

BIBLE CLASS. 08. 08. 2024 BALAAM'S PARABLE. NUMBERS 23

Balaam was a false prophet who made money and gained favour through false hood and misrepresentation claiming to be able to converse with Yahweh the God of Israel. It is true that God spoke to him through an angel but always in reproof. At the request of Balak the king of Moab, Balaam was asked to curse Israel. Balaam instructed seven altars to be built, with an offering of slain animals, of each one, a bullock and a ram, with the intention of offering prayers from each one. Balaam then told Balak to sacrifice the animals and while he was doing so he would depart a little way to a high place in order to practice his art of divination, hoping to communicate with Yahweh. Balaam was certainly confronted by God in the form of an angel, and Yahweh had decided to use the false prophet to serve His own purposes, of which there are many example in other parts of the scriptures. Bro. John Thomas states in *Elpis Israel*: The great incidents of history which have given rise to successive kingdoms and dominions, from the overturning of the kingdom and throne of God, and of David, His anointed, in Judea, by the Chaldeans, to the present time, are but events predetermined and arranged in the purpose of God, and revealed in the sure word of prophecy". Not a kingdom has been established, nor a king dethroned, but it has formed a move, which has contributed to the maturity of the present crisis, which will ultimate in the introduction of the kingdom of God. This truth is beautifully expressed in the words of the prophet, saying, "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever; for wisdom and might are his; and *he changes the times and the seasons*; HE REMOVES KINGS AND SETS UP KINGS: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: *he reveals the deep and secret things*: he knows what is in the darkness, and the **Light** dwells with him." It is He to whom all things are subjected; "for He rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will, and *sets up over it the basest of men*".

Balaam seeing the Angel said to him, I have prepared seven altars, and I have offered upon *every* altar a bullock and a ram. And

the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return to Balak, and tell him this. And he returned unto him, and, lo, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab. (Num 23:4-6 KJV)

So Balaam began to prophecy but instead of curses, God's love and protection of Israel was revealed as we read how Balaam to returned to Balak, and, who stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab.

⁷ And Balak 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 God has not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom Yahweh has not defied? 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. 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! (Num. 23:6-10)

Balaam's words made Balak very angry because instead of cursing Israel he had blessed Balak's enemies. That was Balaam's intention but his vocal cords were being manipulated by divine power, and Balaam could not control the words that were coming out of his mouth, only what God required him to say.

This event was occurring on a mountainous place where they could look down upon a part of the massive encampment of the Israelites surrounding the tabernacle. So Balak suggests they go up higher to see the full extent of the Israelites encampment. So they travelled to the field of Zophim to the top of Pisgah. Where again seven altars were built, and on each one a bullock and a ram were offered on every altar. Balaam instructed Balak to stay there while he sought to commune with Yahweh who met Balaam and once more put the words in his mouth that He required Balaam to speak and Balak to hear. Once more Balaam spoke well of Israel saying "Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor: 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 Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he has blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

²¹ He has not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither has 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. 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! 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. ²⁶ But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Did I not tell you saying, "All that the LORD speaks, that I must do?" (Num. 23:17-26)

Trying to find a way to rid the world of the Jewish People has never been successful. History has recorded how the Israelites and particularly that branch of then known as Jews have been persecuted from Biblical times until the present day. They were driven from their homeland as Israelites and as the section of them known as Jews, were exiled for 2000 years from their homeland, which was only restored in the last century in 1948 when the nation State of Israel was re-established in their ancient homeland. Notwithstanding subsequent wars since that time, Israel has expanded and flourished in many ways. The Bible however warns that the nations will once more, under Russian direction, seek to destroy the Jewish State of Israel. But this time they will be delivered by the return of their Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ, who will overthrow the enemies and establish the Kingdom of God, which will not only extend to the lands promised to Abraham, but will establish World Central Government ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ and his saints who will be raised from the dead.