

A Seed of the Serpent Tries to Curse the Seed of the Woman

Numbers 22-24

I. Setting the Scene: Moab Fears God's People (Num. 22:1-6)

- A. Who (Num. 22:4-5)
 - 1. Balak – King of Moab.
 - 2. Balaam – Pagan prophet / diviner / seer who lives to the East.
- B. What & Why (contrast Num. 22:6 with Gen. 12:3)

II. Balak Summons Balaam to Curse Israel (Num. 22:7-21)

III. Balaam the Seer is Out-Seen by His Donkey (Num. 22:22-40)

- A. Balaam is Outdone by His Donkey (Num. 22:22-35; cf. v. 23, 25, 27, 33 with v. 31)
 - 1. Why does this happen?
 - a. It shows that Balaam will only be able to see what God reveals to him.
 - b. It ensures that Balaam will fear God and obey the command to “speak only the word that I tell you” (v. 35).
 - 2. When did we last see an angel holding a sword, guarding people from coming in from the East?
- B. Why is God angry with Balaam (v. 32, 2 Pet. 2:15-16).

IV. God's Blessing on His People is Unstoppable (Num. 22:41-24:14)

- A. Oracle #1: Israel can't be cursed, and is numerous like the dust of the earth (Num. 22:41-23:12)
- B. Oracle #2: He must bless them: God is faithful to his promise to bless them (Num. 23:13-26)
- C. Oracle #3: Israel is like a garden of God and will have a glorious king (Num. 23:27-24:13. See Gen. 49:9-10).

V. God Will Curse Those Who Curse His People (Numbers 24:14-25)

- A. Oracle Against Moab and Edom (Num. 24:14-19)
 - 1. There will be a king in Israel who will crush the head of Moab (v. 17 cp 2 Sam. 8)
 - a. Points ahead to David (2 Sam. 8)
 - b. Points backwards to the promises (Gen. 3:15, Gen. 12:3)
 - c. Points to Jesus who crushes the Serpent (Gen. 3:15, Ps. 2, Rev. 19:11-21, Rev. 20:7-15)
- B. What becomes of Balaam? He sees the truth but doesn't believe (cf. Num. 23:10 & Num. 31:16).
 - 1. Don't be like Balaam who sees but does not believe. Do not be covetous, which is idolatry.
 - 2. Instead, see God's faithfulness and trust him (Hebrews 11).