

Numbers 24:17

A Star out of Jacob

Text: Numbers 24:15-25

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would also be kinsman of man who could serve as a daysman or mediator (Job 19:23-27).
4. He would also be a King over a righteous and eternal spiritual kingdom (Genesis 49:10).
5. As the Israelites journeyed to the Promised Land of Canaan, Balaam prophesied of both a Star and a Scepter...

I. THE BACKGROUND OF BALAAM

- A. Balaam was not a true prophet of God, but one who practiced occult arts.
- B. He had learned about Jehovah because of God's destruction of Egypt.
- C. He was a sorcerer, deceiving people by occult practices.
 1. Numbers 22:7 - "rewards of divination"
 2. Numbers 23:23 - "enchantment" and "divination"
 3. Numbers 24:1 - "enchantments"
 4. Joshua 13:22 - "soothsayer"
- D. He is never called a prophet of God (2 Peter 2:15-16 - *context is referring to false prophets*).
- E. He was an enemy of God and Israel (Num. 31:8, 16; cf. 2 Pet. 2:15; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14).

II. THE PROPHECY OF BALAAM

- A. In spite of this background, God chose to speak through Balaam.
- B. Balak had hired him to curse the nation of Israel (Numbers 22:1-6).
- C. Though he sought to do this, God would speak through him words of blessing.
 1. God could speak through a dumb, stubborn donkey (Num. 22:28).
 2. And God could speak through a rebellious, stubborn man like Balaam.
- D. Thus, Balaam delivered four prophecies about Israel (Numbers 23 - 24).
- E. Balaam's fourth prophecy looked forward to the days of the Messiah (Num. 24:15-25).
 1. The things he saw would come to pass, but not immediately.
 2. There would come a Star out of Jacob and a Scepter out of Israel.
 3. God would be victorious over all enemies through this Savior.

III. THE FULFILLMENT IN JESUS

- A. The Star out of Jacob was Jesus.
 1. When Jesus was born, a star led the Wise Men to Him (Matthew 2:1-9).
 2. Zacharias called Jesus "the dayspring from on high" - referring to a rising of the stars or the sun (Luke 1:78-79).
 3. Peter used the term "day star" - referencing the morning star (Venus) heralding the coming of dawn (2 Peter 1:19).

Prophecy of Jesus

4. Jesus identifies Himself as the “bright and morning star” (Revelation 22:16; cf. 2:28).
- B. The Scepter out of Israel was also Jesus.
 1. This was prophesied by Jacob (Genesis 49:10).
 2. It was also foretold by the Psalmist and fulfilled in Jesus (Psalm 45:6; Hebrews 1:8).
 3. The word for ‘scepter’ can also refer to a “staff, rod, or branch” (cf. Psalm 110:1-2).
- C. He would defeat and possess all nations – by the preaching of the Gospel in all the world (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; etc.).
- D. He would also have dominion as a King (Psalm 2; Isa. 11:10; Micah 5:2-4; Heb. 1:8; 1 Pet. 3:22; Rev. 19:16; etc.).
- E. “Who shall live when God does this!” (Cf. Malachi 3:2)
- F. God had a plan that had been put into motion and He would accomplish His purpose by bringing the Messiah into the world.