

Numbers 24 Bible Study Notes Part 2 of 2

To finish this chapter we want to review just enough to get things back in perspective. King Balak has asked Balaam to come and curse Israel so he can overcome them. This all unfolded in chapters 22 & 23. In the first part of chapter 24; we have Balaam pronouncing thus saith the Lord to Balak and this is the Lord blessing Israel. Balak's anger is kindled against Balaam and he sends him away. However, God has not yet finished with Balak and has Balaam to prophesy of what shall happen in the future. Now we start reading back at verse 10 and pick up our commentary at verse 19. For commentary on verses 17 and 18 go to our previous study.

10 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. 11 Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour. 12 And Balaam said unto Balak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying, 13 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? 14 And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days. 15 And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: 16 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: 17 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. 18 And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. 19 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: "***and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.***" Again, we refer you to **2Samuel chapter 8** where we see King David's taking of Edom, and all the cities thereof. With this phrase we see that the Edomites, and those of Seir, have fled to one final fortified city and have to be routed out for the final victory.

"Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion" We have already explained how this was fulfilled, literally, by King David. This is, also, a prophetic picture of the coming of the age of salvation by grace and the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. How do we see this picture? Let's look at some scriptures and see. Who is he that shall have dominion? It is Jesus Christ who has eternal dominion; both in this world and in the world to come. Consider:

Am 9:11-15; 11 In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this. 13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. 14 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. 15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

We see, in the prophesy here in Amos, that God says of Israel (the church of Grace today); "**15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.**"

How does this apply to the church today? When Jesus Christ established the church of grace on earth it became a permanent fixture, place, as long as time shall last. Who is in that church? Many claim to inhabit the church, but in reality only those whom God has caused to be born again, and granted to them eternal life, are in the true Church. This Church is the collective body of the born again believers in Jesus Christ. We know that Christ will have dominion in eternity, but how do we know that Christ has dominion on the earth today? Also, you may ask; what about the phrase "**they shall no more be pulled up out of their land**"? What happens when a Child of Grace is born again? Jesus Christ imparts to them eternal life and this eternal life cannot be taken away; therefore, "**they shall no more be pulled up out of their land**" As seen in scripture in: **Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**

Joh 17:2-3; 2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

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.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: "**Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever.**" To see this fulfilled read **1Samuel chapter 15**, specifically verses:

1Sa 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

1Sa 15:8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

1Sa 15:33 And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

Thus, we have scriptural proof that all the Amalekites were destroyed.

21 And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is thy dwelling place, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: The Kenites were saved from utter destruction in: **1Sa 15:6 And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.**

According to various scriptures, and history, the Kenites dwelt among the tribes of Israel. When Israel was the ruling nation, under the reign of King David, Israel was the rock in which they nested.

22 Nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: "**until Asshur shall carry thee away captive.**" Asshur is another name for Assyria. The remnant of the Kenites dwelt with the tribes of Israel, and they were carried away captive with Israel as seen in: **2Ki 17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.**

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

Clarke Lee's Commentary: "**Alas, who shall live when God doeth this!**" When God does what? First: When God causes Israel to be preeminent in accomplishing the above prophesies. When God has finished his judgment on the named nations and people, who shall be left of them? We don't know but expect that very few shall live through it all.

Secondly: I believe that he is speaking of the prophesy of the following verse. We shall see that God will also bring judgment upon Israel, who in her abundance and prosperity again forgets her God.

Thirdly: It reminds us; God is in charge; the earth and its inhabitants are his to do with as he pleases. Remember this scripture: ***Da 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:***

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

Clarke Lee's Commentary: According to historians and commentators that I have read on this verse, it seems that God is foretelling what he will do after all these preceding prophesies have been fulfilled. God, having used the Assyrians as a judicial judgment to conquer the land and inhabit it, is going to use other nations in judicial judgment against the Assyrians and the inhabitants of Eber. Historians record that this was fulfilled by the Grecians under Alexander who conquered the land, and then later the Romans came and annihilated the Grecians. Chittim denotes the coast of the Grecian and the Roman empires. Both of these conquerors had to come by sea to do their work.

These prophesies are a reminder to us of what scripture teaches us in: ***Da 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.*** As we see in this text, God does as he pleases with his own creation.

25 And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: In verses 14-24; Balak gets something he didn't ask for. God is making plain to Balak what will happen in the future. God, in giving this speech to Balak, is giving to us a prophetic picture of the coming of the end of time and the eternal judgment of God.

Balaam meets his end as seen in: ***Nu 31:8 And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.*** This man's death came about by the hands of the very people that he was made to bless and prophesy over. A violent end to a man who loved money and prestige more than God. Yet, his violent death is nothing compared to the eternal damnation of the false prophet/teacher, which we believe he was. See commentary of verse 14 and what God has to say about him.

In summation of Numbers chapters 22-24; we say to the reader; God gives us a picture of what he is saying in: ***Ro 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***

No matter what situation we may be in life, God is still taking care of his own people as demonstrated in these chapters. Even in this time of the corona virus pandemic; we see that God is still in charge and He is working his own will. This pandemic is, most probably, a judicial judgment from God to turn the heart of his own people back to him fully, and to send a message of warning to the ungodly to repent and change their ways or suffer eternal damnation.

God uses whom, and what, he will to bring about the fulfillment of his promises. Therefore, we can trust, and depend, fully in the finished work of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

We should daily thank God for Christ and the eternal life granted to us through Christ. Praise the Lord! for his preserving hand in time and eternity. Hallelujah! praise ye the LORD!

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