

MESSIANIC PROPHECY

"Balaam's Messianic Prophecy" Numbers 23, 24

Introduction

1. The story of Balaam's ass is so well known it hardly needs to be repeated. That Balaam actually contended with Balak, a foreign king, over the future of Israel is not very common knowledge.

2. In four marvelous oracles, Balaam presents the Word of God concerning Israel and the purpose of the Lord for that nation. One of these is specifically Messianic, albeit, the New Testament does not declare this directly.

3. Mark these oracles and the truths which each presents:

1. FIRST ORACLE - The multiplicity of the nation.
Numbers 23:7-10

Here is a marvelous revelation. The tenth verse is a summary of the section. It notes that Israel's posterity is like dry dust. The LXX uses the term "seed" for dust, hence pointing up the huge population of the nation. All that Balaam can utter is: let my last end be like unto that of Israel! That is, full of flourishing posterity.

2. SECOND ORACLE - The perfectability of the nation.
Numbers 23:18-24

Despite all the waywardness of Israel and that which God knew would yet be of rebellion against Him, He avers their righteousness in His sight (v. 21). The sum of things is given in v. 23 in that tremendous

phrase, "What hath God wrought!" It is not what He hath taught, but what He has done! This is how God viewed His people and it is a sight different than people viewed them.

3. THIRD ORACLE - The productability of the nation.

Numbers 24:3-9

How glorious is this! Everywhere it is recorded that the nation overflows with fruitage. So goodly is Israel that Balaam can only conclude with the blessing God gave to Abraham back in Gen. 12:1-3 (v.9.).

NOTE: Any cursory reading of these three oracles will give reason for Balak to complain as he did (24:10). By way of application, all of this material may be indicative of how the Lord views the church, bought with the blood of His Son.

4. FOURTH ORACLE - The responsibility of the nation.

Numbers 24:15-25

The whole burden of Balaam's word is that God cannot destroy the nation. He has too great and glorious a future for her. In outline form, this is revealed here. Consider these important features:

- a. The STAR of Jacob. v. 17.
This suggests the diety of our blessed Lord. He is the One from above. See Matt. 2:2, II Peter 1:19; Rev. 22:16, 17.
- b. The SCEPTRE of Jacob. v. 17.
This suggests the humanity of our

Lord, and speaks of His royalty. Compare Psa. 45:6, 7; 110:2.

c. The SWAY of Jacob. v. 17.

This speaks of the ultimate control of our Lord over nations. Included in this overview of His reign are: Moab, Edom, Amalek, and the Kenites. The day is coming when His rule will be world-wide (Psa. 72:8). It is possible to see in these nations representations of the life of man under sin which will fall at His presence: Moab speaks of the pride of man (Isa. 16: Jer. 48); Edom of the wisdom of man (Jer. 49:7; Obad. 8); Amalek of opposition to God (Ex. 17:16); and the Kenites of earth attachment by men (Num. 24:21).

Conclusion:

Balaam has given clear and definite revelation concerning the place of Israel and the coming Messiah. In thinking of our Lord and what He has done for us, let us give attention to the fact that He designs to be our personal Star, exercise His Sceptre, and lay claim to Sway in our lives. May these divine objectives be realized in our lives today.

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