

# Numbers 22:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

## Analysis

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Balak tells Balaam: 'he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.' Balak overestimated Balaam's power - only God's blessing or curse matters ultimately. Yet Balaam's reputation suggested his words carried weight. The irony: Balaam could only speak what God put in his mouth (v.38, 23:12), so his power derived entirely from divine source, not inherent ability. This teaches that all spiritual power comes from God; human agents are merely conduits. Modern parallels exist - some attribute power to religious leaders or rituals rather than recognizing God as sole source. Only God's blessing matters; He alone determines outcomes (Prov 16:33).

## Historical Context

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Balaam lived in Pethor, Mesopotamia (v.5), known for divination and sorcery. His reputation reached Moab, suggesting his oracles had proven accurate or influential previously. Whether Balaam had genuine prophetic gift corrupted by greed or was merely clever diviner, God used him to pronounce irrevocable blessings on Israel. Balak's hiring Balaam shows pagan understanding that spiritual power could affect battles. Ancient Near Eastern texts confirm widespread belief in cursing enemies before battle. However, Balak learned what

believers know: 'if God be for us, who can be against us?' (Rom 8:31). No curse affects those under divine blessing.

## **Related Passages**

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## **Study Questions**

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1. Do you attribute spiritual outcomes to human agents rather than recognizing God as ultimate source?
2. How does understanding that only God's blessing matters free you from fear of curses, hexes, or others' ill wishes?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַתָּה	לָכֶּה	נָ א	וְיָאָר:	אֶת לִי	הֶעָם
H6258	H1980	H4994	H779	H0	H5971
			and he whom thou cursest		me this people
הִנֵּה ה	כִּי	עַצ וּם	הוּא	מִמֶּנִּי	אֹלֵי י
H2088	H3588	H6099	H1931	H4480	H194
		for they are too mighty			
אוֹכֵל	נִכָּה	ב ו			
H3201	H5221	H0			
for me peradventure I shall prevail	that we may smite				
וְאֶגְרֹשׁ נוֹ	מִן	הָאָרֶץ	כִּי	יָד עָתִי	אֶת אֲשֶׁר
H1644	H4480	H776	H3588	H3045	H853
them and that I may drive them out	of the land		for I wot		
מְבָרַךְ ה	מְבָרַךְ ה	וְאֶשׁ ר	וְיָאָר:	וְיָאָר:	
H1288	H1288	H834	H779	H779	
is blessed	is blessed	and he whom thou cursest	and he whom thou cursest		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 24:9** (Blessing): He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.