

thoughts in the world. It is well to remember this. They would see this mysterious influence, and yet they are not only ignorant of it, but opposed to it. What had God said to Abram? "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee" (Gen. xii. 3). And now Balak goes about to take the very means of getting God's curse upon himself. Such is the utter blindness of the flesh; it always takes the road to turn God's judgment on itself. There was not only sin in Balak, and plenty of that too, but he had closed his eye against all God's thoughts. It is a terrible thing to be out of the way of God's light, and that is the case with the poor world. If the outward moral restraints are removed in the haunts of men, when their passions are let loose, what utter degradation and misery do we see! And where there is not this outward wretchedness, how sad to see a person walking through this world *without God!* Respectable he may be, and well thought of by his fellow-creatures; but how can he get through death and judgment without God? It is dreadful to think of "the ignorance that is in them because of the blindness of their heart" (Eph. iv. 18). If God judges according to our works, what is to be done with them? God says, "There is none righteous, no not one." "All the world are become guilty before God" (Rom. iii. 10, 18). Men go on their way, and think they will get through well at the end. Men of the world are just doing what Balak did. They are