

# Shadows Of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #35

Balaam: Oracle #4

Sept. 18, 2024

Num. 24:10-13 And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together: and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed them these three times. <sup>11</sup> Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honor; but, lo, the Lord hath kept thee back from honor. <sup>12</sup> And Balaam said unto Balak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying, <sup>13</sup> If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the Lord, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the Lord saith, that will I speak?

Num. 24:14-16 And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days <sup>15</sup> And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: <sup>16</sup> He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:

Num. 24:17-25 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. <sup>18</sup> And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. <sup>19</sup> Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remains of the city.

<sup>20</sup> And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish forever.

<sup>21</sup> And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is thy dwellingplace, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock.

<sup>22</sup> Nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive.

<sup>23</sup> And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this!

<sup>24</sup> And ships shall come from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish forever.

<sup>25</sup> And Balaam rose up and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

He described the Deliverer's reign and the future dominion of the Israelites.

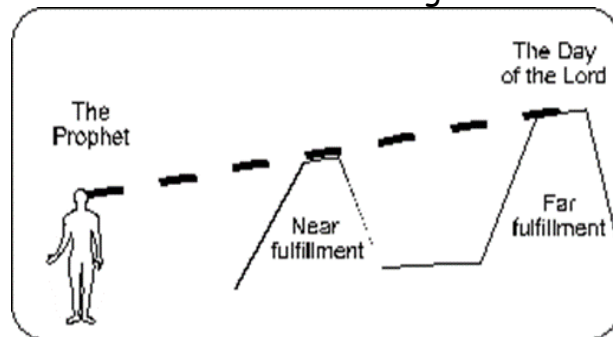
- Num. 24:17-19 Israel's future king and the fall of Israel's enemies
- Num. 24:20-22 The future of two regional peoples
- Num. 24:23-24 The future invasion of the Sea People

God gave Balaam a final prophecy for Israel's future, the future of the region, and the future of salvation history. It focused on the coming Deliverer, the Messiah, Jesus Christ!

He is still standing in the place where all Israel was laid out before him in the shape of a cross. With that in perfect view, he next speaks of the One who would prevail over that cross...

Num. 24:17a I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not close at hand.

These words emphasize the long-range nature of this final prophecy. The coming of the Messiah is "not now" and "not near." It would be 1,400 years until His coming as the Son of Man and another 2,000 years or more until His return as King.



David Jeremiah: The number of references to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ outnumber the references to His First Coming by a factor of eight to one. Scholars have identified 1,845 different Biblical references to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Old Testament: Seventeen books mention Christ's return.

New Testament: His return is mentioned in 23 of the 27 books.  
Seven out of ten chapters refer to His return.

One of every 30 verses teach of Christ's Second Coming to this earth.

MacArthur: There are at least 333 prophecies concerning Christ in the Old Testament. Only 109 were fulfilled in His first advent, leaving 224—twice as many—to be fulfilled at His second advent. Of the 46 Old Testament prophets, less than ten speak of events in Christ's First Coming, while 36 speak of events connected with His Second Coming. There are 7,959 verses in the New Testament, of which 330 refer directly to the Second Coming. The Lord refers to His return 25 times. Throughout the New Testament, there are more than 50 exhortations for people to be ready for Christ's return.

Num. 24:17 I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not close at hand.

there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre, a king, shall rise out of Israel, Balaam saw a star and a scepter that would originate from Israel in the future.

The Messiah shall be revealed by the star of Bethlehem.

There is evidence in the Dead Sea Scrolls that the Jews of the Qumran community associated the star and sceptre with the final battle of good and evil.

St. Irenaeus makes the connection even more explicitly in his *Against Heresies*: 2<sup>nd</sup> century "Therefore there is one and the same God... whose star also Balaam thus prophesied: 'There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a leader shall rise in Israel' [Num 24:17]...

Matthew says, that the Magi, coming from the east, exclaimed, 'For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him;' [Matt 2:2] and that having been led by the star into the house of Jacob..." [The Ante-Nicene Fathers, p. 422-423].

The star: symbol of guidance, divine favor and the presence of God.

- OT times: a star represented a god; a deity

Amos 5:26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.

- NT: The star could be associated with the star of Bethlehem which heralded the birth of Jesus Christ.

Rev. 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches.

I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.

The sceptre: symbolizes royal authority and leadership; a king

Star & Sceptre: Convey the idea of authority, leadership and divine guidance

NT: Matt. 2:2: There is to be a connection made between this passage and the sighting of a star in its ascendancy by the magi, who then traveled to Bethlehem to see the one BORN King of the Jews.

Balaam's 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> oracles "are remarkably like Judah's blessing in Genesis 49.

Both places describe a royal figure [a lion, a scepter] who will come in the last days.

Gen. 49:9-10

Num. 24:9, 17

Judah is a lion's cub;  
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.  
He stooped down; he crouched as a lion  
and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?  
The scepter shall not depart from Judah,  
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,  
until tribute comes to him;  
and to him shall be the obedience of the  
peoples.

He crouched, he lay down like a lion  
and like a lioness; who will rouse him  
up?

I see him, but not now;  
I behold him, but not near:  
a star shall come out of Jacob,  
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;  
it shall crush the forehead of Moab  
and break down all the sons of Sheth.

Numbers 24:17 is a profound prophecy that speaks to the universal nature of God's plans and the anticipation of a powerful and authoritative figure who will bring salvation and victory to God's people. It serves as a reminder of the faithfulness of God in fulfilling His promises and the hope of a future deliverer who will bring ultimate triumph.

The time setting jumps forward to the end time: The return of Jesus Christ as King of kings. His words touch on Jesus' first coming, but the thrust of the passage is on His royal power to defeat and rule the enemies of Israel.

*Num. 24:17-19 Israel's future king & the Fall of Israel's Enemies*

As he stood at Peor, he had visions concerning other nations and predicted their destiny.

Balaam's final oracle: A star would come out of Jacob and a scepter out of Israel,  
a great king who would definitively crush all her enemies.

It shows Edom, Moab and Amalek taking the brunt His wrath at His return.

Isa. 15-16; 34:5-7; Jer. 48:1-47; 49:7-22; Lam. 4:21-22; Ezek. 25:8-14; 35:1-15; Obad. 1:15-21

These peoples are singled out because of their open hostility toward Israel and represent all nations who oppose God.

The first nation whose destruction is prophesied is Moab, relative of Israel through Lot.

Message to Moab: This star with the sceptre is going to batter you, defeat you  
and these other kings and kingdoms.

Why? In the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, Moab drew close to Assyria, Israel's enemy and destroyer,  
Earning God's wrath and pending judgment.

Ps. 60:6a,8 God hath spoken in His holiness; Moab is my [God's] washpot.

Moab, which had threatened Israel, was to be so completely subdued, and become so utterly contemptible as to be likened to a washpot or basin in which men wash their feet.

This is typically associated with menial and lowly tasks.

Near fulfillment: Balaam's prediction concerns the rise of David and the Davidic kingdom.

His prophecy anticipates the conquering of the Moabites under David.

David defeated Moab and Edom and established an empire including them.

God's covenants with Israel through Abraham [Gen. 12, 15], Moses [Deut. 27-30] and David

[II Sam. 7] had promised Israel the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

The LORD used David to help fulfill the promise.

Israel had lost territory to her enemies during the reign of King Saul. David recaptured it.

He also organized the kingdom, [8:15-18] expanded Israel's borders and acquired land that hadn't been conquered in Joshua's day.

II Sam. 8:2 And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive.

And so the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts.

➤ Gifts: pay the tax levied on conquered nations; demonstrate under Israel's control

Because the Moabites had hired Balaam the prophet to curse Israel and then led Moab in seducing the men of Israel, the Lord declared war on Moab. David was only continuing that crusade. Most conquerors would have slaughtered the entire army, but David spared every third soldier and settled for tribute from the nation.

David established vassal treaties with most of these nations and set up garrisons in their lands to maintain Israel's authority. A man of faith, David believed God's promises and acted upon them for the blessing of his people.

Ps. 60:8 God hath spoken in His holiness: Moab, once considered a mighty and powerful enemy, will be reduced to a state of servitude and submission to the God of Israel. David, as a leader of Israel, is expressing his confidence and trust in God's power and sovereignty over these enemies. David declares that these nations will be subject to God's authority and will ultimately be defeated.

- Time setting jumps forward to the end time: Jesus Christ returns as King of Kings.

Num. 24:18a Message to Edom: And Edom shall be a possession,  
Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies;

Recall that Edom had rejected the request of Moses for safe passage [Num. 20:14-21].

<sup>17</sup> Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's highway, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders.

<sup>20</sup> And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand. <sup>21</sup> Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.

They would pay for their rejection! [Gen. 32:3]

Ps. 60:8b over Edom will I cast out my shoe: Throwing a shoe could represent intense insult or taking possession in a hostile way. The Lord's intent for Edom was harsh judgment.

Near Fulfillment: II Sam. 8:13-14 And David gat him a name when he returned from smiting of the Syrians in the valley of salt, being eighteen thousand men.

<sup>14</sup> And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went.

Under King David Israel prospered and the nations roundabout were subjugated and often had to bring tribute. But the prophecy cannot be exhausted at this point, for David did not completely destroy Moab and Edom.

Far fulfillment: Speaks of the one who would come and deal ultimately with the enemies of God.

- Moab & Edom must yet suffer the judgment of the King of Israel, Jesus Christ.

*Isa. 15-16; Isaiah 21:11-12; Jer. 48:1-47, Jer. 49:7-11; Obadiah 1:15-18, 21*

- Time setting jumps forward to the end time: Jesus Christ returns as King of Kings.

Message to Israel's arch-enemy: Amalek [type of the flesh]

24:20 And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said,

Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish forever.

Deut. 25:17-18 Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, *even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.*

Ex. 17:8-9 Then came Amalek and fought with Israel in Rephidim.<sup>9</sup> And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek:

tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

Key: Prayer was the key to battle the flesh and have victory.

Ex. 17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

Num. 13:32a; 14:1 And they brought up an evil report of the land...

And all the congregation lifted up their voice and cried; and the people wept that night.

➤ Rebellion of the people; go back to Egypt; refuse to obey & enter Promised Land

Num. 13:32-33 But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.

<sup>33</sup> And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.

The Amalekites with help from the Canaanites defeated the Israelites when they first tried to enter the Promised Land after they had rejected it at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.

Num. 14:40-45 And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the Lord hath promised: for we have sinned. <sup>41</sup> And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the Lord? but it shall not prosper.

<sup>42</sup> Go not up, for the Lord is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.

For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the Lord, therefore the Lord will not be with you.

<sup>44</sup> But they presumed to go up unto the hilltop: nevertheless, the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and Moses, departed not out of the camp. <sup>45</sup> Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.

➤ The victory over the Amalekites is to be remembered as:

Evidence Of God's Faithfulness & Deliverance.

Num. 24:17 I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not close at hand.

there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre, a king, shall rise out of Israel,

Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> Coming: The Star out of Jacob: God wrapped in flesh: He humbled Himself.

Suffering Savior to die for sinful man; bring salvation; offer eternal life

Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming: The Sceptre; a king who will return at the end of the 7-year tribulation to destroy all enemies and set up His everlasting Kingdom

The images of the star and scepter speak of Messiah's kingship and reign.

Isa. 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,

The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Yet the coming of the star that Balaam foresaw wasn't entirely what you might have predicted. At the birth of Jesus, a heavenly star indeed rose over Israel to mark where the infant King lay. Yet the baby King lay in a manger, not in a palace, and those drawn by the star were not Israelites but foreign Magi, students of signs and portents as was Balaam, who came from the east, Balaam's former home [Matt. 2:1-12]. King Herod, an Edomite by descent, was not instantly crushed by the coming of this new King but continued his rule, slaughtering scores of innocent children in Bethlehem. The rising of this star in Christ's first coming did not yet bring about the total destruction of the nations, for Jesus had come first to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to . . . Israel" [Luke 2:32]. Yet in another way, His coming was exactly what Balaam anticipated: those who, like the Magi, blessed the new Jesus and submitted to him found a blessing for themselves. Meanwhile, those who cursed Him found themselves under a curse, just as the Lord had promised Abraham [Num. 24:9; Gen. 12:3]. The day is yet coming when God's final judgment will be delivered on Herod and on all those who stand against Him and His anointed.

Remember: In the distant past, Lucifer convinced 1/3 of the angels to rebel against God.

- If Satan can convince angels in heaven and God's presence to rebel against Him...
- If Satan could convince Eve to rebel against God...
- Satan will try to convince the whole world to rebel.

Demonic influences will cause the kings of the earth to gather their armies for an all-out assault on Jerusalem.

Rev. 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles,  
which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world,  
to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Num. 24:18b and Israel shall do valiantly = while Israel marches on in triumph  
idea of strength and influence

Ps. 60:12 Through God we shall do valiantly: for He it is that shall tread down our enemies.

Num. 24:19 Out of Jacob shall come He that shall have dominion,  
and shall destroy him that remains of the city.

Jesus is often portrayed as a triumphant ruler who will ultimately defeat all his enemies and establish His dominion over the earth.

Rev. 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

The connection of this prophecy to that of Jacob, in which he predicted that a ruler over Israel would come from Judah [Gen. 49:10], is unmistakable.

The whole world will gather to fight Jesus Christ.

Armageddon: The Antichrist will convince the whole world they can fight against Jesus and win.

- How could this happen?

Rev. 16:13-16 The Antichrist will be leading the charge.  
Matt. 25:31; Rev. 19:14 Jesus Christ will return to earth with the armies of heaven.  
Zech. 14:4 His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives.  
Rev. 19:15-16 He will defeat the forces of evil.  
 God will "famish all the gods of the earth." God will demonstrate His superiority over the false gods that the nations have worshipped. It signifies the deprivation of its power and influence. It is a statement of God's ability to render the gods of the nations powerless and irrelevant.  
Rev. 19:20 He will cast the Antichrist and the false prophet into the lake of fire.  
Rev. 20:1-6 Bind Satan; & He will set up His kingdom on earth for 1,000 years.  
 Balaam's words serve as a final affirmation of God's favor and protection over the Israelites, and as a warning to those who would oppose or seek to harm them.

- Jesus is coming again! Even Balaam could see that 3500 years ago.

This final oracle thus spans the entire sweep of human history. Nation after nation will rise to world domination and then fall to defeat. But when the messianic King arrives, Israel's remnant will be the only nation that will survive the final day of destruction.

Zech. 13:8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord,  
 two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.  
 Gentiles who survive the Sheep and Goat judgment will with Israel's remnant enter Christ's Millennial Kingdom. At the end of all things, when all human history has played out its course of changing fortunes, the Lord's people will be the only ones left standing to enter His kingdom.

Micah 6:5, 8 "O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled,  
 And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, From Shittim to Gilgal,  
 That you may know the righteousness of the Lord."

<sup>8</sup>He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

I Thess. 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead,  
 even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. [rescues us]

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of  
 the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

Num. 24:23 And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this!  
 Balaam is expressing a sense of dread and awe at the power and sovereignty of God. Balaam conveys a sense of lament or mourning, as if he is overwhelmed by the gravity of the situation. The power and actions of God are so great that no one can withstand or survive them.

- Reinforces the idea: God is the ultimate authority and ruler over all things.
- Highlights the insignificance of human power and authority in comparison to God's.
- Reinforces the concept of divine judgment and justice.
- His words convey a sense of impending doom and the inevitability of God's judgment.



Who can endure this great day of the Lord's wrath?

Matt. 24:21-22 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

- God's actions are not to be taken lightly. There are consequences for opposing His will.
- God's justice is absolute. Ultimately, all will be held accountable for their actions.

Psalms 2 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

<sup>4</sup> He that sits in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

<sup>5</sup> Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath and vex them in his sore displeasure.

<sup>6</sup> Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

<sup>7</sup> I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

<sup>9</sup> Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

<sup>10</sup> Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.

<sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.

Balaam and Daniel, through God, conveyed a complete panorama of coming events.

One from Jacob shall have dominion also recalls Daniel's vision in Dan. 7:13-14

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him.

<sup>14</sup> And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Dan. 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Rev. 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

Phil. 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; <sup>11</sup> And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.