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Balaam's Seventh Oracle

24: 23-25

Balaam's seventh oracle DIG: How do Balaam's seven oracles relate to each other? What unifying theme do you see? How is this last oracle different from the other six? What do these verses teach you about ADONAI? About deliverance?

REFLECT: Life is full of ups and downs. When bad, or even tragic, things happen to you or the ones you love, do you blame God or Satan? Would you trade your free will to make sure everything goes smoothly in your life. Why or why not?

Balaam saw a troubled time ahead when empires would rise and fall, each traipsing through the Land as if it was a highway from Egypt to Mesopotamia.

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.

Concerning **the Kenites'** demise (see **[Dy](#) - Balaam's Sixth Oracle**), **Balaam** saw the rise of the **Assyrian** Empire. As **he** looked ahead he saw a troubled time when empires would rise and fall, each traipsing through **the Promised Land** as if it was a highway from Egypt to Mesopotamia. In fact, the strategic significance of **the Promised Land** is that **it** forms a natural bridge between the population centers of Mesopotamia and Egypt. In the Messianic Kingdom, **it** will serve the same purpose, a part of the pilgrimage of all nations to worship **the God of Isra'el** (see the commentary on **[Isaiah Eg](#) - Blessed Be Egypt, Assyria and Isra'el**).

Finally, Balaam spoke this oracle: “Alas, who can survive unless God has willed it (24:23)? The introductory words set a grim stage for the words to follow and lead one to a sense of utter dependence on **ADONAI**. This is the lesson that is taught throughout **the oracles**. None is able to live, except by **the will of the LORD. Ah!** For a brief moment, **Balaam** seemed to have a moment of spiritual clarity and grasped the ultimate futility of his vocation as **a sorcerer**.⁵⁴⁹

Balaam looked into **the near historical future** and **spoke of the ships will come from the island of Crete; they will afflict** (Hebrew: *anah*, meaning *to be bowed down*) **Assyria and all the children of Eber (Genesis 10:21)**, in other words, **the Hebrews. Assyria** refers to the Eastern Shemites, and **Eber** to the Western Shemites. It was, in fact, Rome that finally drove **Isra’el** from **her Land** until May 14, 1948. **The oracle** of Rome afflicting **the Hebrews** was the first and only utterance against **Isra’el** that **Balaam** managed to deliver. **But they, too, will come to destruction” (24:24)**. These words cannot relate to **Assyria** or **Eber**, for **their** fate is already announced in the word **afflict**, but only to **Rome** who was to come over the sea, and to which the others were to succumb.⁵⁵⁰



The cruelty of the **Assyrian** Empire alone would have been sufficient. But **the Assyrians** were just the first in a line of World Empires. We do not know much of the unfolding view of history that **Balaam** was allowed to see, but it is very interesting that **he** mentions **the ships of Crete**. In the prophecies of the book of **Dani’el**, written some eight centuries later, the term **“ships of Crete”** is used to refer to the **Roman** fleet that stopped the advance of Antiochus Epiphanes into Egypt (**Dani’el 11:30**). **Balaam** said that **ships will come from the coast of Crete; they will afflict Assyria**. The **Assyrian** Empire was long dead and gone by the time **Rome** rose to power, but the inheritors of the **Assyrian** Empire were **the**

Babylonians (see the commentary on **Revelation Ao - The First Beast of Dani'el: A Lion with a Head of Gold**); and the inheritors of the **Babylonian Empire** were **the Medo-Persians** (see **Revelation Ap - The Second Beast of Dani'el: A Bear with a Chest and Arms of Silver**); and the inheritors of the **Persian Empire** were **the Greeks** (see **Revelation Aq - The Third Beast of Dani'el: A Leopard with Thighs of Bronze**). And as the **Greek** world divided into quarters and crumbled, **the ships** of **the Romans** were quick to pick up the pieces (see **Revelation As - The Fourth Beast: The Roman Empire Stage**). It was as if **Balaam**, under the influence of **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh**, saw **the four empires** of **Dani'el's** vision in rapid succession (see the commentary on **Dani'el Ar - Dani'el Interprets the King's Dream**).⁵⁵¹

Then, with the promises of a future **Deliverer** ringing in **their** ears, the two collaborators departed. **Balaam got up, left and returned home and king Balak went his way also (Numbers 22:5)**. This shouldn't be interpreted to mean that **Balaam** returned **home** immediately to **Pethor**, since **he** was among those killed when **Isra'el** slaughtered **the Midianites** (see **Fq - Report of the Battle**). **"Home"** probably means the place where **Balaam** was staying while visiting **Balak**, and planning **his** next diabolical scheme to advise **the king of Midian** in **his** war against **Isra'el** (see **Ea - Taking a Stand for God**).⁵⁵²

The B'rit Chadashah does not cite **the oracles** of **Balaam** explicitly, but there are allusions to it in **Luke 1:78; Second Peter 2:15-16; Jude 11; Revelation 2:14, 22:16**, and of course **Messiah's** birth was announced by **the Star**, or **the Sh'khinah glory** (see **Dw - Balaam's Fourth Oracle**). If the primary fulfillment of **Balaam's near historical fulfillment** was in the rise of **David** and the defeat of **his** foes, **the far eschatological fulfillment** must surely be seen in **Yeshua, the son of David**, who has conquered sin and death, and now reigns **until He has put all His enemies under His feet (First Corinthians 15:25)**.⁵⁵³

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for **Your** Almighty power and **Your** wonderful love! Rulers and Kingdoms come and go but **You** will reign over an **eternal Kingdom**. "I was watching in the night visions. 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 a joy and comfort it is to know that when there are problems, trials and the world seems to be spinning out of control, **You, Father God**, are still the Almighty, All-powerful, Sovereign **Ruler. Your** children do not need to fear, for though for a short time there will be persecutions on earth, **Messiah Yeshua** is preparing an **eternal** home in heaven for **His** children. **Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to Myself, so that where I am you may also be (John 14:1-3).**

Wow! An **eternal** home where there is no crying, no sadness, no pain. **Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city - the New Jerusalem - coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I also heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is among men, and He shall tabernacle among them. They shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them and be their God. He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:1-4).**

Heaven's future glory will be fantastic! **For I consider the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18).** No matter what is happening in the world, I can be filled with **Your** peace when I focus on **Your** Awesome love and the **eternal** home in heaven that **You** have for me. Thank you for being such a wonderful, wise and Almighty **Heavenly Father!** In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen