock and a ram. ³ And Balaam said unto Balak, **Stand by thy burnt offering, and I will go:** peradventure **the Lord will come to meet me:** and **whatsoever he sheweth me I will tell thee.** And he went to

an high place. **14** And he brought him into the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and **built seven altars**, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar. **27** And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto another place; **peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence.** **28** And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward Jeshimon. **29** And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here **seven altars, and prepare me here seven bullocks and seven rams.**

- h. Testing door knobs is not working. Trying to find out if the doors are open is not God's way.
 - i. We find God's will through His Word
 - ii. Don't fall into the trap of trying every angle before you consult with the Word of God
 - iii. Test your motives and be sure that you really are seeking God and His

iv. will and not a sneaky, spiritual way to get what you want

2. God has a special relationship with Israel **8 How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed Or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied?**

a. They are His chosen

b. He has made great promises to them **Genesis 12:1** Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: **2** And I will make of thee a **great nation,** and I will **bless thee,** and **make thy name great;** and thou **shalt be a blessing:** **3** And I will **bless them that**

bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

i. God has judged every ruler and nation that have caused His people to suffer

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. and Nazi Germany

ii. No nation has been blessed of God like Israel

1. Materially
2. Divine protection

c. There are no other people like the nation of Israel **9 For**

from the top of the rocks I see him, And from the hills I behold him: Lo, the people shall **dwell alone, And**

shall **not be reckoned among the**

nations. **10 Who can **count the dust of****

Jacob, And the number of the fourth part of Israel?

Let me die the death of the righteous, And let my last end be like his!

- i. Dwell alone. There is none like them. They are a one of a kind nation
- ii. Not reckoned among the nations. They do not even think of themselves like a regular country. [Exodus 19:5](#)

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be **a peculiar treasure** unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: [6](#) And **ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.** These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

- d. Even when Balaam tries to curse them blessings come out

[11](#) And **Balak said unto Balaam,** What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, **thou hast blessed them altogether.** [12](#) And he answered and said, **Must**

I not take heed to speak that which the Lord hath put in my mouth?

3. Grace exhibited in this story

- a. Immutability of God **19 God is not a man, that he should lie; Neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**
 - i. God is not someone you manipulate and twist to do what you want
 - ii. God can be trusted to tell the truth because He doesn't change **Hebrews 6:18** That by two immutable things, in which it was **impossible for God to lie**, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

- iii. He said He would save us and so He will
- iv. He remains faithful **II Timothy 2:13** *If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*
- v. God is no man to be tricked into doing something He doesn't want to do

b. The way He looks at His people **21 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, Neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: The Lord his God is with him,** *And the shout of a king is among them.*

- i. God didn't see any iniquity or perverseness in His people. Rather a kingdom of priests **Exodus 19:6** *And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy*

nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

ii. They had messed up and suffered the consequences of their sin. Been chastised even.

iii. This is exactly how it is with us today. We are His people

1. His chosen [Ephesians 1:4](#) According as he hath

chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

2. Hidden in Christ [Colossians 3:3](#) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

3. Clothed in Him and His righteousness

[II Corinthians 5:17](#) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. [21](#) For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

4. We are seated in the heavenliness [Ephesians 2:4](#) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love

wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us **sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

5. In Christ we are His special people [I Peter 2:5](#) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood,** to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ⁹ But ye are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;** that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: ¹⁰ Which in time past were not a people, but are now **the people of God:** which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

- iv. It was the substitute, the blood sacrifice, Jesus that made this difference
- v. He sees you in Christ
- c. It is God that does the work of making them His people and blessing them **22 God brought them out of Egypt; He hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.**
 - i. It was God and His strength that made us
 - ii. He is the One that has done the work
 - iii. We have just trusted and received the free gift
- d. God takes care of His people **23 Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, Neither is there any divination against Israel:** According to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, **What hath God wrought!**
 - i. He has saved us and keeps us
 - ii. He has given us His power.
 - iii. He has given us spiritual armor to be able to stand

- iv. He is with us and will never leave us
- v. We can know that He will see us safely through till we reach home
- e. God's people will win **24 Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, And lift up himself as a young lion: He shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, And drink the blood of the slain.**
 - i. We live in victory
 - ii. Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world
 - iii. Through Him we will do great things
 - iv. We have overcome the world

4. Lessons to learn

- a. Israel wanted to be like the world and that is what destroyed them
- b. They imitated their neighbors in their worship and conduct and God disciplined them
- c. Today the church wants to be like the world to reach the world
- d. They forget that the church is the people of God, a very special people, saved by His grace.
- e. Instead of separation they promote imitation

- f. Campbell Morgan reminded us, "The church did the most for the world when the church was the least like the world."
- g. It is time to stop playing games with God's will and just using God as an excuse to do what we want
- h. If you understand how He loves you then it will affect the way you live out your faith
- i. He has forgiven your sin even before you commit it. Can you live on in sin to take advantage of such love