

Numbers 22:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out.

Analysis

God's command 'Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed' establishes clear divine prohibition. The Hebrew doubled negatives (lo telekh...lo ta'or—not go...not curse) emphasize absolute prohibition. The reason—'for they are blessed' (barukh hu)—reveals that Israel's blessed status makes them immune to cursing. This demonstrates the doctrine of eternal security from a corporate perspective: whom God blesses cannot be cursed (Romans 8:31-39). Balaam's later attempts to find loopholes reveal persistent rebellion against clear divine command.

Historical Context

God's blessing on Israel traced back to Abraham: 'I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee' (Genesis 12:3). Balak's attempt to curse Israel brought him under this covenant curse. God's protection of Israel was not merely military but spiritual—He would not permit spiritual weapons to succeed where physical weapons had failed. This established that Israel's enemies faced not just human opposition but God Himself.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's blessing on His people provide immunity from spiritual attack?
2. What does it mean that whom God blesses cannot be effectively cursed?
3. How should believers understand spiritual protection in Christ?

Interlinear Text

הֵן ה	הָעַם	הֵיֵצֵא	מִמִּצְרַיִם	וְכִס	אֶת		
H2009	Behold there is a people	come out	of Egypt	which covereth	H853		
	H5971	H3318	H4714	H3680			
עַיִן	הָאָרֶץ	עַתָּה	לָכֵן	קִבְּלָהּ	אֶת־וְלִי	אֲוִלִּי	
the face	of the earth	H6258	H1980	now curse	H0	H853	H194
H5869	H776			H6895			
	אֲוִלִּי		לְהֵלֵךְ	בִּי	וְגִבַּשְׁתִּיו:		
	me them peradventure I shall be able	to overcome	H0	them and drive them out			
	H3201	H3898		H1644			