



Lesson 44 – Balaam Part II

based on Numbers 22:35 - Numbers 24.

Balaam left for Moab against the council of the LORD. His donkey not only spared his life but spoke to him by the power of God. The eyes of Balaam were now opened, and he beheld the angel of God standing with drawn sword ready to slay him. In terror ***“he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. The angel said to him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? Behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: and the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.”***

- 1) What spirit was in Balaam?

Proverbs 12:10 A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the _____ are cruel.

- 2) Realizing God was on to him, what did Balaam declare?

Numbers 22:34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have _____; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again.

- 3) What was God's reply?

Numbers 22:35 And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, _____ the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

God would give evidence to Moab that the Hebrews were under the guardianship of Heaven, and this He did effectually when He showed them how powerless Balaam was even to utter a curse against them without divine permission.

- 4) How did Balak greet Balaam?

Numbers 22:36-37 And when Balak heard that Balaam was come, he went out to meet him unto a city of Moab, which is in the border of Arnon, which is in the utmost coast. And Balak said unto Balaam, Did I not _____ send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to _____?

- 5) How did Balaam reply?

Numbers 22:38 And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any _____ at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I _____.

Balaam greatly regretted this restriction; he feared that his purpose could not be carried out, because the Lord's controlling power was upon him.

The Moabites were working against God, and they determined, as Pharaoh had done, to enlist the power of sorcery to counteract the work of God. They would bring a curse upon Israel. Little did they realize how foolish their attempts were.

- 6) Where did they go to curse Israel?

22:39-41 And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kirjathhuzoth. And Balak offered _____ and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that were with him. And it came to pass on the morrow, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of _____, that thence he might see the utmost part of the people.



Behold the prophet as he stands upon the lofty height, looking down over the encampment of God's chosen people. How little do the Israelites know of what is taking place so near them! How little do they know of the care of God, extended over them by day and by night! How dull are the perceptions of God's people! How slow are they, in every age, to comprehend His great love and mercy!

7) What did Balaam have Balak do?

Number 23:1-3 And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here _____ altars, and prepare me here seven oxen and seven rams. And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on every altar a bullock and a ram. And Balaam said unto Balak, Stand by thy burnt offering, and I will go: peradventure the LORD will come to _____ me: and whatsoever he sheweth me I will tell thee. And he went to an high place.

Balaam had some knowledge of the sacrificial offerings of the Hebrews, and he hoped that by surpassing them in costly gifts he might secure the blessing of God and ensure the accomplishment of his sinful projects. Thus, the sentiments of the idolatrous Moabites were gaining control of his mind. His wisdom had become foolishness; his spiritual vision was beclouded; he had brought blindness upon himself by yielding to the power of Satan.

8) What did Balaam declare in the presence of all?

Numbers 23:7-8 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. How shall I curse, whom _____ hath _____? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?

Numbers 23:9-10 For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell _____, and shall not be reckoned among the nations. Who can count the _____ 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!

9) Was Balak thrilled?

Numbers 23:11 And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou _____ unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast _____ them altogether.

Balaam confessed that he came with the purpose of cursing Israel, but the words he uttered were directly contrary to the sentiments of his heart. He was constrained to pronounce blessings, while his soul was filled with curses.

He beheld the increase and prosperity of the true Israel of God to the close of time. He saw the special favor of the Most High attending those who love and fear Him. He saw them supported by His arm as they enter the dark valley of the shadow of death. And he beheld them coming forth from their graves, crowned with glory, honor, and immortality. He saw the redeemed rejoicing in the unfading glories of the earth made new. And as he saw the crown of glory on every brow, the joy beaming from every countenance, and looked forward to that endless life of unalloyed happiness, he uttered the solemn prayer, ***“Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!”***

10) Did Balak decide to give up?

Numbers 23:13-14 And Balak said unto him, Come, I pray thee, with me unto _____ place, from whence thou mayest see them: thou shalt see but the utmost part of them, and shalt not see them _____: and curse me them from thence. 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.



He decided that the imposing spectacle presented by the vast encampment of the Hebrews had so intimidated Balaam that he dared not practice his divinations against them. The king determined to take the prophet to some point where only a small part of the host might be seen. If Balaam could be induced to curse them in detached parties, the whole camp would soon be devoted to destruction.

11) What words did God put in Balaam's mouth this time?

Numbers 23:19-20 God is not a man, that he should _____; 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? Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot _____ it.

Numbers 23:21-22 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is _____ him, and the shout of a king is among them. God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an _____.

12) Awed by these revelations, Balaam exclaimed:

Numbers 23:23 Surely there is no enchantment _____ 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!

All the world should wonder at the marvelous work of God in behalf of His people, that a man determined to pursue a sinful course should be so controlled by divine power as to utter, instead of imprecations, the richest and most precious promises, in the language of sublime and impassioned poetry. And the favor of God at this time manifested toward Israel was to be an assurance of His protecting care for His obedient, faithful children in all ages.

13) Was Balak, the king, happy?

Numbers 23:25 And Balak said unto Balaam, Neither _____ them at all, nor _____ them at all.

14) Was Balak convinced yet?

Numbers 23:27-28 And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto _____ place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence. And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward _____.

Here the same number of altars were erected as before, and the same number of sacrifices were offered; but Balaam went not alone, as at other times, to learn God's will. He made no pretense of sorcery, but standing beside the altars, he looked abroad upon the tents of Israel.

15) What message did the Spirit put into Balaam?

Numbers 24:5-7 How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! As the valleys are they spread forth, as _____ by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters. He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be _____.

Numbers 24:8-9 God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows. He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? _____ is he that blesseth thee, and _____ is he that curseth thee.



The prosperity of God's people is here represented by some of the most beautiful figures to be found in nature. The prophet likens Israel to fertile valleys covered with abundant harvests; to flourishing gardens watered by never-failing springs; to the fragrant sandal tree and the stately cedar. The figure last mentioned is one of the most strikingly beautiful and appropriate to be found in the inspired word.

16) What are we likened to?

Psalms 92:12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a _____ in Lebanon.

Balaam prophesied that Israel's King would be greater and more powerful than Agag. This was the name given to the kings of the Amalekites, who were at this time a very powerful nation; but Israel, if true to God, would subdue all her enemies. The King of Israel was the Son of God; and His throne was one day to be established in the earth, and His power to be exalted above all earthly kingdoms.

17) What did Balak tell Balaam?

Numbers 24:11 Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath _____ thee _____ from honour.

Balak was overwhelmed with disappointed hope, with fear and rage. He was indignant that Balaam could have given him the least encouragement of a favorable response, when everything was determined against him. He regarded with scorn the prophet's compromising, deceptive course.

18) Was Balaam done speaking for God?

Numbers 24:17 I shall see him, but not _____: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a _____ shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

And he closed by predicting the complete destruction of Moab and Edom, of Amalek and the Kenites, thus leaving to the Moabitish king no ray of hope.

Disappointed in his hopes of wealth and promotion, in disfavor with the king, and conscious that he had incurred the displeasure of God, Balaam returned from his self-chosen mission. After he had reached his home the controlling power of the Spirit of God left him, and his covetousness, which had been merely held in check, prevailed. He was ready to resort to any means to gain the reward promised by Balak. Balaam knew that the prosperity of Israel depended upon their obedience to God, and that there was no way to cause their overthrow but by seducing them into sin. He now decided to secure Balak's favor by advising the Moabites of the course to be pursued to bring a curse upon Israel.

19) Like David, what should we pray?

Psalms 17:5 Hold up my _____ in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

It is a perilous thing to allow an unchristian trait to live in the heart. One cherished sin will, little by little, debase the character, bringing all its nobler powers into subjection to the evil desire. The removal of one safeguard from the conscience, the indulgence of one evil habit, one neglect of the high claims of duty, breaks down the defenses of the soul and opens the way for Satan to come in and lead us astray.

Can you see what a cherished sin can do?

Would you like to be at peace with the LORD?

When is it time to humbly seek God's will?