

NUMBERS 22-25 BALAK AND BALAAM

Chapter 22 Balak Needs Balaam

Summary: Moabite king Balak fears Israel and sends for Balaam to curse Israel (1-14). God warns Balaam to speak only as directed (15-21). God nearly kills Balaam, (perhaps for greediness [2 Pet. 2: 14-15]) (22-41).

Lessons: 1. *Knowing God brings peace.* [Balak and company fear for nothing. God has commanded that no harm come to Moab (Deut. 2:9).]

2. *Knowing God brings purity.* Balaam works for nothing (24:11). He puts himself, not God, first, and wastes his time, energy, and resources.

Chapter 23 Balaam Utters The First Two Prophecies

Summary: Balaam cannot curse Israel because God has blessed them. Balaam's *first* prophecy gives *Israel's calling*. They are God's special people, separate from other nations (1-12). Balaam's *second* prophecy gives *Israel's acceptance*. They were delivered from Egypt by lambs' blood, and they are God's own purchased possession. Humanly speaking, they are failures, but from God's viewpoint, they are His forever (13-30).

Lesson: *Believers in Jesus are called and accepted in Him (Eph. 1:6).*

Chapter 24 Balaam Utters The Last Two Prophecies

Summary: Balaam's *third* prophecy gives *Israel's blessings* in the Promised Land, especially precious water (1-14). The *fourth* prophecy gives *Israel's future*, when Christ returns and establishes His kingdom (15-25). These 4 prophecies give Israel's history, from election as a nation to exaltation in the kingdom. Believers in Christ are chosen of God, justified and accepted, given a rich inheritance, and promised future glory.

Lesson: *Thank God for the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8).*

Chapter 25 Balak's And Balaam's Ultimate Victory

Summary: The "doctrine of Balaam" (Rev. 2:14) succeeds where cursing fails. He counsels Israel's seduction by the Baal cult (31:16). Israel's sin of harlotry (1-5) is punished (6-18), with 24,000 dying. Balaam's "error" (Jude 11) is to cause others to sin and to practice religion for profit.

Lesson: *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Mt. 5:8)*