

The Blind Seer, the Talking Donkey, and the Blessed Curses
Numbers 22-24
Berean Baptist Church
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Be faithful to God because no power in heaven, earth, or hell can curse when God blesses.

INTRODUCTION: **22:1-14 Israel's Enemy Seeks To Curse Them, But God Refuses And Blesses His People**

Vs 5-6 Balaam was a very famous and respected spiritualist

Israel's enemies hire a “prophet” named Balaam the son of Beor. Balaam was a powerful and respected “seer”, he was famous for being able to make gods and spirits bless or curse people. The normal Hebrew word for “prophet” or “seer” is never used of Balaam, but in Josh 13:22 he is called a “soothsayer”. We would call Balaam a “fortune teller”.

In the 1960s archaeologists found inscriptions in a place called Dier Alla, about 100 mi NE of Jerusalem, detailing prophecies spoken by someone called "Balaam the son of Beor".

1) 22:15-21 The Enemy's Foolish Stubbornness

Vs 14 and 18 Balaam learns that God will not allow Israel to be cursed, so he wants no part of this plan. But the stubborn enemy insists and God allows the funny story that follows in order to teach important lessons...

2) 22:22-41 God's Power, Sinful Man's Weakness

Vs 23 The “seer” cannot see the angel, but his donkey can!

Vs 28-31 The "prophet's" donkey is the one who prophesies!

Vs 36-41 Balaam tries to get Israel's enemy to understand, but they will not.

Seek truth, vision, and prophecy only from God; all are blind without Him.

3) 23:1-12 The Enemy's First Attempt To Curse Israel

Vs 9 the holiness of Israel

Vs 10-11 the greatness of Israel

Nu 23:11 Then Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and look, you have blessed them bountifully!" 12 So he answered and said, "Must I not take heed to speak what the LORD has put in my mouth?"

God turns the curse into a blessing!

4) 23:13-30 The Enemy's Second Attempt To Curse Israel

Vs 13 the enemy tries “divide and conquer”; maybe Balaam will be able to curse just part of Israel.

Vs 19-20 God does not change His mind like we do; when he blesses, it is blessed!

Vs 21-24 God still holds His people to account for sin. But there are no sorcery, magic, or prophecies against the people of God. God has blessed His people, and He will bless His people. As long as they are faithful, they will be as strong as a lion!

Vs 25-30 The enemy keeps trying but he is frustrated by God!

Eventually, the enemy will learn this lesson and get Israel to curse themselves by committing sin. Satan cannot really curse you, so he tries to get you to curse yourself through your sin. *Be faithful to God because no power in heaven, earth, or hell can curse who God blesses.*

5) 24:1-9 God Is Not Done Teaching His Lesson

Vs 1-2 now the enemy is not looking for a curse or a prophecy, but the Spirit of God comes anyway

Vs 3-9 the people of God will be exalted and will always overcome

“Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.”

6) 24:10-25 The Enemy Is Extremely Frustrated But God Is Not Done Teaching His Lesson

Vs 10-14 Balaam literally cannot stop blessing Israel! When the enemy tells him to just "go away!" Balaam opens his mouth with an even greater blessing for Israel.

Vs 14 and 17 Balaam sees afar off a coming messiah that will judge the nations

Vs 17 this prophecy of a star rising from Judah might have inspired the Magi in their search for the Messiah.

CONCLUSION: From all of this we learn three things...

First, God will allow sinners to persist in sin and make fools of themselves, in order to teach people lessons.

Second, there really is no power except that given by God, so we do not need to fear the adversary. But we should respect God.

Third, Satan knows how weak he is. And he knows that his only real hope is to get you to curse yourself by sinning. Don't fall into this trap. Be faithful to God and love Him, and all things (happy and sad), will work together for your good.

Be faithful to God because no power in heaven, earth, or hell can curse when God blesses.