

{04} Numbers

King James Version

(18) And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

(19) Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more.

(20) And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, *and* go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.

(21) And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.

(22) And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants *were* with him.

(23) And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way.

(24) But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall *being* on this side, and a wall on that side.

King James Paraphrase

(18) And Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD {Jehovah} my God, to do less or more.

(19) Now therefore, I beg you, stay here this night also, that I may know what the LORD {Jehovah} will say to me more.

(20) And God came to Balaam at night, and said to him, **If the men come to call you, rise up, and go with them; but the word which I shall say to you, that you shall do.**

(21) And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.

(22) And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} stood in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his donkey, and his two servants *were* with him.

(23) And the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} standing in the road, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the donkey^e turned aside out of the road, and went into the field: and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her back into the road.

(24) But the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall *was* on this side, and a wall on that side.

22:23c - Balaam's donkey was able to see the angel, but Balaam himself was unable to see the angel.

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(25) And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again.

(26) And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where *was* no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

(27) And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.

(28) And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?

(29) And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.

(30) And the ass said unto Balaam, *Am* not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since *I was* thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay.

(31) Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.

(32) And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because *thy* way is perverse before me:

(25) And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah}, she thrust herself to the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he struck her again.

(26) And the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} went further, and stood in a narrow place, where *was* no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

(27) And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah}, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with a staff.

(28) And the LORD {Jehovah} opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam,^d What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?

(29) And Balaam said to the donkey,^e Because you have mocked me: I wish there were a sword in my hand, because I would kill you now.

(30) And the donkey said to Balaam, *Am* I not your donkey, upon which you have ridden ever since *I was* yours to this day? Did I ever do so to you? And he said, No.

(31) Then the LORD {Jehovah} opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} standing in the road, with His sword drawn in His hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.

(32) And the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} said to him, **Why have you stricken your donkey these three times? Indeed, I went out to stop you, because *your* way is perverse before Me:**

22:28d - the donkey speaks to Balaam

22:29e - Balaam answers the donkey - he never seems to question - how it is that the donkey is speaking

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(33) 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.

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

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

(36) 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.

(37) And Balak said unto Balaam, Did I not earnestly send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour?

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

(39) And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kirjathhuzoth.

(40) And Balak offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that *were* with him.

(33) And the donkey saw Me, and turned from Me these three times: unless she had turned from Me, surely now also I would have killed you, and saved her alive.

(34) And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah}, I have sinned; because I did not know that You stood in the road against me: now therefore, if it displeases You, I will return.

(35) And the Angel of the LORD {Jehovah} said to Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak to you, that you shall speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

(36) And when Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to meet him to a city of Moab, which is in the border of Arnon, which is in the outermost coast.

(37) And Balak said to Balaam, Did I not earnestly send to you to call you? why did you not come to me? am I not able indeed to promote you to honor?

(38) And Balaam said to Balak, Look, I have come to you: have I now any power at all to say anything? the word that God puts in my mouth, that I shall speak.

(39) And Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kirjathhuzoth.

(40) And Balak offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes who *were* with him.

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(41) And it came to pass on the morrow, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal, that thence he might see the utmost *part* of the people.

(41) And it came to pass in the morning, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal, that there he might see the outermost *part* of the people.

Chapter 23

Chapter 23

(1) And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven oxen and seven rams.

(1) And Balaam said to Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven oxen and seven rams.

(2) And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on *every* altar a bullock and a ram.

(2) And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on *every* altar a bull and a ram.

(3) And Balaam said unto Balak, Stand by thy burnt offering, and I will go: peradventure the LORD will come to meet me: and whatsoever he sheweth me I will tell thee. And he went to an high place.

(3) And Balaam said to Balak, Stand by your burnt offering, and I will go: perhaps the LORD {Jehovah} will come to meet me: and whatever He shows me I will tell you. And he went to an high place.

(4) And God met Balaam: and he said unto him, I have prepared seven altars, and I have offered upon *every* altar a bullock and a ram.

(4) And God met Balaam: and he said to Him, I have prepared seven altars, and I have offered upon *every* altar a bull and a ram.

(5) And the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak.

(5) And the LORD {Jehovah} put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, **Return to Balak, and this is what you shall speak.**

(6) And he returned unto him, and, lo, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab.

(6) And he returned to him, and, look, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab.

(7) 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.

(7) And he took up his parable, and said, **Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, *saying*, Come, curse for me Jacob, and come, defy Israel.**

(8) How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, *whom* the LORD hath not defied?

(8) **How shall I curse, whom God has not cursed? or how shall I defy, *whom* the LORD {Jehovah} has not defied?**

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King James Paraphrase

(9) For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

(10) Who can count the dust 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!

(11) And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed *them* altogether.

(12) And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?

(13) And Balak said unto him, Come, I pray thee, with me unto another place, from whence thou mayest see them: thou shalt see but the utmost part of them, and shalt not see them all: and curse me them from thence.

(14) 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.

(15) And he said unto Balak, Stand here by thy burnt offering, while I meet *the LORD* yonder.

(16) And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus.

(9) For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I see him: look, the people shall live alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

(10) Who can count the dust 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!

(11) And Balak said to Balaam, What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and, indeed, you have blessed *them* altogether.

(12) And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD {Jehovah} has put in my mouth?

(13) And Balak said to him, Come, I beg you, with me to another place, from where you may see them: you shall see but the outermost part of them, and shall not see them all: and curse them for me from there.

(14) And he brought him into the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on *every* altar.

(15) And he said to Balak, Stand here by your burnt offering, while I meet *the LORD* {Jehovah} yonder.

(16) And the LORD {Jehovah} met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, **Go again to Balak, and say this.**

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(17) And when he came to him, behold, he stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said unto him, What hath the LORD spoken?

(18) And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor:

(19) God *is* not a man, that he should lie; 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?

(20) Behold, I have received *commandment* to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

(21) He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God *is* with him, and the shout of a king *is* among them.

(22) God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.

(23) Surely *there is* no enchantment against 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!

(24) Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat *of* the prey, and drink the blood of the slain.

(25) And Balak said unto Balaam, Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.

King James Paraphrase

(17) And when he came to him, he stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said to him, What has the LORD {Jehovah} spoken?

(18) And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; listen to me, you son of Zippor:

(19) God *is* not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: has He said, and shall He not do *it?* or has He spoken, and shall He not make it good?

(20) Look, I have received *commandment* to bless: and He has blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

(21) He has not seen sin in Jacob, neither has He seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD {Jehovah} his God *is* with him, and the shout of a king *is* among them.

(22) God brought them out of Egypt; he has as it were the strength of an unicorn.^a

(23) Surely *there is* no enchantment against Jacob, neither *is there* any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What has God done!

(24) Indeed, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eats *of* the prey, and drinks the blood of that which is killed.

(25) And Balak said to Balaam, Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.

23:22a – unicorn – an extinct animal – there has been a lot of speculation as to what this animal is, but ancient drawings suggest a horse-like animal with a single horn in its forehead. Many animals have become extinct over the years which we have no definite information about. – see Num. 24:8; Job 39:9-10; Ps. 22:21; 29:6; 92:10

{04} Numbers

King James Version

(26) But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?

(27) And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto another place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence.

(28) And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward Jeshimon.

(29) And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven bullocks and seven rams.

(30) And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bullock and a ram on *every* altar.

Chapter 24

(1) And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness.

(2) And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding *in his tents* according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.

(3) And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

(4) He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:

King James Paraphrase

(26) But Balaam answered and said to Balak, Did I not tell you, saying, All that the LORD {Jehovah} speaks, that I must do?

(27) And Balak said to Balaam, Come, I beg you, I will bring you to another place; perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there.

(28) And Balak brought Balaam to the top of Peor, that looks toward Jeshimon.

(29) And Balaam said to Balak, Build for me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bull and seven rams.

(30) And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on *every* altar.

Chapter 24

(1) And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD {Jehovah} to bless Israel, he did not go, as at other times, to seek for enchantments, but he set his face towards the wilderness.

(2) And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel living *in his tents* according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him.

(3) And he took up his parable, and said, **Balaam the son of Beor has said, and the man whose eyes are open has said:**

(4) **He has said, who heard the words of God, who saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:**

{04} Numbers

King James Version

- (5) How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, *and* thy tabernacles, O Israel!
- (6) As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, *and* as cedar trees beside the waters.
- (7) 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 exalted.
- (8) 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.
- (9) He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed *is* he that blesseth thee, and cursed *is* he that curseth thee.
- (10) And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together: and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed *them* these three times.
- (11) Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour.
- (12) And Balaam said unto Balak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying,
- (13) If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do *either* good or bad of mine own mind; *but* what the LORD saith, that will I speak?

King James Paraphrase

- (5) How wonderful are your tents, O Jacob, *and* your tabernacles, O Israel!
- (6) As the valleys they are spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD {Jehovah} has planted, *and* as cedar trees beside the waters.
- (7) 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 exalted.
- (8) God brought him forth out of Egypt; he has 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.
- (9) He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed *is* he who blesses you, and cursed *is* he who curses you.
- (10) And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he struck his hands together: and Balak said to Balaam, I called you to curse my enemies, and, indeed, you have altogether blessed *them* these three times.
- (11) Therefore now flee to your place: I thought to promote you to great honor; but, look, the LORD {Jehovah} has kept you back from honor.
- (12) And Balaam said to Balak, Did I not say also to your messengers which you sent to me, saying,
- (13) If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD {Jehovah}, to do *either* good or bad of my own mind; *but* what the LORD {Jehovah} says, that I will speak?

{04} Numbers

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

(14) And now, behold, I go unto my people: come *therefore*, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.

(15) And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

(16) He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, *which* saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:

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

(18) And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.

(19) Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

(20) And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek *was* the first of the nations; but his latter end *shall be* that he perish for ever.

(21) And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is thy dwellingplace, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock.

(22) Nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive.

(23) And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this!

(24) And ships *shall come* from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever.

(25) And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

(14) And now, indeed, I go to my people: come *therefore*, and I will tell you what this people shall do to your people in the latter days.

(15) And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor has said, and the man whose eyes are open has said:

(16) He has said, who heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, *who* saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:

(17) I shall see him, but not now: I shall look upon him, but not near: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre {King} shall rise out of Israel, and shall strike the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

(18) And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.

(19) Out of Jacob shall come He Who shall rule, and shall destroy him who remains of the city.

(20) And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek *was* the first of the nations; but his latter end *shall be* that he perish forever.

(21) And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is your home place, and you put your nest in a rock.

(22) Nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry you away captive.

(23) And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God does this!

(24) And ships *shall come* from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish forever.

(25) And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.