

Balaam's Oracles

Numbers 22:36 – 24:25

by Don Falkos

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When Balaam arrived in Moab, the king went to meet him and took him to a place where he could see the Israelite encampment. Balaam and the king made many sacrifices. Then the Lord gave Balaam a message. "God has set these people apart from everyone else. Oh, that I might die as they do, in a right relationship with God."

The king clapped his hands in anger and protested, "Stop! I hired you to curse them, not bless them."

"I can only say what the Lord tells me to say."

They went to another location, and repeated their sacrifices. Then the Lord gave Balaam a message. "There is no trouble in store for the people of Israel, for the Lord their God is with them."

"Stop! I hired you to curse them, not bless them."

"I can only say what the Lord tells me to say."

They went to yet another location, and again repeated their sacrifices. Then the Spirit of God came upon Balaam. "Israel will be a prosperous and powerful nation. Whoever blesses them will be blessed. Whoever curses them will be cursed."

"Stop! I hired you to curse them, not bless them. Now get out of here, and don't think I'm going to pay you for what you've done. The Lord has kept you from the riches I offered."

"I can only say what the Lord tells me to say."

God gave Balaam one last message. "In the distant future, a star will come forth from the descendants of Jacob; a great ruler will arise and will overcome all of Israel's enemies."