

Text: **Numbers 23:27-30; 24:1-14**

3RD ATTEMPT OF BALAK-BALAAM TO CURSE ISRAEL

Numbers 23:27-30

1. At the top of Mount Peor (Numbers 23:27)
2. Overlooking wasteland (Numbers 23:28)
3. Balaam's instructions to build altars
 - a) Seven altars
 - b) Seven rams
 - c) Seven ewes (Numbers 23:29-30)
4. Balak's hope
 - a) Perhaps it will please God to curse Israel (Numbers 23:27)
 - b) He held on to this thought despite his past 2 experiences

BALAAM'S UNDERSTANDING

1. He realised that God had plans to bless Israel (Numbers 24:1)
2. He did not attempt to use sorcery (Numbers 24:1)
3. He turned his face toward the wilderness (Numbers 24:1)

WHAT DID BALAAM HOPE TO DO?

1. He would not become a mouthpiece for God
2. Looking at the wilderness could give him many negative thoughts/ feelings
3. He was hoping that he could utter his own words
 - a) Against Israel
 - b) He must have believed that his words were indeed powerful
 - c) He was still trying to please Balak and earn his fee

WHAT DID GOD DO?

1. The Spirit of God came upon him (Numbers 24:2)
2. Once again he could not but be God's oracle (Numbers 24:3-9)

UTTERANCE OF BALAAM

1. Utterance (3 times this word was used)
2. This was what he heard as "the words of God" (Numbers 24:3-4)
3. The dwellings/ tents of Jacob/ Israel (Numbers 24:5-9)
 - a) Valleys that stretch out
 - b) Gardens by the riverside
 - c) Aloes planted by the LORD
 - d) Cedars beside the waters
 - e) His king shall be higher than Agag (Amalekite king)
 - f) His kingdom exalted
 - g) Strength of an ox
 - h) He will consume his enemies
 - i) He is like a lion
 - j) Blessed!

ANGER OF BALAK

1. He expresses anger and frustration against Balaam
2. He will not give anything to Balaam (Numbers 24:10-11)

BALAAM'S RESPONSE

1. He reminds Balak what he had said at the beginning (Numbers 24:12-13)
2. He will return to his own people (Numbers 24:14)