

A STAR IS BORN

TEXT: (Numbers 24:15-19, NIV)

¹⁵ Then he spoke his message: “The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor, the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly, ¹⁶ the prophecy of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: ¹⁷ “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth. ¹⁸ Edom will be conquered; Seir, his enemy, will be conquered, but Israel will grow strong. ¹⁹ A ruler will come out of Jacob and destroy the survivors of the city.”

INTRODUCTION:

1. “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (I John 4:1, NIV).
2. “‘I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin’” (Jeremiah 25:9, NIV).

A. King Balak’s Fear

1. “Balak said: ‘A people has come out of Egypt; they cover the face of the land and have settled next to me. Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that whoever you bless is blessed, and whoever you curse is cursed’” (Number 22:5-6, NIV).
2. “How can I curse those whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce those whom the LORD has not denounced?” (Numbers 23:8, NIV).

B. Maybe God Will Change His Mind

1. “But Balaam answered them, ‘Even if Balak gave me all the silver and gold in his palace, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the LORD my God. Now spend the night here so that I can find out what else the LORD will tell me.’” (Numbers 22:18-19, NIV).
2. “That night God came to Balaam and said, ‘Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you’” (Proverbs 22:20, NIV).
3. “But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, it turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat it to get it back on the road” (Numbers 22:22-23, NIV).
4. “When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat it with his staff. Then the LORD opened the donkey’s mouth, and it said to Balaam, ‘What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?’

Balaam answered the donkey, ‘You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.’

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The donkey said to Balaam, 'Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?'

'No,' he said" (Numbers 22:27-30, NIV).

5. "I summoned you to curse my enemies, but you have blessed them these three times. Now leave at once and go home! I said I would reward you handsomely, but the LORD has kept you from being rewarded" (Numbers 24:10-11, NIV).

I. CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT DELIVERANCE

A. A Distant Deliverer

1. "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth" (Numbers 24:17, NIV).

B. A Divine Deliverer

1. "You have lifted up the shrine of your king, the pedestal of your idols, the star of your god—which you made for yourselves" (Amos 5:26, NIV).
2. "You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship" (Acts 7:43, NIV).
3. "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!" (Isaiah 14:12, NIV).
4. "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom" (Psalm 45:6, NIV).

C. A Dominating Deliverer

1. "He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth" (Numbers 24:17, NIV).
2. "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11, NIV).
3. "he will crush your head" (Genesis 3:15, NIV).
4. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end" (Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV).
5. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18, NIV).

D. The Fulfillment of God's Great Plan of Deliverance

1. "In the bigynnyng was the word, and the word was at God, and God was the word" (John 1:1, WYC).
2. "And the word was maad man, and dwellyde among vs, and we han seyn the glorie of hym, as the glorie of the 'oon bigetun sone of the fadir, ful of grace and of treuthe" (John 1:14, WYC).
3. "she was found with child of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 1:18, KJV).
4. "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')" (Matthew 1:22-23, NIV).
5. "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21, NIV).

II. CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT DOMINION

1. “Edom will be conquered; Seir, his enemy, will be conquered, but Israel will grow strong. A ruler will come out of Jacob and destroy the survivors of the city” (Numbers 24:18-19, NIV).

A. Dominion through Possession

1. “When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession” (Ephesians 1:14, NIV).
2. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (I Peter 2:9, NIV)

B. Dominion through Destruction

1. “A ruler will come out of Jacob and destroy the survivors of the city” (Numbers 24:19, NIV).
2. “On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18, ESV).
3. “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11, NIV).
4. “And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10, NIV).

C. No Dominion without Surrender

1. “Who can count the dust of Jacob or number even a fourth of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and may my final end be like theirs!” (Numbers 23:10, NIV).
2. “They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness” (II Peter 2:15, NIV).
3. “There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality” (Revelation 2:14, NIV).
4. “While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor” (Numbers 25:1-3, NIV).
5. “They fought against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses, and killed every man. Among their victims were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba—the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword” (Numbers 31:7-8, NIV).