

all about it. What could Balaam do with God about the people? Nothing; and when he found he could not avail with God against them, he afterwards seduces them into sin (see Num. xxxi. 16; Rev. ii. 14), and God has to chasten them.

But now, in having to do with *God* about His people, it is only the occasion of God's making a new revelation of His grace. God could not curse His people or defy Israel; and so Balaam has to say after Him. God has His own thoughts about them, and although He can allow no inconsistency in His people, He will bring to pass His own purposes. "And God met Balaam, and he said unto Him, 'I have prepared seven altars, and I have offered upon every altar a bullock and a ram.' And Jehovah put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, 'Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak.' And he returned unto him, and lo, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab. And he took up his parable, and said, 'Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the East, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel. How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom Jehovah hath not defied? For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations. Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel?