Connection to Numbers 22:22-35

Balak was king of the Moabites and feared what the Israelites might do to him and his kingdom. Balak hired Balaam to come and pronounce a curse upon the people of Israel. God would not allow Balaam to curse His people; instead, Balaam blessed Israel.

Introduction/Opening

God’s promises will come to pass. Nothing can stop God’s promises from being fulfilled. No amount of money, greed, or people can keep what God has promised from coming to pass. This is seen in the account of Balak and Balaam. King Balak of the Moabites has hired Balaam to curse the people of Israel. However, God did not allow Balaam to curse Israel, because He had promised to bless Israel.

Outline

1. First Attempt at Cursing (Num. 23:7-12)
   a. Balaam was hired to curse Israel; however, the Lord met with Balaam and put a message in Balaam’s mouth (v. 5).
   b. Balaam delivered the message to Balak and was unable to curse Israel. Instead Balaam spoke of his inability to curse those whom God had not cursed (v. 8). Balak was upset that Balaam did not curse Israel (v. 11).

2. Second Attempt at Cursing (Num. 23:13-26)
   a. Balak took Balaam to a second location so that he could see the outskirts of Israel’s camp and asked him again to curse Israel (v. 13).
   b. The Lord met Balaam again and gave Balaam a message. Again Balaam blessed Israel and spoke of how the “LORD their God is with them” (v. 21).

3. Third Attempt at Cursing (Num. 23:27–24:14)
   a. Again Balaam was asked to curse Israel. Balaam saw that God wanted to bless Israel, so he decided that he would not say anything. But when he looked upon Israel, “the Spirit of God came on him” and he blessed God’s people (24:2).
   b. In this oracle, Balaam spoke of a king who would come to Israel whose “kingdom will be exalted” (v. 7).
   c. Balak was infuriated and told Balaam to leave without pay because he did not curse Israel.

   a. Balaam declared a warning to Balak as he left. Balaam prophesied, “A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will smash the forehead of Moab…” (v. 17).
i. This prophecy looked forward to a time after the conquering of the promised land and is about a king from Jacob who would defeat the Moabites. This is taken to be a reference to King David.

b. Balak called Balaam to curse Israel so he could attack them. However, God promised to bless His people, and Balaam was only able to bless Israel.

i. It is futile to go against what God has commanded. How might we be going against what God has blessed in His Word?

Conclusion

While the Israelites were encamped in the wilderness, they had no idea what was happening between Balak and Balaam. The Lord’s mighty hand brought them out of Egypt, and while they were encamped in the wilderness the Lord’s mighty hand was blessing and protecting them.

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