



## Lesson 43 God Re-affirms His Promises

### *Scriptural Basis:*



Numbers 22-25

### *Overview:*

The time of Israel's wandering in the wilderness is coming to an end. And God is leading them to the Promised Land. In order for Israel to inherit the Promised Land, God has to “clean house” by Removing nations that had forsaken Him and chosen to follow other gods.

Balak, the king of Moab, had heard how the Israelites were marching through the country conquering the land. When he heard of their arrival he was terrified (because he didn't know that God had a plan to protect Moab (God told Moses not to fight the Moabites because the land was a gift to the children of Lot (Duet. 2:29)).

Balak sent messengers to a man named Balaam, who was a sorcerer, like Pharaoh's magicians back in Egypt. Balaam would make money by talking to spirits of any kind. Though God does not allow Balaam to curse Israel, for the simple reason that they have been blessed. The massiveness of how far God went for the Israelites is magnified in chapter 25, when the Israelites continue their rebellious pursuits of their own desires, rather than God's.

### *Things to consider:*

An enemy of the Israelites tries to hire a pagan “seer” to curse them, but the “seer” can't even see the Angel of the Lord who opposes him! Balak persists, despite God's insistence that no man could curse the Israelites because they were blessed (num 22;12). Balaam's “curse” turns into a blessing that reaffirms God's commitment to make a people set apart for His purposes, a royal priesthood, a chosen people (1 Peter 2:9). God's long-term plan would not be thwarted!

### *The gospel in the story:*



In the third oracle, Balaam sees Israel as beautiful. In their own strength, Israel was anything but beautiful. They were rebels, and untrusting, and grumblers, and God knew their sins against Him were only going to INCREASE (see Numbers 25)!. But God chose to set them apart as His people. Hence their beauty!! That is the heart of the Gospel that those who are in Christ become beautiful creatures – new creations.

### *Bible Study for Preparation:*



Read Numbers 22-25. See that the true hero of this story is God, who's ways cannot be thwarted by any man. Balaam was a prophet for hire, and had spoken oracles from many sources at other times, but he recognized God as **El Elyon – God MOST HIGH** and **El Shaddai – God ALMIGHTY** (Numbers 24:16)

### *Preparing for the lesson:*

- A: Review the teacher page and handout for previous lesson(s)
- B: Read and meditate on Scripture
- C. Research/plan Lesson presentation:
- E. Research/plan Additional activity, craft and/or music:

### *Teaching the lesson:*

- A: Review – Last week – God's high priest - Aaron
- B: Bible verse memory activity
  - C. Story
- D. Additional activity