

## Numbers 22-25

<p>1Then the children of Israel moved, and camped <b>in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan across from Jericho.</b></p> <p>2Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done <b>to the Amorites.</b> 3And <b>Moab was exceedingly afraid</b> of the people because they were many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel. 4<b>So Moab said to the elders of Midian,</b> “Now this company will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.”</p>	<p>The place: <i>Abel Shittim</i> (Joshua 3:1)</p> <p>Amorites Num 21:21-32  <b>Moab &amp; Midian</b>          No need to fear Israel as Deut 2:9; Moab supplied Israel with bread/water for money (Deut 2:29)</p>
<p>And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. 5Then <b>he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor</b>, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying:</p> <p>“Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! 6Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”</p> <p>7So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner’s fee in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak. 8And he said to them, “Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the Lord speaks to me.” So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.</p> <p>9Then God came to Balaam and said, <b>“Who are these men with you?”</b></p> <p>10So Balaam said to God, “Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, 11‘Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out.’ ”</p> <p>12And God said to Balaam, <b>“You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.”</b> 13So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, “Go back to your land, for the Lord has refused to give me permission to go with you.” 14And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, “Balaam refuses to come with us.”</p> <p>15<b>Then Balak again</b> sent princes, <b>more numerous and more honorable</b> than they. 16And they came to Balaam and said to him, “Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: ‘Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me; 17‘for I will certainly <b>honor you greatly</b>, and I will do whatever you say to me. Therefore please come, curse this people for me.’ ”</p> <p>18Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, “Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more. 19Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me.”</p> <p>20And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, “If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do.”</p>	<p>The Midianites advised Moabite King Balak to send for Balaam, a first time.</p> <p>God: You shall not go, nor shall you curse them.</p> <p>Second Time:</p> <p>God: Go, but only speak my words.</p>

<p>21 So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.</p> <p>22 Then <b>God's anger was aroused</b> because he went, and <b>the Angel of the Lord</b> took His stand in the way as <b>an adversary</b> against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.</p> <p>23 Now <b>the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord</b> standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road.</p> <p>24 Then <b>the Angel of the Lord</b> stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. 25 And when <b>the donkey saw</b> the Angel of the Lord, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again.</p> <p>26 Then <b>the Angel of the Lord</b> went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 And when <b>the donkey saw</b> the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.</p>	<p><b>Donkey</b></p> <p>What did Balaam do?</p> <p>First, Angel drew His sword. Donkey left the road</p> <p>Second, Angel in narrow path Donkey pushed against wall.</p> <p>Third, Angel in narrower path Donkey lay down.</p>
<p>28 Then the Lord <b>opened the mouth of the donkey</b>, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" 29 And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!" 30 So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."</p> <p>31 Then the Lord <b>opened Balaam's eyes</b>, and <b>he saw</b> the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.</p> <p>32 And <b>the Angel of the Lord</b> said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. 33 "The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, <b>surely I would also have killed you by now</b>, and let her live."</p> <p>34 And Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back." 35 Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "<b>Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak.</b>" So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.</p>	<p><b>Donkey Speaks</b></p> <p>2 Peter 2:16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.</p> <p>Balaam confesses</p> <p>God: Go, but only speak my words.</p>

<p>36Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory. 37Then Balak said to Balaam, “Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? <b>Am I not able to honor you?</b>”</p> <p>38And Balaam said to Balak, “Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? <b>The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak.</b>” 39So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to <b>Kirjath Huzoth</b>. 40Then Balak offered oxen and sheep, and he sent some to Balaam and to the princes who were with him.</p>	<p>Arnon River</p> <p>I have come but I speak only God’s word</p>
<p>41So it was <b>the next day</b>, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might <b>observe</b> the extent of the people.</p> <p>Chapter 23</p> <p>1Then Balaam said to Balak, “Build seven altars for me here, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.” 2And Balak did just as Balaam had spoken, and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on each altar. 3Then Balaam said to Balak, “Stand by your burnt offering, and <b>I will go; perhaps the Lord will come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I will tell you.</b>”</p> <p>So he went to a desolate height. 4And God met Balaam, and he said to Him, “I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered on each altar a bull and a ram.” 5Then the Lord <b>put a word in Balaam’s mouth</b>, and said, “Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak.” 6So he returned to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, he and all the princes of Moab. 7And he took up <b>his oracle</b> and said:</p> <p>“Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, From the mountains of the east. ‘Come, curse Jacob for me, And come, denounce Israel!’</p> <p>8 “How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?</p> <p>9 For from the top of the rocks I see him, And from the hills I behold him; There! <b>A people dwelling alone,</b> Not reckoning itself among the nations.</p> <p>10 “Who can count <b>the dust of Jacob</b>, Or number one-fourth of Israel? Let me die <b>the death of the righteous</b>, And let my end be like his!”</p> <p>11Then Balak said to Balaam, “What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and look, you have blessed them bountifully!” 12So he answered and said, “Must I not take heed to speak what the Lord has put in my mouth?”</p>	<p><b>First Prophecy:</b> at the first high place, <i>Bamoth-Baal</i></p> <p><i>Lev 19:26</i></p> <p>God has blessed them, and they are alone/holy (separate)</p> <p>Genesis 13:16 “And I will make your descendants <b>as the dust of the earth</b>; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.</p> <p>The Righteous – <b>Deut 4:8;</b> <b>Romans 5:19b</b>, ...so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous. <b>Matthew 25:37</b> “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry....</p>

<p>13Then Balak said to him, “Please come with me to another place from which you may see them; you shall see only the outer part of them, and shall not see them all; curse them for me from there.” 14So he brought him to <b>the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah</b>, and built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. 15And he said to Balak, “Stand here by your burnt offering while I meet the Lord over there.” 16Then the Lord met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, “Go back to Balak, and thus you shall speak.” 17So he came to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab were with him. And Balak said to him, “What has the Lord spoken?” 18Then he took up <b>his oracle</b> and said:</p> <p>“Rise up, Balak, and hear! Listen to me, son of Zippor! 19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? 20 Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it. 21 “He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The Lord his God is with him, And the shout of a King is among them. 22 God brings them out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox. 23 “For there is <b>no sorcery</b> against Jacob, <b>Nor any divination</b> against Israel. It now must be said of Jacob And of Israel, ‘Oh, what God has done!’ 24 Look, a people rises like a lioness, And lifts itself up like a lion; It shall not lie down until it devours the prey, And drinks the blood of the slain.” 25Then Balak said to Balaam, “Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all!” 26So Balaam answered and said to Balak, “Did I not tell you, saying, <b>‘All that the Lord speaks, that I must do’?</b>”</p>	<p><b>Second Prophecy:</b> at the second high place: Zophim (field of the watchers)</p>
<p>27Then Balak said to Balaam, “Please come, I will take you to another place; perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there.” 28So Balak took Balaam <b>to the top of Peor, that overlooks the wasteland</b>. 29Then Balaam said to Balak, “Build for me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.” 30And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on every altar.</p> <p>Chapter 24</p> <p>1Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, <b>he did not go as at other times, to seek to use sorcery</b>, but he set his face toward the wilderness.</p>	<p><b>Third Prophecy:</b> at the third high place, <i>Top of Pisgah</i></p> <p>Balaam did not use <b>sorcery</b>???</p>

<p>2And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped <b>according to their tribes</b>; and <b>the Spirit of God</b> came upon him. 3Then he took up <b>his oracle</b> and said:</p>	<p>Closer view of tribes; <b>Spirit of God</b></p>
<p><b>“The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened, 4 The utterance of him who hears the words of God, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open:</b></p> <p>5 “How lovely are your tents, O Jacob! Your dwellings, O Israel! 6 Like valleys that stretch out, Like gardens by the riverside, Like aloes planted by the Lord, Like cedars beside the waters. 7 He shall pour water from his buckets, And his seed shall be in many waters. <b>“His king</b> shall be higher than Agag, And his kingdom shall be exalted. 8 “God brings him out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox; He shall <b>consume the nations</b>, his enemies; He shall break their bones And pierce them with his arrows. 9 ‘He bows down, <b>he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?’</b> “Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you.”</p> <p>10Then Balak’s anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, “I called you to curse my enemies, and look, <b>you have bountifully blessed them these three times!</b> 11“Now therefore, flee to your place. I said I would greatly honor you, but in fact, the Lord has kept you back from honor.”</p> <p>12So Balaam said to Balak, “Did I not also speak to your messengers whom you sent to me, saying, 13‘If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord, to do good or bad of my own will. What the Lord says, that I must speak’? 14“And now, indeed, I am going to my people. <b>Come, I will advise you what this people will do to your people in the latter days.</b>”</p>	<p>Reverence or thrown to the ground</p> <p>Agag – title of Amalekite kings (Ex 17:8)</p> <p>Genesis 49:9 Judah is a lion’s whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; <b>And as a lion, who shall rouse him?</b></p> <p>Genesis 12:3 <b>I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;</b> And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”</p>

<p>15 So he took up <b>his oracle</b> and said:  <b>“The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor,  And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened;  16 The utterance of him who hears the words of God,  And has the knowledge of the Most High,  Who sees the vision of the Almighty,  Who falls down, with eyes wide open:</b></p> <p><b>17 “I see Him, but not now;  I behold Him, but not near;  A Star shall come out of Jacob;  A Scepter shall rise out of Israel,  And batter the brow of Moab,  And destroy all the sons of tumult.  18 “And Edom shall be a possession;  Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession,  While Israel does valiantly.  19 Out of Jacob One shall have dominion,  And destroy the remains of the city.”  20 Then he looked on Amalek, and he took up his oracle and  said:  “Amalek was first among the nations,  But shall be last until he perishes.”  21 Then he looked on the Kenites, and he took up his oracle  and said:  “Firm is your dwelling place,  And your nest is set in the rock;  22 Nevertheless Kain shall be burned.  How long until Asshur carries you away captive?”  23 Then he took up his oracle and said:  “Alas! Who shall live when God does this?  24 But ships shall come from the coasts of Cyprus,  And they shall afflict Asshur and afflict Eber,  And so shall Amalek, until he perishes.”  25 So Balaam rose and departed and returned to his place;  Balak also went his way.</b></p>	<p><b>Fourth Prophecy:  Future!</b></p> <p><b>Verse 17</b>  A. Not now, but near  B. MESSIAH -  “Star,” to arise out of  Jacob (Gen 17:6,  35:11; Rev 22:16)  <b>Matthew 2:1-11</b></p> <p><b>Genesis 49:10</b> The  <b>scepter</b> shall not  depart from Judah,  Nor a lawgiver from  between his feet,  Until <b>Shiloh</b> comes;  And to Him shall be  the obedience of the  people.</p> <p><b>Moab and Edom</b> who  rose up against Israel  Seir is the country,  where Edom lives</p> <p><b>Amalek</b> (Ex 17)</p> <p><b>Kenites</b> (Gen 15:19, 1  Sam 15:6), the tribal  father is Kain (Josh  15:57)</p> <p><b>Asshur</b> (Eastern  Shemites=Balaam’s  own people, Num  22:5)  <b>Eber</b>(Western  Shemites=Gen 10:21)</p>
<p><b>Chapter 25</b>  1 Now Israel remained in <b>Acacia Grove</b>, and the people began to  commit harlotry with the women of Moab. 2 They invited the people to the  sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.  3 So <b>Israel was joined to Baal of Peor</b>, and the <b>anger of the Lord</b> was  aroused against Israel. 4 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of  the people <b>and hang</b> the offenders before the Lord, out in the sun, that the fierce  anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel.” 5 So Moses said to the judges of  Israel, “Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.”</p>	<p><b>Heathen  Moab  Seduces  Israel</b></p> <p>Fellowship  Communion  Baal or  Chemosh-  Num 21:29</p>

<p>6And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a <b>Midianite woman</b> in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.</p>	<p><b>Midianite</b> (Not mentioned, since Numbers 22:1-7)</p>
<p>7Now when <b>Phinehas</b> the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; 8and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. 9And those who died in <b>the plague</b> were <b>twenty-four thousand</b>.</p> <p>10Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 11“Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. 12“Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; 13‘and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ”</p>	<p>Zealous for the Lord</p> <p>Phinehas receives an everlasting priesthood</p> <p>24,000 died (1 Cor 10:8 = 23,000 = 1,000 hanged)</p>
<p>14Now the name of the Israelite who was killed, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was <b>Zimri</b> the son of Salu, a leader of a father’s house among <b>the Simeonites</b>. 15And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was <b>Cozbi</b> the daughter of Zur; he was <b>head of the people of a father’s house in Midian</b>.</p> <p>16Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 17“Harass the Midianites, and attack them; 18“for they harassed you with their schemes by which they seduced you in the matter of Peor and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a leader of Midian, their sister, who was killed in the day of the plague because of Peor.”</p>	<p>Zimri and Cozbi</p> <p>Unrepentant and shameless</p>
<p><b>Numbers 31:8; 16</b> They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of those who were killed—Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian.</p> <p><b>Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword....</b> 16“Look, these women caused the children of Israel, <b>through the counsel of Balaam</b>, to trespass against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord.</p> <p>Joshua 13:22 The children of Israel also killed with the sword <b>Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer</b>, among those who were killed by them.</p>	<p>Money-hungry <b>Balaam</b> was the instigator of Israel’s shameful sin of syncretism and immorality with Moabite and Midianite women</p> <p><b>2 Peter 2:15</b> They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following <b>the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;</b></p> <p><b>Jude 11</b> Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.</p> <p><b>Revelation 2:14</b> “But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold <b>the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.</b></p>

## Numbers 22-25 (NKJV)

### Chapter 22

1Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan across from Jericho.

2Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. 3And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they were many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel. 4So Moab said to the elders of Midian, "Now this company will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. 5Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! 6"Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."

7So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner's fee in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak. 8And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the Lord speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam. 9Then God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?" 10So Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, 11'Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out.' " 12And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed." 13So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land, for the Lord has refused to give me permission to go with you." 14And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refuses to come with us."

15Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they. 16And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: 'Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me; 17'for I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me. Therefore please come, curse this people for me.' " 18Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more. 19"Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me." 20And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do." 21So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.

22Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the Lord took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. 23Now the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. 24Then the Angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. 25And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again. 26Then the Angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. 28Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" 29And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!" 30So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."

31Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. 32And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. 33"The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live." 34And Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back." 35Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

36Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory. 37Then Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?" 38And Balaam said to Balak, "Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that



I must speak.” 39So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kirjath Huzoth. 40Then Balak offered oxen and sheep, and he sent some to Balaam and to the princes who were with him.

41So it was the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people.

#### Chapter 23

1Then Balaam said to Balak, “Build seven altars for me here, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.” 2And Balak did just as Balaam had spoken, and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on each altar. 3Then Balaam said to Balak, “Stand by your burnt offering, and I will go; perhaps the Lord will come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I will tell you.” So he went to a desolate height. 4And God met Balaam, and he said to Him, “I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered on each altar a bull and a ram.” 5Then the Lord put a word in Balaam’s mouth, and said, “Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak.” 6So he returned to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, he and all the princes of Moab. 7And he took up his oracle and said:

“Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram,

From the mountains of the east.

‘Come, curse Jacob for me,

And come, denounce Israel!’

8 “How shall I curse whom God has not cursed?

And how shall I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?

9 For from the top of the rocks I see him,

And from the hills I behold him;

There! A people dwelling alone,

Not reckoning itself among the nations.

10 “Who can count the dust of Jacob,

Or number one-fourth of Israel?

Let me die the death of the righteous,

And let my end be like his!”

11Then Balak said to Balaam, “What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and look, you have blessed them bountifully!” 12So he answered and said, “Must I not take heed to speak what the Lord has put in my mouth?”

13Then Balak said to him, “Please come with me to another place from which you may see them; you shall see only the outer part of them, and shall not see them all; curse them for me from there.” 14So he brought him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. 15And he said to Balak, “Stand here by your burnt offering while I meet the Lord over there.” 16Then the Lord met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, “Go back to Balak, and thus you shall speak.” 17So he came to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab were with him. And Balak said to him, “What has the Lord spoken?” 18Then he took up his oracle and said:

“Rise up, Balak, and hear!

Listen to me, son of Zippor!

19 “God is not a man, that He should lie,

Nor a son of man, that He should repent.

Has He said, and will He not do?

Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

20 Behold, I have received a command to bless;

He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.

21 “He has not observed iniquity in Jacob,

Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel.

The Lord his God is with him,

And the shout of a King is among them.

22 God brings them out of Egypt;

He has strength like a wild ox.

23 “For there is no sorcery against Jacob,

Nor any divination against Israel.

It now must be said of Jacob

And of Israel, ‘Oh, what God has done!’

24 Look, a people rises like a lioness,

And lifts itself up like a lion;

It shall not lie down until it devours the prey,  
And drinks the blood of the slain.”

25Then Balak said to Balaam, “Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all!” 26So Balaam answered and said to Balak, “Did I not tell you, saying, ‘All that the Lord speaks, that I must do’?”

27Then Balak said to Balaam, “Please come, I will take you to another place; perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there.” 28So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, that overlooks the wasteland. 29Then Balaam said to Balak, “Build for me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.” 30And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on every altar.

#### Chapter 24

1Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times, to seek to use sorcery, but he set his face toward the wilderness. 2And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him. 3Then he took up his oracle and said:

“The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor,  
The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened,  
4 The utterance of him who hears the words of God,  
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,  
Who falls down, with eyes wide open:

5 “How lovely are your tents, O Jacob!  
Your dwellings, O Israel!

6 Like valleys that stretch out,  
Like gardens by the riverside,  
Like aloes planted by the Lord,  
Like cedars beside the waters.

7 He shall pour water from his buckets,  
And his seed shall be in many waters.

“His king shall be higher than Agag,  
And his kingdom shall be exalted.

8 “God brings him out of Egypt;  
He has strength like a wild ox;  
He shall consume the nations, his enemies;  
He shall break their bones  
And pierce them with his arrows.

9 “He bows down, he lies down as a lion;  
And as a lion, who shall rouse him?”

“Blessed is he who blesses you,  
And cursed is he who curses you.”

10Then Balak’s anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, “I called you to curse my enemies, and look, you have bountifully blessed them these three times! 11 “Now therefore, flee to your place. I said I would greatly honor you, but in fact, the Lord has kept you back from honor.” 12So Balaam said to Balak, “Did I not also speak to your messengers whom you sent to me, saying, 13 ‘If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord, to do good or bad of my own will. What the Lord says, that I must speak’? 14 “And now, indeed, I am going to my people. Come, I will advise you what this people will do to your people in the latter days.”

15So he took up his oracle and said:

“The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor,  
And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened;  
16 The utterance of him who hears the words of God,  
And has the knowledge of the Most High,  
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,  
Who falls down, with eyes wide open:

17 “I see Him, but not now;  
I behold Him, but not near;  
A Star shall come out of Jacob;  
A Scepter shall rise out of Israel,  
And batter the brow of Moab,  
And destroy all the sons of tumult.

18 “And Edom shall be a possession;  
 Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession,  
 While Israel does valiantly.  
 19 Out of Jacob One shall have dominion,  
 And destroy the remains of the city.”  
 20 Then he looked on Amalek, and he took up his oracle and said:  
 “Amalek was first among the nations,  
 But shall be last until he perishes.”  
 21 Then he looked on the Kenites, and he took up his oracle and said:  
 “Firm is your dwelling place,  
 And your nest is set in the rock;  
 22 Nevertheless Kain shall be burned.  
 How long until Asshur carries you away captive?”  
 23 Then he took up his oracle and said:  
 “Alas! Who shall live when God does this?”  
 24 But ships shall come from the coasts of Cyprus,  
 And they shall afflict Asshur and afflict Eber,  
 And so shall Amalek, until he perishes.”  
 25 So Balaam rose and departed and returned to his place; Balak also went his way.

#### Chapter 25

1 Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab.  
 2 They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3 So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel. 4 Then the Lord said to Moses,  
 “Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the Lord, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel.” 5 So Moses said to the judges of Israel, “Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.”

6 And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 7 Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; 8 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. 9 And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.

10 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 11 “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. 12 “Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; 13 ‘and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ”

14 Now the name of the Israelite who was killed, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father’s house among the Simeonites. 15 And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur; he was head of the people of a father’s house in Midian.

16 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 17 “Harass the Midianites, and attack them; 18 “for they harassed you with their schemes by which they seduced you in the matter of Peor and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a leader of Midian, their sister, who was killed in the day of the plague because of Peor.”