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Balaam's Sixth Oracle

24: 21-22

The Kenites were destined to go into Assyrian captivity along with Isra'el.

The remaining three **oracles** seem to spring almost involuntarily from **the** fourth **oracle** (**to see link click Dw - Balaam's Fourth Oracle**). **They** overlap the promise of victory of **Isra'el** over all **her** enemies; hence these are "**curse oracles**." It may be that these were similar to the types of **oracles** that **Balaam** intended to hurl against **Isra'el**. Instead, these harsh words lash out against the foes of **the people of ADONAI**. Here lies the final irony: **Balak** and **Balaam** had plotted to bring **Isra'el** under a **curse**, but **their** conspiracies only assured **their** own doom.⁵⁴⁴ As **Balaam** stood on **the top of the Pisgah Mountain Range**, **he** had visions concerning other **nations** and predicted **their** destiny. **They** differ from the previous **oracle** against **Mo'ab** and **Edom**, in that **they** do not mention **Isra'el**. Indeed, from **the Moabite plateau** looking southward to the Negev, **he** could see the **Amalekites**, **Kenites**, and future rise of **the Assyrians**.

The Kenites were a clan of **the Midianites** (**Exodus 3:1; Numbers 10:29**), who lived in the hill country south-west of the Dead Sea, quite close to the Amalekites. But unlike the Amalekites, **the Kenites** were on good terms with **Isra'el**. **Zipporah**, the wife of **Moshe**, was a **Midianite** of **the Kenite** clan. **Moses'** brother-in-law **Habab** was described earlier as a **Midianite** (**10:29**), but **Hobab's** father, and thus **Hobab**, were **Kenites** (**Judges 1:16**).⁵⁴⁵ Furthermore, **they** settled with **the people of Isra'el** in the Land (**Judges 1:16, 4:11** and **5:24**). In addition, **David** treated them quite well (**First Samuel 29:9-10** and **30:29**), so **the Jews** and **the Kenites** had a long-term relationship. When **Sha'ul** went to battle against **the Amalekites** (see the commentary on **the Life of King Sha'ul C1 - The Rejection of King Sha'ul**), **he** first gave **the Kenites** the opportunity to withdraw from **their** lands so **they** wouldn't be **destroyed** along with **the Amalekites**. Thus, **the Kenites** had a different relationship with **Isra'el** in **the oracles** of **Balaam**. **They** were not going to be dislodged by **Isra'el** because **they** had essentially joined **Isra'el**.



The Kenites put **their** faith in the security afforded them by **their** geographical location, nestled in the rocky highlands of southern Canaan. Though **they** felt as though **their** settlements were impregnable, when **Balaam saw the Kenites** (Hebrew: *keini*) from **the top of the Pisgah Mountain Range**, he made this oracle, “**Though your dwelling is firm, your nest** (Hebrew: *kayin*) **set on rock; nevertheless, you Kenites will be destroyed and taken captive by the Assyrians.**” There is a play-on-words here, **the Kenites** (*keini*) **nest** (*kayin*) will fail. This prophecy was fulfilled by Tiglath-Pileser III in 742 BC, and Shalmaneser V in 722 BC. The point of this **oracle** is that **the Kenites** were destined to go into **Assyrian** captivity along with **Isra’el (Second Kings 17:5-6)**. And **they** have not been heard of since.⁵⁴⁶

These three **oracles (24:20-25)**, paint a picture of one **nation** raising and supplanting another, only to face **its** own doom (see **Dz - Balaam's Seventh Oracle**). In contrast, there is the implied ongoing **blessing** on **the people of Isra’el** and **their** sure promise of a future **Deliverer** who will have the final victory. It is remarkable that **God** gave these visions to a covetous Gentile **sorcerer** instead of a dedicated Jewish prophet. But **He** is sovereign in all **His** ways, and **His** ways are higher than our ways (see the commentary on **Isaiah Ji - My Word That Goes Out Will Not Return Empty**).⁵⁴⁷

Dear Heavenly Father, Praise You that Your Kingdom is an eternal Kingdom! Then the Kingdom, power, and greatness of the kingdoms under all heaven will be given to the people of the holy ones of the Most High. Their kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and all dominions will serve and obey Him (Dani’el 7:27). Your Almighty Sovereign power will sustain Your kingdom thru all eternity! Even when the Beast has taken over the world and all the armies of the world are gathered to fight against You. There is not even a battle, for You wipe them all out with the sword of your mouth. From His mouth comes a sharp sword - so that with it He may strike down the nations -

and He shall rule them with an iron rod, and He treads the winepress of the furious wrath of Elohei-Tzva'ot. On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "King of kings, and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:15-16, 20-21b).

Your wisdom and omniscience extends to knowing all that will happen in the future. The future is in **Your hands** and your knowledge of what will happen is so exact and sure, that in many places in **Your Word**, future events are written in past tense, as though they already happened. **Your** ruling for all eternity, though still to come in the future, is sure and trustworthy. **You** are so incredibly mighty that **Your** throne is ablaze with **flames** and **a river of fire flows out before You! While I was watching, thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His garment was as white as snow, and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, its wheels a burning fire. A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him. Thousands of thousands attended Him and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened (Dani'el 7:9-10) .**

You accurately have prophesied the future, telling the name and describing all the future **kingdoms** of the world. It has all happened just as you said. Your Word is 100% true and always 100% accurate. **You** prophecy of **Messiah's** coming **Kingdom**, an everlasting **dominion that** will never be destroyed, will also come true exactly as **You** said. **Behold, One like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days, and was brought into His presence. Dominion, glory and sovereignty were given to Him that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will never pass away, and His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed (Dani'el 7:13-14).** What comfort it is to know that You, our wonderful and loving **Heavenly Father**, will be the final and supreme **Ruler** of the world. We bow in worship of **You** and we live our lives focusing on how to obey **You**. In **Your** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen