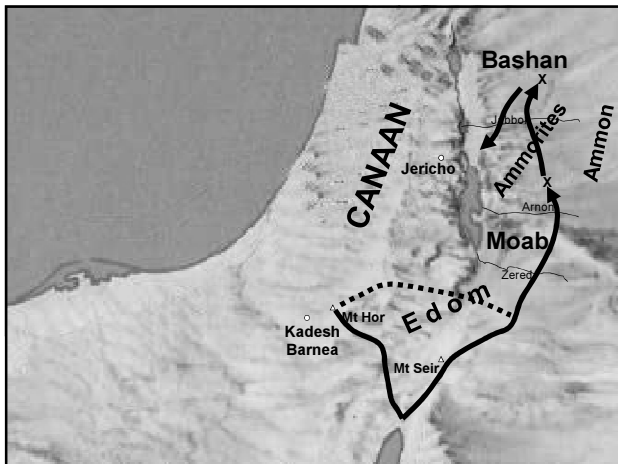
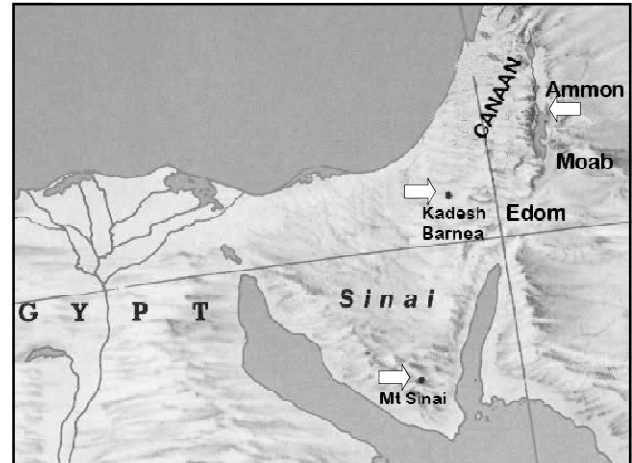


Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Balaam & The Blessing of God (Part One) Numbers 22-24



An Unusual Spokesman

1. Who was Balaam?

- “*baru*” diviner (pagan) – one who could determine and influence the will of the gods through the use of omens and ritual acts
- Balaam likely thought of Yahweh as another deity who *might* be manipulated by his divination

An encounter with the true God was fundamentally different than anything he had ever known!

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2. Encounter with Yahweh

➤ *Balaam can speak only the words that the Lord puts into his mouth to speak*

A. Initial Encounters

- Balaam realized he could not manipulate God or go against His word
- God determines to use Balaam as His instrument of His blessing of Israel

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2. Encounter with Yahweh

➤ *Balaam can speak only the words that the Lord puts into his mouth to speak*

B. Deadly Encounter (the angel and the donkey)

- The famous “seer” could not see what was obvious to his donkey!
- When God opens the mouth, even a donkey can speak...so it would be with Balaam

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Lessons

1. Being used by God, even speaking His word, is no sign of saving faith
2. God's word/promise is unalterable and irrevocable