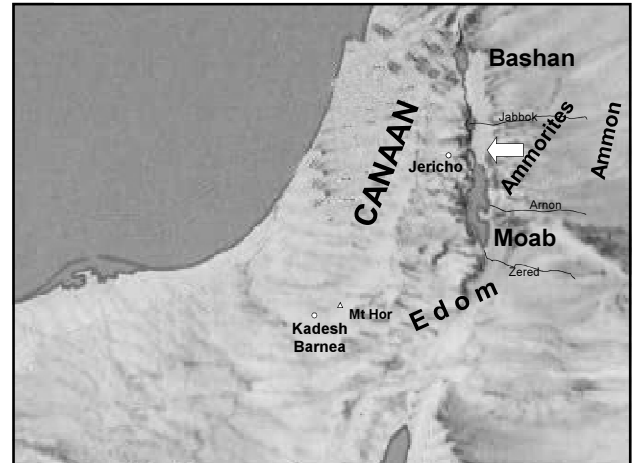


Gleanings from the Pentateuch

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



Balaam & Blessing

A peculiar narrative...

- takes place outside of the camp of Israel
- no mention of Moses
- focused on God's use of Balaam – a pagan diviner!

What is the point of this story? Why did God use such a peculiar means of blessing?

Balaam & Blessing

Oracle #1 (Num. 23:7-10)

- Israel's blessing is inviolable – cannot be cursed
- Israel is set apart from all other nations

Balaam & Blessing

Oracle #2 (Num. 23:18-24)

- Israel's blessing is irrevocable – God's character
- Yahweh is with Israel as a victorious King
- Israel will devour his enemies

Balaam & Blessing

Oracle #3 (Num. 24:3-9)

- He saw Israel's future glory in the land
- He saw Israel's future, exalted King
- He saw Israel's future victories over his enemies
- He restated the Abrahamic promise

Balaam & Blessing

Oracles #4-7 (Num. 24:15-24)

- oracle about "the end of the days"
 - He saw Israel's coming deliverer/king
 - He saw the ultimate triumph of Israel through this king over all his enemies

Inaugurated at Jesus' first coming and will be consummated at His return

Balaam & Blessing

What is the point?

1. To give Israel confidence as they enter the land that no one can harm them
2. To debunk Canaanite (false) religion as inept and worthless
3. To more emphatically show that God's blessing on His people is irrevocable

Balaam & Blessing

Application

1. God is irrevocably for us in Christ Jesus forever
2. Nothing can separate us from God's blessing in Christ Jesus

Balaam & Blessing

Romans 8:31-39

"...For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."