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Balaam's Seven Oracles

22:41 to 24:24



What are **the oracles of God**? There are several places in the Bible that mention **the oracles of God**, which refer to **the words of God**. These verses form a close unit based on **the oracles of Balaam**. Characteristically of the elegant Semitic style, these **oracles** come in a set of **seven**. The first four **oracles** are lengthier, and the last three brief; nonetheless, each **oracle** has its own independent nature within the overall body and is introduced in the same manner (**23:7a, 23:18a, 24:3a, 24:15a, 24:20b, 24:21b, 24:23a**). Considering the role that **the number seven** plays in the narrative of this section (see the **sevens** in **23:1, 14** and **29**), and in the Bible in General (see the commentary on **Revelation, to see link click [Ag - The Importance of the Number Seven in the book of Revelation](#)**), this feature can hardly be accidental. **The oracles** show a sense of progression and development. The structure shows a repetitive nature, but the repetition is not static, as the text displays a development, a growing intensity - indeed, a crescendo.⁴⁸⁹

1. **Balaam's First Oracle - 22:41 to 23:12 (Dt)**
2. **Balaam's Second Oracle - 23:13-26 (Du)**
3. **Balaam's Third Oracle - 23:27 to 24:14 (Dv)**

4. **Balaam's Fourth Oracle - 24:15-19 (Dw)**

5. **Balaam's Fifth Oracle - 24:20 (Dx)**

6. **Balaam's Sixth Oracle - 24:21-22 (Dy)**

7. **Balaam's Seventh Oracle - 24:23-25 (Dz)**