

## Handout 1: Numbers Lesson 10

### I. Balaam's Three Oracles Commissioned by King Balak of Moab:

Blessing #1: Israel's numbers of people (Num 23:7-10)

Blessing #2: God is with Israel (Num 23:18-24)

Blessing #3: Israel will possess a fertile land and become a kingdom (Num 24:3-7)

### II. Balaam's Final Oracle (Num 24:15-24):

1. Israel's future king and the fall of Israel's enemies (Num 24:15-19).

2. The future of two regional peoples (Num 24:20-22).

3. The future invasion of the Sea Peoples (Num 24:23-24).

Parallels can be made between Israel's enemy the King of Moab and Israel's enemy the Egyptian pharaoh:

Egyptian Pharaoh	King of Moab
He feared Israel's numbers would allow them to take over his country (Ex 1:7, 9-10).	He feared Israel's numbers would endanger his country (Num 22:2-3).
He was an obstacle to the Israelites returning to the Promised Land (Ex 1:10; 5:1-2).	He was an obstacle to the Israelites entering the Promised Land (Num 22:6)
He instigated plans to make the Israelites suffer (Ex 1:11-22; 5:6-9).	He instigated plans to make the Israelites suffer (Num 22:5-6).
He attempted three times to block God's plans to give Israel the three blessings God promised to Abraham's descendants (Ex 1:10, 15, 22).	He attempted three times to block God's plans to give Israel the three blessings God promised to Abraham's descendants (Num 23:11, 25, 24:10).
God intervened with each of Pharaoh's three attempts to decrease the number of God's people, turning each attempted curse into a blessing (Ex 1:11-22).	God intervened with each of King Balak's three attempts (Num 24:10) to decrease the number of God's people (Num 23:1-12; 13-26; 23:27-24:9), turning each attempted curse into a blessing (Num 23:11-12, 25-26; 24:10-11).
God's answer to His people's suffering was the birth of a child that would change Israel's destiny (Ex 2:1-2).	In the final oracle, God revealed the prophecy of the birth that would change Israel's destiny (Num 24:12-25).
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## Handout 2: Numbers Lesson 10

Notice the different ways that references are made to God in the narrative. In the Hebrew translation of the Balaam narrative, in Chapters 22-24 there are fifty-one occasions where references are made to the God of Israel using five different names/titles:

Numbers 22:1-24:25	YHWH (covenant name)	Elohim (God plural)	El (God singular)	Shaddai (Almighty)	Elyon (God Most High)
22:2-21, 36-41	4	6	0	0	0
22:22-35	12	1	0	0	0
23:1-30	8	3	4	0	0
24:1-25	5	1	4	2	1
Totals	29	11	8	2	1

Chart inspired from a list in Ashley, *Numbers*, page 433

Balaam's prophecy in Numbers 24:17-19 Partially Fulfilled in David and Perfectly Fulfilled in Jesus Christ		
Prophecy	David	Jesus
<i>I see him—not in the present. I perceive him—not close at hand = an important birth in the future</i>	David changed the history of Israel	Jesus changed the history of mankind
<i>A star is emerging from Jacob, a scepter is rising from Israel* ... = of a king of Israel</i>	David was a descendant of Jacob from the tribe of Judah who became king of Israel	Jesus was a descendant of Jacob and David from the tribe of Judah whose birth was announced by a star. He is the King of Kings
<i>... to strike [crush]+ the brow of Moab, the skulls of all the children of Seth. Edom too will be conquered land, Seir too will be a conquered land, when Israel exerts his strength, when Jacob tramples on his enemies and destroys the last survivors of Ar.</i>	David conquered all these nations who were enemies living on the borders of Israel.	Jesus' enemy, King Herod, was an Idumean (Edom). Jesus' dominion is over all earthly kingdoms and all of them will answer to Him in the Last Judgment.

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\*see Gen 49:10; + see Gen 3:15