

## Lesson V.

## BALAK AND BALAAM

November 2, 1913

Numbers 22 : 2-6 ; 24 : 10-19. Study Numbers 22 : 1 to 23 : 10—Memory Verses, 12, 13.

**Golden Text**—A doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways.—James 1: 8 (Rev.Ver.).

2 And Ba'lak the son of Zip'por saw all that Is'rael had done to the Am'orites.

3 And Mo'ab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many : and Mo'ab was distressed because of the children of Is'rael.

4 And Mo'ab said unto the elders of Mid'ian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Ba'lak the son of Zip'por was king of the Mo'abites at that time.

5 He sent messengers therefore unto Ba'laam the son of Be'or to Pe'thor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out of E'gypt : behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me :

6 Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people ; for they are too mighty for me : peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land : for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

Ch. 24 : 10. And Ba'lak's anger was kindled against Ba'laam, and he smote his hands together : and Ba'lak said unto Ba'laam, 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 Ba'laam said unto Ba'lak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying,

13 If Ba'lak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the Lord saith, that will I speak ?

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, Ba'laam the son of Be'or 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 Ja'cob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Is'rael, and shall smite the corners of Mo'ab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

18 And E'dom shall be a possession, Se'ir also shall be a possession for his enemies ; and Is'rael shall do valiantly.

19 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

At last the Israelites came to the plains of a country called Moab, whose king was named Balak. Balak was afraid when he saw this great host camped on his borders, for he feared they had come to make war against him and there were too many of them for his soldiers to fight against. So he sent for a wise man of his country, named Balaam, to come and curse them.

To curse a person is to pray that a great evil come upon him. The king of Moab wanted some great evil sent upon the Israelites, and he thought that if Balaam asked for it, God would send it, because Balaam was thought to have power with God. Balak promised Balaam riches and greatness if he would do this for him, and because Balaam loved riches he saddled his ass and went with the messengers of the king to curse the

children of Israel. But God sent a shining angel with a message to him on the way, warning him to speak to the king only those things which God allowed him.

So Balaam came to the king, who took him next day up to a high place where he could look down on the camp of Israel. There seven altars were built and a bullock and a ram offered up as a sacrifice on each altar, and the king remained beside the altars while Balaam went away to a place alone to speak with the Lord. But God would not allow Balaam to curse His people Israel, and so when he went back to Balak, the words that he spoke about Israel were not words of cursing but of blessing.

The king was very angry at this ; but Balaam offered to go to another high place and see what the Lord would say to him