

“Cannot Go Beyond the Word of the Lord”Lesson
16
Summary

Numbers 22; Balak offers money and cattle and great honors to Balaam to curse Israel—The Lord forbids Balaam so to do—An angel opposes Balaam on the way.

Numbers 23; The Lord commands Balaam to bless Israel—He does so, saying: Who can count the dust of Jacob? and, What hath God wrought!

Numbers 24; Balaam sees in vision and prophesies of the destiny of Israel—He prophesies of the Messiah: There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel.

Numbers 31:1-16 Moses sends forth 12,000 warriors who destroy Midianites—Prey divided in Israel—None in armies of Israel were lost.

**Supplemental
Holy Land and
Jewish
insights:**

What Do Jews Think of Balaam? There is quite a collection of Jewish traditions about Balaam, mostly negative and confusing. First of all, he is considered a “gentile prophet.” What makes this of interest is the acknowledgment, or at least the inference, that there were prophets outside of ethnic Israel. Unfortunately, the same Jewish tradition distrusts “gentile” prophets. In the same breath, it diminishes the importance of the positive Biblical accounts of Balaam before his apostasy.

Balaam Speaks of a Latter-day David: Balaam was very politically involved and apparently prophesied of a latter-day King David: “Even in parashat-Bilam, the prophecy in that section bears upon two Mashiachs; the first, namely David, who helped to save Israel from the hand of their enemies, and the future Mashiach, a descendant of David, who will help Israel.” (*Torah and Existence - Dr. Chaim Zimmerman*)

Still to Be Fulfilled: “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. And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.” (*Numbers 24:17-19*)

Tradition: There is a Jewish tradition that after a good life, an evil spirit entered Balaam and he “counterfeited” God’s word.

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available *FREE* at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click “LDS SUPPLEMENTS”)

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