

The Prophecy from Peor

24:1 **W**HEN Balaam saw that it ¹pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times to ²seek ^aomens but he set his face toward the ^bwilderness. 2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel ¹camping tribe by tribe; and ^athe Spirit of God came upon him. 3 And he took up his ¹discourse and said,

“^aThe oracle of Balaam the son of Beor,
And the oracle of the man whose eye is opened;
4 The oracle of him who ^ahears the ¹words of God,
Who sees the ^bvision of ²the Almighty,
Falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered,
5 How fair are your tents, O Jacob,
Your dwellings, O Israel!

6 “Like ¹valleys that stretch out,
Like gardens beside the river,
Like ^aaloes planted by the LORD,
Like ^bcedars 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 ^aAgag,
^bAnd his kingdom shall be exalted.

8 “^aGod brings him out of Egypt,
He is for him like the horns of the wild ox.
^bHe shall devour the nations *who are* his adversaries,
And shall crush their bones in pieces,
And shatter *them* with his ^carrows.

9 “^aHe ¹couches, he lies down as a lion,
And as a ²lion, who ³dares rouse him?
^bBlessed is everyone who blesses you,
And cursed is everyone who curses you.”

10 Then Balak’s anger burned against Balaam, and he struck his ¹hands 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, ¹flee 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, “^aDid 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 ¹command of the LORD, either good or bad, ^aof my own ²accord. ^bWhat the LORD speaks, that I will speak’? 14 “And now behold, ^aI am going to my people; come, *and* I will advise you what this people will do to your people in the ¹days to come.” 15 And he took up his discourse and said,

“^aThe 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 ¹words of God,
And knows the knowledge of the ²Most High,
Who sees the vision of ³the Almighty,
Falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered.

17 “I see him, but not now;
 I behold him, but not near;
 A star shall come forth from Jacob,
^aAnd a scepter shall rise from Israel,
^bAnd shall crush through the ¹forehead of Moab,
 And ²tear down all the sons of ³Sheth.

18 “^aAnd Edom shall be a possession,
^bSeir, 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.” 20 And he looked at Amalek and
 took up his discourse and said,
 “Amalek was the first of the nations,
^aBut his end *shall be* ¹destruction.”

21 And he looked at the ^aKenite, 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 ^aAsshur ¹keep you captive?” 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 ^aKittim,
 And they shall afflict Asshur and shall afflict ^bEber;
^cSo they also *shall come* to destruction.”

25 Then Balaam arose and departed and returned to ^ahis place, and Balak also went his
 way.
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¹ Lit., *was good in the eyes of*

² Lit., *encounter*

^a Num. 22:7; 23:23

^b Num. 23:28

¹ Lit., *dwelling*

^a Num. 11:26; 1 Sam. 19:20; Rev. 1:10

¹ Lit., *parable*, and so throughout the ch.

^a Num. 24:15, 16

^a Num. 22:20

¹ Lit., *sayings*

^b Gen. 15:1; Num. 12:6

² Heb., *Shaddai*

¹ Or possibly, *palm trees*

^a Ps. 45:8

^b Ps. 1:3

^a Num. 24:20; 1 Sam. 15:8

^b Ps. 145:11-13

^a Num. 23:22

^b Num. 23:24; Ps. 2:9

^c Ps. 45:5

^a Gen. 49:9; Num. 23:24

¹ Lit., *bows down*

² Or, *lioness*

³ Lit., *shall*

^b Gen. 12:3; 27:29

¹ Lit., *palms*

¹ Lit., *flee for yourself*

^a Num. 22:18

¹ Lit., *mouth*

^a Num. 16:28

² Lit., *heart*

^b Num. 22:20

^a Num. 31:8, 16; Josh. 13:22

¹ Lit., *end of the days*

^a Num. 24:3, 4

¹ Lit., *sayings*

² Heb., *Elyon*

³ Heb., *Shaddai*

^a Gen. 49:10

^b Num. 21:29; Is. 15:1-16:14

¹ Lit., *corners*

² Another reading is *the crown of the head of*

³ I.e., *tumult*

^a Gen. 27:29; Amos 9:11, 12

^b Gen. 32:3

^a Num. 24:24

¹ Lit., *to destroying*

^a Gen. 15:19

^a Gen. 10:21, 22

¹ Lit., *take*

^a Gen. 10:4; Ezek. 27:6

^b Gen. 10:21

^c Num. 24:20

^a Num. 24:14

ⁱ*The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.