

A Study in the Book of Numbers



By Cecilia Perh



Entrusting the Word
to the Faithful

Book	Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
Key Idea	Beginnings	Redemption	Worship	Wandering	Renewed Covenant
The Nation	Chosen	Delivered	Set Apart	Directed	Made Ready
The People	Prepared	Redeemed	Taught	Tested	Re-taught
God's Character	Powerful, Sovereign	Merciful	Holy	Just	Loving Lord
God's Role	Creator	Deliverer	Sanctifier	Sustainer	Rewarder
God's Command	"Let there be!"	"Let My people go!"	"Be holy"	"Go in!"	"Obey!"

Numbers in the Pentateuch

Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
ORIGINS of the nation	DELIVERANCE of the nation	LIFE of the nation	TEST of the nation	REMINDERS to the nation
THEOCRACY BORN	THEOCRACY ESTABLISHED	THEOCRACY ESTABLISHED	THEOCRACY TESTED AND PREPARED FOR THE NEW HOME	

COVENANT
IS AMPLIFIED
 “Keep my covenant to be a peculiar treasure:
 “Kingdom of priests”
 “holy nation”
 (Exo. 19:5-6)

LAWS
ARE PRESCRIBED
 “which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD”
 (Lev. 18:5)

Irvin L. Jensen, p 102
 (Jensen’s Survey of the OT)

Numbers is the story of God leading His people, Israel, through wildernesses on their way to Canaan, the rest land He promised.

The journey moves from Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab, opposite Jericho.

- It was a brief journey in the dark unknown, demanding the utmost in trust and patience (Numbers 1:1-10:10).**
- It is a long, aimless wandering in judgment for unbelief, consuming all but two of first census, 20 years and above (Numbers 10:11-20:29).**
- It is a new and swift journey by the next generation with a few of the old leaders, to enter into the land of rest and blessing (Numbers 21:1-36:13)**

Numbers: Journey to God's Rest



The Generation of Those Who Had Come Out of Egypt

Preparation

- organization
- consecration
- instruction

The Test

- of faith
- of obedience

The Judgment

- wandering
- death

Wilderness



SINAI

KADESH

A New Generation

Reorganisation

- repair

Plains of Moab

MOAB

The theme of Numbers is the consequence of disbelief and disobedience to the holy God. The Lord disciplined His people but remained faithful to His covenant promises in spite of their fickleness.

Numbers displays the patience, holiness, justice, mercy, and sovereignty of God toward His people.

It teaches that there are no shortcuts to His blessings – He uses trials and tests for specific purposes.

Numbers was written to trace the history of Israel’s wanderings from Sinai to Moab. But the fact that there was almost no record of the 38 years of wandering shows that Numbers is a very thematic history. It selects those events that are important to the development of God’s redemptive program. The sins of the first generation were written as a reminder and a warning to the second generation. They must implicitly trust God before they can possess the land of blessing.

Theme and Purpose

The Old Generation			The Tragic Transition				The New Generation																						
1	4	5	10:10	10:11	14	15	16	17	20	21	25	26	30	31	33	34	36												
Counting and Ordering of the People			Cleansing of the People			Complaints and Disbelief of the People			Instructions for Life in Canaan			The Rebellion of Korah			Aaron, the Levites and Moses			Serpent of Brass and Story of Balaam			Second Census and Laws of Israel			Settling east of Jordan			Preparations for Settling in Canaan		
Preparation			Preparation			Postponement			Postponement			Promise			Promise			Promise			Promise			Promise					
Waiting			Waiting			Wandering			Wandering			Waiting			Waiting			Waiting			Waiting			Waiting					
Census, Instruction, Travel			Census, Instruction, Travel			-			-			-			-			-			-			-					
At Sinai			At Sinai			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab					
Sinai to Kadesh			Sinai to Kadesh			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness					
Preparation for the Journey			Preparation for the Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey					
About 2 months (39%)			About 2 months (39%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)					
Mobilizing the People Numbers 1-9			Mobilizing the People Numbers 1-9			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19					
Getting Ready to Possess the land			Getting Ready to Possess the land			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD					
Structuring			Structuring			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing					
Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring					

Detailed Outline of the Book of Numbers

I. Preparations for Travel (Numbers 1:1-10:10)

- A. The First Census (chapter 1)
- B. The Order of the Tribes (chapter 2)
- C. The Census and Duties of the Levites (chapters 3-4)
- D. Cleansing and Consecration (chapters 5-6)
- E. The Tabernacle Service (chapters 7-8)
- E. The Supplementary Passover (chapter 9:1-14)
- F. The Fiery Cloud and the Silver Trumpets (chapters 9:15-10:10)

II. The Journey to Kadesh Barnea (Numbers 10:11-14:45)

- A. The Departure from Sinai (chapters 10:11-36)
- B. The Rebellion of the People (chapter 11)
- C. The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron (chapter 12)
- D. Spying out the Promised Land (chapter 13)
- E. God's Judgment on Unbelief (chapter 14)

III. The Journey to the Plains of Moab (Numbers 15:1-22:1)

- A. Covenant Statutes Reviewed (chapter 15)
- B. The Rebellion of Korah (chapter 16)

- C. The Budding of Aaron's Rod (chapter 17)
- D. The Responsibility of Priests and Levites (chapter 18)
- E. The Red Heifer Sacrifice (chapter 19)
- F. The Waters of Meribah, Edom, Aaron's death (chapter 20)
- G. Journey to Moab (chapters 21:1-22:1)
- F. Balak and Balaam (chapters 22:2-24:25)
- G. The Idolatry of Israel (chapter 25)

IV. Final Preparations for Entering Canaan (Numbers 26:1-36:13)

- A. The Second Census (chapter 26)
- B. Daughters of Zelophehad (chapter 27:1-11)
- C. Joshua appointed as Moses' Successor (chapter 27:12-23)
- D. Laws concerning Offerings and Vows (chapters 28-30)
- E. The War against Midian (chapter 31)
- F. Inheritance of Eastern Tribes (chapter 32)
- G. Resume of the journey from Egypt (chapter 33:1-49)
- H. Final Instructions about Conquest and Inheritance (chapters 33:50-36:13)



Marching in Victory and Defeat (Numbers 21)

A. The Power of God (v1-3)

B. The Grace of God (v4-9)

v4-5 Their Sin

v6 Their Punishment

v7 Their Repentance

v8-9 Their Deliverance

C. The Goodness of God (v10-20)

The Victory of God (v21-35)

v21-32 Victory over the Amorites

v33-35 Victory over Bashan



Balaam and the Moabites (Numbers 22-25)

Balaam and God's Will (22:1-35)

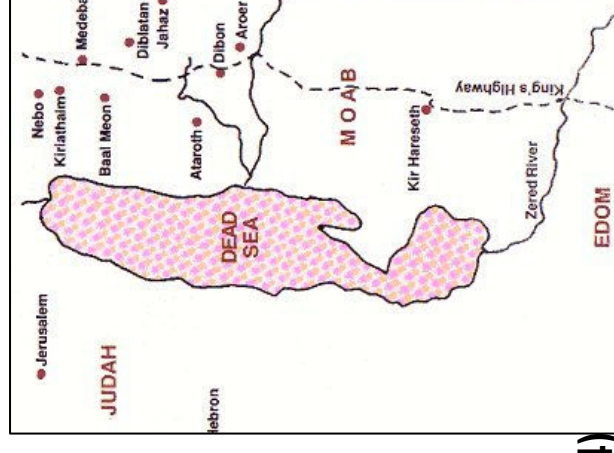
- The King's Request (22:1-20)
- The Donkey's Resistance (22:21-30)
- The Angel's Revelation (22:31-35)

Balaam and God's Message (22:36-24:25)

- The First Oracle (22:26-23:12) – a separated people
- The Second Oracle (23:13-26) – a conquering people
- The Third Oracle (23:27-24:14) – a prosperous people
- The Fourth Oracle (24:15-19) – a royal people
- Three Concluding Oracles (24:20-25)

Balaam and God's People (25:1-18)

- The Sin of Israel (25:1-9)
 - The Courage of Phinehas (25:10-15)
 - The Judgment of Midian (25:16-18)
- ### Balaam and the Church Today
- The Way of Balaam (2 Peter 2:15)
 - The Error of Balaam (Jude 11)
 - The Teaching of Balaam (Revelation 2:14)



The First Oracle (22:36-23:12) – A Separated People

36 **When** Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the Arnon border, at the extreme end of the border. 37 **Then** Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not urgently send to you to call you? Why did you not come to me? Am I really unable to honor you?"

38 **So** Balaam said to Balak, "**Behold**, I have come **now** to you! Am I able to speak anything at all? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I shall speak." 39 And Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kiriath-huzoth. 40 And Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and sent some to Balaam and the leaders who were with him.

41 **Then** it came about **in the morning** that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up to the high places of Baal; and he saw from there a portion of the people.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The First Oracle (22:26-23:12) – A Separated People

1 **Then** Balaam said to Balak, "Build seven altars for me here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me here." 2 And Balak did **just as** Balaam had spoken, and Balak and Balaam offered up a bull and a ram on each altar.

3 **Then** Balaam said to Balak, "Stand beside your burnt offering, and I will go; perhaps the LORD will come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I will tell you." **So** he went to a bare hill.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message

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The First Oracle (22:26-23:12) – A Separated People

4 **Now** God met Balaam, and he said to Him, "I have set up the seven altars, and I have offered up a bull and a ram on each altar." 5 **Then** the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth and said, "Return to Balak, and you shall speak thus." 6 **So** he returned to him, **and behold**, he was standing beside his burnt offering, he and all the leaders of Moab. 7 And he took up his discourse and said,

"From Aram Balak has brought me,
Moab's king from the mountains of the East,
'Come curse Jacob for me,
And come, denounce Israel!'

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The First Oracle (22:26-23:12) – A Separated People

8 "How shall I curse, whom God has not cursed?

And how can I denounce, whom the LORD has not denounced?

Trying to harm Israel, to exterminate her, is an exercise in futility, because the Lord of All has extended His favor to her. "How can I denounce those whom the Lord has not denounced?" Defamation of Israel is an equally vain pursuit, though the nations are well-practiced in it, because they shall hang their heads in shame when the Lord pronounces to Israel: "I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me." (Isaiah 49:16). "I have made a covenant with my chosen one." (Psalm 89:3). "The Lord has chosen Zion, He has desired it for His dwelling." (Psalm 133:13). "The Lord has chosen Jacob to be His own, Israel to be His treasured possession." (Psalm 135:4).

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



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The First Oracle (22:26-23:12) – A Separated People

- 9 "As I see him from the top of the rocks,
And I look at him from the hills;
Behold, a people *who dwells apart*,
And shall not be reckoned among the nations.
- 10 "Who can count the dust of Jacob,
Or number the fourth part of Israel?

Israel: "a people who live apart and do not consider themselves one of the nations." How could they? Wherever they have gone, they have been treated like outsiders, excluded and segregated and viewed with distrust. Their very existence is a rebuke to the world of unbelievers, because the Jewish people so obviously have a special destiny and the hand of God is upon them from generation to generation.

"Who can count the dust of Jacob or number the fourth part of Israel?" How can this be said of tiny Israel, a minute fraction of the world's teeming masses? Because their millions sprang from one man, Abraham...and because Abraham's physical and *spiritual* descendants form a burgeoning cloud of souls spanning four millennia...and because the global influence of this race is staggering, far greater than that of any other people in the history of mankind.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The First Oracle (22:26-23:12) – A Separated People

Let me die the death of the upright,

And let my end be like his!"

“Let me die the death of the righteous, and may my end be like theirs!” Balaam’s heart is so moved by his ecstatic vision of Israel’s future, that his heart’s highest desire is to share their end. All people everywhere would do well to pay attention to these words from the deeps of antiquity, because they are as fresh and as true as if they were uttered yesterday. The vastness of eternity yawns before our feet, and we teeter upon its precipitous threshold...in the case of many, oblivious to its ramifications. “Let me die the death of the righteous, i.e., let me enter eternity in a state of grace...and “Let my end be like theirs [Israel’s]. The Word of God declares that God’s redeemed Israel shall be filled with joy in His everlasting presence, with “eternal pleasures” at His right hand (Psalm 16:11), their sins forgiven by the atoning sacrifice of Messiah, and clothed in the righteousness of Messiah Himself.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God’s Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

- 1. God has specially blessed Israel and they could not be cursed (v7-8). This was part of God's covenant with Abraham (Gen 12:1-3) and it has been fulfilled throughout their history. God has judged every ruler and nation that has caused His people to suffer, including Egypt, Assyria, Babylon and Nazi Germany.**
- 2. The Jews were chosen by God and therefore were a nation set apart from the other nations (v9; Ex 19:5-6) and the laws He gave them made it possible for them to live like a special people.**
- 3. The vastness of Israel's camp (22:41).**

3 Aspects of the 1st Oracle (v7-10)

The First Oracle (22:26-23:12) – A Separated People

11 **Then** Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, **but behold**, you have actually blessed them!"

12 And he answered and said, "Must I not be careful to speak what the LORD puts in my mouth?"

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The Second Oracle (23:13-26) – A Conquering People

13 **Then** Balak said to him, "Please come with me to another place from where you may see them, **although** you will only see the extreme end of them, and will not see all of them; and **curse them for me from there.**" 14 **So** he took him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on *each* altar. 15 And he said to Balak, "Stand here beside your burnt offering, **while** I myself meet *the* Lord yonder." 16 **Then** the LORD met Balaam and put a word in his mouth and said, "**Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak.**"

17 And he came to him, **and behold**, he was standing beside his burnt offering, and the leaders of Moab with him. And Balak said to him, "What has the LORD spoken?"

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



The Second Oracle (23:13-26) – A Conquering People

- 18 **Then** he took up his discourse and said,
 "Arise, O Balak, and hear;
 Give ear to me, O son of Zippor!
- 19 "God is not a man, **that** He should lie,
 Nor a son of man, **that** He should repent;
 Has He said, and will He not do it?
 Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
- 20 "**Behold**, I have received a *command* to bless;
 When He has blessed, **then** I cannot revoke it.
- 21 "He has not observed misfortune in Jacob;
 Nor has He seen trouble in Israel;
 The LORD his God is with him,
 And the shout of a king is among them.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Here's a bit of wisdom which, if the nations had heeded it, would have spared them many catastrophes: "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind." Balak hoped that, though God refused to curse Israel at the first, He would relent and curse them later. Wrong! God never changes: "I the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed." (Malachi 3:6). "Messiah Yeshua is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8).

Yet the nations have pursued their doomed quest to exterminate Israel throughout the ages. Didn't they learn from what happened to Pharaoh and Egypt? Didn't they learn from what happened to the Canaanites? Didn't they learn from what happened to Assyria, to Babylon, to Haman the Persian Hitler and to Antiochus the Greek Antichrist? Didn't they learn when the invincible Spanish armada was obliterated after the Jews were expelled from Spain? Or when Britain reneged on the Balfour Declaration and subsequently lost their global empire? Or Nazi Germany, which was reduced to ruins and subjugation after it committed genocide against Israel? How about the USSR, after it refused to allow its persecuted Jewish citizens to emigrate to the Holy Land, and afterward was broken apart, impoverished? Didn't they learn when marauding Arab armies, bent on Israel's destruction, were repeatedly humiliated?

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Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Well, in case none of these things have gotten their attention, hear this: “NO misfortune is seen in Jacob, NO misery observed in Israel. THE LORD THEIR GOD IS WITH THEM; the shout of the King is among them.” The people of Israel are a banner lofted toward the sky: “See what God has done!” And the nations are infuriated.

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Messiah. “Let us break their chains,” they say, “and throw off their fetters.”

The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath, saying, “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

Psalm 2:1-6

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Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The Second Oracle (23:13-26) – A Conquering People

- 22 "God brings them out of Egypt,
He is for them **like** the horns of the wild ox.
- 23 "**For** there is no omen against Jacob,
Nor is there any divination against Israel;
At the proper time it shall be said to Jacob
And to Israel, what God has done.
- 24 "**Behold**, a people rises **like** a lioness,
And **as** a lion it lifts itself;
It shall not lie down **until** it devours the prey,
And drinks the blood of the slain."

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



- **The 1st oracle pictured Israel as a chosen people because of the love of God, and the 2nd oracle presents them as a conquering people because of the faithfulness of God. God doesn't lie, so all His promises and covenants are sure; He doesn't change, so His character remains the same. He isn't weak but is able to fulfill what He promises; nobody can manipulate Him or control Him. God was with the people of Israel and reigned as their King.**
- **It was God who gave them their victories. When He looked upon Israel, He didn't behold iniquity or wickedness and therefore has no reason to judge them. They were His special people (Ex 19:5-6).**

The Second Oracle (v18-24)

The Second Oracle (23:13-26) – A Conquering People

25 **Then** Balak said to Balaam, "Do not curse them at all nor bless them at all!"

26 **But** Balaam answered and said to Balak, "Did I not tell you, 'Whatever the LORD speaks, that I must do'?"

It doesn't matter what the antisemites do or for how long or how determinedly—they **MUST** fail. Balak's hope deflates as he realizes he cannot curse Israel...so he tries to withhold blessing from them.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The Third Oracle (23:27-24:14) – A Prosperous People

27 **Then** Balak said to Balaam, "Please come, I will take you to another place; **perhaps** it will be agreeable with God that you curse them for me from there." 28 **So** Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor which overlooks the wasteland. 29 And Balaam said to Balak, "Build seven altars for me here and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me here." 30 And Balak did **just as**

Balaam had said, and offered up a bull and a ram on each altar.

In this scene, we see Balaam looking out from the eastern heights westward to the plain below, where Israel was encamped. In the chapter 2 of this book of Numbers we are given the arrangement of the tribes in this camp, and Pastor Focht has pointed out an interesting peculiarity in its configuration. In the center was the Tabernacle where God's presence abode, along with the Priests and Levites. To the east of the Tabernacle, pointing towards Balaam, were three tribes referred to as the "Camp of Judah," comprising 186, 400 Israelites. To the south lay the three tribes called the "Camp of Reuben," 157, 450 souls. To the west, another three tribes, the "Camp of Ephraim," 108,400 in number. Finally, the last three tribes, under the banner of Dan, numbering 157, 600. From Balaam's perspective, etched across the flat expanse, a cross—with its north and south axes roughly equal in length, its west axis the shortest, and its eastern axis the longest.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The Third Oracle (23:27-24:14) – A Prosperous People

- 1 **When** Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not go **as at other times** to seek omens **but** he set his face toward the wilderness. 2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe; and **the Spirit of God came upon him**. 3 And he took up his discourse and said,
- "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor,
And the oracle of the man whose eye is opened;
4 The oracle of him who hears the words of God,
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,
Falling down, **yet** having his eyes **uncovered**,
5 How fair are your tents, O Jacob,
Your dwellings, O Israel!
6 "**Like** valleys that stretch out,
Like gardens beside the river,

Beholding this symbol, Balaam falls prostrate and his eyes are opened to see this people of Israel through God's eyes: beautiful, like a well-watered garden, the object of His very great blessing and nurture.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the **F**aithful

The Third Oracle (23:27-24:14) – A Prosperous People

Like aloes planted by the LORD,

Like cedars beside the waters.

7 "Water shall flow from his buckets,

And his seed *shall be* by many waters,

And his king shall be higher than Agag,

And his kingdom shall be exalted.

8 "God brings him out of Egypt,

He is for him **like** the horns of the wild ox.

He shall devour the nations *who are* his adversaries,

And shall crush their bones in pieces,

And shatter *them* with his arrows.

9 "He couches, he lies down as a lion,

And **as** a lion, who dares rouse him?

Blessed is everyone who blesses you,

And cursed is everyone who curses you."

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

- The emphasis here is on the contentment of God’s people in their own land. The conquest of Canaan is over (v8-9), their enemies have been defeated, and Israel is enjoying the abundance of God’s provision in the Promised Land.
- In the 2nd oracle, Balaam saw God as Israel’s King (23:21), but now he sees the nation ruled by its own king who is greater than Agag (24:7). Agag may have been the official name of the rulers of the Amalekites as “Pharaoh” in Egypt and “Abimelech” in Gerar (Gen 20; 26). This king could possibly be David but it certainly points to our Lord Jesus Christ (Psalm 89:27).

The Third Oracle (v3-9)

The Third Oracle (23:27-24:14) – A Prosperous People

10 **Then** Balak's anger burned against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, **but behold**, you have persisted in blessing them these three times! 11 **Therefore**, flee to your place **now**. I said I would honor you greatly, **but behold**, the LORD has held you back from honor."

12 And Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not tell your messengers whom you had sent to me, saying, 13 **Though** Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything contrary to the command of the LORD, either good or bad, of my own accord. What the LORD speaks, that I will speak'? 14 And **now behold**, I am going to my people; come, *and* I will advise you what this people will do to your people **in the days to come**."

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



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The Fourth Oracle (24:15-19) – A Royal People

15 And he took up his discourse and said,

"The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor,

And the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,

16 The oracle of him who hears the words of God,

And knows the knowledge of the Most High,

Who sees the vision of the Almighty,

Falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The Fourth Oracle (24:15-19) – A Royal People

17 "I see him, **but not now**;
I behold him, **but not near**;
A star shall come forth from Jacob,
And a scepter shall rise from Israel,
And shall crush through the forehead of Moab,
And tear down all the sons of Sheth.

Both the Star and the Scepter refer back to "Him" in the previous verse. And the result of His coming will be that all of Israel's enemies are destroyed. To whom is the prophet referring? Believers in Messiah Yeshua see the answer with crystal clarity. "A Star" ...when Yeshua was born in Bethlehem 15 centuries after this foretelling, Jewish sages in Persia who watched the heavens for this sign observed something they had never seen before: a star that rose in the west, instead of the east like all other stars. Amazed, they followed the star to David's city and beheld the newborn Messiah and worshipped Him (Matthew chapter 2). But Balaam saw more than this first coming of Messiah in humility to bear sin. "A scepter will rise out of Israel" ...this same Messiah shall return, 35 centuries after the oracle, and shall crush Israel's enemies and set up His everlasting throne in Jerusalem, in fulfillment of all God's promises to Israel. "Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled." (Joshua 21:45).

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



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- **It focuses on the coming Messiah of Israel and His conquests in “the days to come” (v14).**
- **The images of the star and scepter speak of Messiah’s kingship and reign (Gen 49:10; Rev 22:16). While part of this vision may have been fulfilled in David and his conquests, the final fulfillment is in Yeshua the Son of David when He returns to conquer His enemies and establish His kingdom on the earth (Rev 19:11-20:6).**

The Fourth Oracle (v14-19)

 **Entrusting the Word to the Faithful**

The Fourth Oracle (24:15-19) – A Royal People

Why do the Jewish Scriptures declare that a “Star,” the Messiah, would first come out of “Jacob,” but would then rise out of “Israel”? Remember that, in Genesis 32:29, God changed Jacob’s name to *Israel*. Jacob’s name means “heel-catcher” or “supplanter,” a reference to the manner of his birth (Genesis 25:26) which also came to characterize his dealings with his brother and others. Later, after many hard lessons, he surrenders to God’s Lordship over him and is renamed *Israel*, meaning “God prevails” or “governed by God.” In other words, Messiah would first come out of the people of Jacob, clutching at a righteousness of their own (Romans 10:3), and would be rejected. He shall come a second time (a scepter out of Israel) to reign as King Messiah over a redeemed Israel which after many troubles and a climactic end-times crisis has exhausted all human measures and turned to Him as their only hope. Jacob...Israel. An unbelieving people...a people who have come into the light of truth. How deep are the riches of God’s wisdom!

- 18 "And Edom shall be a possession,
Seir, its enemies, also shall be a possession,
While Israel performs valiantly.**
- 19 "One from Jacob shall have dominion,
And shall destroy the remnant from the city."**

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God’s Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Three Concluding Oracles (24:20-25)

20 And he looked at Amalek and took up his discourse and said,

"Amalek was the first of the nations,

But his end shall be destruction."

Amalek was the first nation to attack Israel after their exodus from Egypt (Ex 17:8-16), but they would be finally defeated and wiped out by David (1 Sam 27:8-9; 2 Sam 8:11-12).

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Three Concluding Oracles (24:20-25)

21 And he looked at the Kenite, and took up his discourse and said,

"Your dwelling place is enduring,

And your nest is set in the cliff.

22 **"Nevertheless** Kain shall be consumed;

How long shall Asshur keep you captive?"

The Kenites were a nomadic people who lived among the Midianites. They lived in the mountainous regions, but their "nest" wouldn't protect them from the invading Assyrians (Asshur) who would take them captive.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Three Concluding Oracles (24:20-25)

23 And he took up his discourse and said,

"Alas, who can live except God has ordained it?

24 "**But** ships shall come from the coast of Kittim,

And they shall afflict Asshur and shall afflict Eber;

So they also shall come to destruction."

Many scholars think that Kittim refers not only to Cyprus specifically but also to all western Mediterranean maritime powers generally, particularly Rome (Jer 2:10; Ezek 27:6; Dan 11:30). This remarkable prophecy found fulfillment in the overthrow of Asshur (Mesopotamia and Persia) and Eber (original name for the Hebrews, or Israelites). Later Rome did indeed incorporate the vestiges of the Assyrian Empire as well as Israel within its Empire.

25 **Then** Balaam arose and departed and returned to his place,
and Balak also went his way.

Numbers 22:36-24:25 – Balaam and God's Message



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Epilogue. After these oracles were pronounced, the very next thing that happened to Israel (Numbers ch. 25) was that the Moabite women seduced them to immorality and idolatry, so that the Lord's anger burned against them, causing a plague that killed 24,000. Their leadership repented, and avenged themselves upon Balaam, putting him to the sword (31:8). Why? We find that it was Balaam's advice to Balak that led to the seduction, of "turning the Israelites away from the Lord." (31:16). This wicked sorcerer, finding he could not curse Israel but greedy for reward, advised that the only way to turn God against Israel was to turn Israel against God.

What are we to learn from such a fearful example? That knowing the truth, by itself, is not enough. Balaam was a conduit for holy wisdom from the Most High. The Scripture tells us that "the Holy Spirit came upon him" (24:2). The veil of darkness that blinds all unbelieving persons from the truth was momentarily lifted for Balaam, and it astonished him...yet, no sooner had the vision passed, than he embraced the darkness again. Of such foolish persons it is written:

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.
Hebrews 6:4-6

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Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Marching in Victory and Defeat (Numbers 21)

A. The Power of God (v1-3)

B. The Grace of God (v4-9)

v4-5 Their Sin

v6 Their Punishment

v7 Their Repentance

v8-9 Their Deliverance

C. The Goodness of God (v10-20)

The Victory of God (v21-35)

v21-32 Victory over the Amorites

v33-35 Victory over Bashan



Balaam and the Moabites (Numbers 22-25)

Balaam and God's Will (22:1-35)

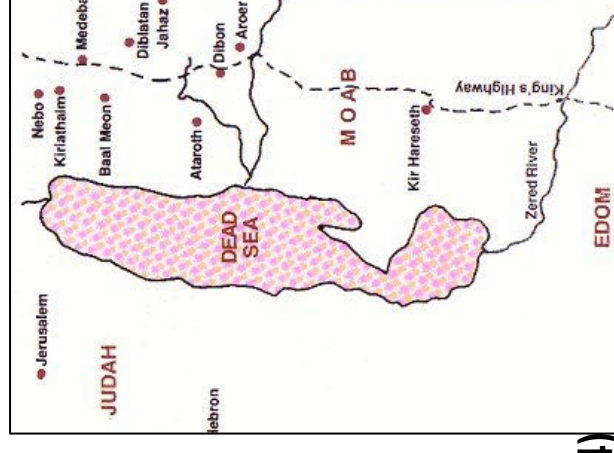
- The King's Request (22:1-20)
- The Donkey's Resistance (22:21-30)
- The Angel's Revelation (22:31-35)

Balaam and God's Message (22:36-24:25)

- The First Oracle (22:26-23:12) – a separated people
- The Second Oracle (23:13-26) – a conquering people
- The Third Oracle (23:27-24:14) – a prosperous people
- The Fourth Oracle (24:15-19) – a royal people
- Three Concluding Oracles (24:20-25)

Balaam and God's People (25:1-18)

- The Sin of Israel (25:1-9)
- The Courage of Phinehas (25:10-15)
- The Judgment of Midian (25:16-18)
- Balaam and the Church Today
- The Way of Balaam (2 Peter 2:15)
- The Error of Balaam (Jude 11)
- The Teaching of Balaam (Revelation 2:14)



Numbers: Man's Failure and God's Faithfulness (Num 14:8-9) (Wiersbe)

I. At Sinai: Obeying the Lord (1:1-9:14)

- 1. Numbering the Soldiers (1:1-54)**
- 2. Organizing the Tribes (2:134)**
- 3. Assigning the Duties (ch 3-4)**
- 4. Purifying the People (ch 5-6)**
- 5. Dedicating the Tabernacle (ch 7-8)**
- 6. Celebrating the Passover (9:1-14)**

II. To Kadesh: Tempting the Lord

(9:15-12:16)

- 1. The Camp Marches (9:15-10:36)**
- 2. The People Complain (ch 11)**
- 3. Aaron and Miriam Criticize Moses (ch 12)**

III. At Kadesh: Rebellious Against the Lord (ch 13-14)

- 1. Exploring the Promised Land (ch 13)**
- 2. Refusing the Claim the Land (14:1-9)**
- 3. Turning away from the Land (14:10-45)**

IV. In the Wilderness: Learning from the Lord (15:1-20:13)

- 1. About Sacrifices (15:1-31)**
- 2. About Authority (15:32-17:13)**
- 3. About Responsibility (ch 18)**
- 4. About Purity (ch 19)**
- 5. About Humility (20:1-13)**

V. In Moab: A New Beginning from the Lord (20:14-36:13)

- 1. New Victories (20:14-21; 21:1-35)**
- 2. A New Priest (20:22-29)**
- 3. New Dangers (ch 22-25)**
- 4. A New Generation (ch 26)**
- 5. New Regulations (27:1-11)**
- 6. A New Leader (27:12-23)**
- 7. New Commitment to the Law (ch 28-30)**
- 8. New Commitment to Battle (ch 31-32)**
- 9. New Laws for the New Land (ch 33-36)**



35,400

BENJAMIN

40,500

EPHRAIM

32,200

MANASSEH

ASHER

41,500

DAN

62,700

NAPHTALI

53,400

54,400

ISSACHAR

74,600

JUDAH

57,400

ZEBULUN

LEVITES

East

North

MERARITES

6,200

West

GERSHONITES

7,500

South

8,600

KOATHITES

59,300

SIMEON

46,500

REUBEN

45,650

GAD

TABERNACLE

