



2016: Week 8

Sunday, February 21st 2016

*"Lessons from Balaam, Part 3:
Jacob's Star & Our Hope"*

Numbers 24:17, 19

Balaam: ¹⁷ "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel... ¹⁹ One from Jacob shall have dominion..." (NASB) *(spoken around 1400 B.C.)*

On Sunday, John preached from Numbers 24 and continued our study involving the prophet Balaam. Balaam's story is one of the most peculiar in the Bible: he was a prophet from Mesopotamia who received revelation from the one true God, God allowed his donkey to verbally rebuke him, Balaam was motivated more by a desire for wealth than a desire to obey God, and yet God permitted Balaam to interact with a pagan king whose chief desire was to curse and destroy God's people, Israel. Are you scratching your head right now? Don't worry! In spite of all the head-scratching parts to the story of Balaam, Scripture reveals that God is in control and He has a plan. These passages in Numbers 22–24 teach us several life lessons, and they remind us of the hope we have in Christ.

1. READ Numbers 24:10–19

- Why was King Balak so frustrated with Balaam?
- What was Balaam's reasoning for prophesying the way that he did?
- Do you think Balaam regretted going to Balak in the first place? Why or why not?
- What is so unique about Balaam's prophecies in verses 17–19?

2. As John mentioned a few weeks ago, it would have been much better for Balaam to say no to Balak in the first place. It is much harder to get back on the right track when you are following a road guided by yourself rather than by God. Saying yes to God in the first place is not only wise, but it will probably save you some heartache later on down the road.

- Are you following a path that is not congruent with God's will? If not you, do you know someone who is walking down a dangerous path?
- What steps need to be taken to get off such a path and get back on the right track with the Lord?

3. READ

Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star." (NLT)

(Book of Revelation written around A.D. 90)

- Jesus has fulfilled so many OT prophecies, and will ultimately fulfill Balaam's in Numbers 24. One day He will return and establish a kingdom in which He will sit on "the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end" (Luke 1:32–33).
- Jacob's star is Our Savior, Jesus, and Jesus will one day return and establish an eternal kingdom. How can this truth motivate you to better serve your Savior today? How might this provide hope amidst adversity?

FAMILY PRAYER: Thank the Lord God for His provision in Jesus. Ask the Lord to help you better follow Him today. Ask the Lord to give you the wisdom and strength to follow the path He has chosen for you.