

# Numbers 22:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass on the morrow, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal, that thence he might see the utmost part of the people.

## Analysis

**And it came to pass on the morrow, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal, that thence he might see the utmost part of the people**—Balak's choice of **high places of Baal** ('בָּאָלָה תִּנְחַזֵּק Bamot Ba'al, literally 'heights of Baal') for Balaam's prophesying reveals pagan syncretism—assuming Yahweh could be consulted from Baal-worship sites. The phrase **see the utmost part** (רָאֵה קְצֵה עַמּוֹד ra'ah qetzeh ha'am) suggests ancient belief that seeing the target enhanced curses' effectiveness.

The irony is devastating: Balak brought Balaam to Baal's high places to curse Israel, but God turned every attempted curse into blessing (23:11-12). The New Testament reveals that 'he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world' (1 John 4:4)—no weapon formed against God's people can prosper (Isaiah 54:17), regardless of the spiritual power invoked.

## Historical Context

The high places (elevated worship sites) were common in Canaanite religion, often dedicated to Baal (storm/fertility god). Moabites, though worshiping Chemosh as national deity, shared Canaanite high-place practices. Balak's choice of location demonstrates pagan assumption that spiritual geography mattered for prophetic power.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Balak's choice of Baal's high places for cursing Israel illustrate pagan confusion about spiritual power?
2. What does God's transformation of curses into blessings (despite the pagan venue) teach about His sovereignty over spiritual warfare?
3. How can believers rest in God's protective power when facing spiritual opposition, regardless of its source or intensity?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי	בְּבֵבֶר	וַיִּקְרַב	בְּלֹעֵם אֶת	בְּלֹעֵם אֶת
H1961	<b>And it came to pass on the morrow</b>	H1242	took	<b>that Balak</b>
			H3947	H853
			H1111	<b>Balaam</b>
				H1109
וְיִלְאַל	בְּמִתְּהִלָּה	בְּעַל	וְרָא	מִשְׁמָרָה
and brought him up	into the high places	of Baal	that thence he might see	H8033
H5927	H1116	H1120	H7200	
הַלְאֵלֶּה	בְּעַמּוֹת			
the utmost	part of the people			
H7097	H5971			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 23:13** (Parallel theme): And Balak said unto him, Come, I pray thee, with me unto another place, from whence thou mayest see them: thou shalt see but the utmost part of them, and shalt not see them all: and curse me them from thence.

