

Numbers 22:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.

Analysis

Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they—Balak escalated both the size and status of his delegation. The Hebrew יִקְרִיִּם (yeqārîm, "more honourable") indicates higher-ranking nobles, a greater honor for Balaam. This ancient Near Eastern strategy—when initial envoys fail, send more prestigious representatives—aimed to flatter recipients into compliance.

Balak's persistence reveals he interpreted Balaam's first refusal as negotiable, not absolute. Had Balaam definitively closed the door ("God forbids cursing His people, and I will not discuss this further"), no second embassy would come. But his ambiguous response signaled he might be persuaded.

Historical Context

Moabite kings, descendants of Lot (Genesis 19:37), ruled a territory east of the Dead Sea. Balak's willingness to send multiple high-level delegations hundreds of miles demonstrates how desperately Moab feared Israel's approach and how highly Balaam's curse-power was valued.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. When worldly authorities escalate their offers after your initial "no," what does your wavering communicate about God's authority in your life?
2. How does leaving interpretive room in your obedience invite more sophisticated temptations?
3. What half-open doors in your spiritual life allow the enemy to send "more honourable princes" to negotiate?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּסָּף	ע וַד	בַּלָּק	שָׁלַח	שָׁרֵי	רַבִּי	וְנִכְבְּדִים
yet again	H5750	And Balak	sent	princes	more	and more honourable
H3254		H1111	H7971	H8269	H7227	H3513

מֵאֵלָה:

H428