

Numbers 23:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether.

Analysis

Balak protests to Balaam 'What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether.' This reveals the futility of attempting to curse whom God has blessed. Balak's frustration demonstrates that no amount of money or influence can override God's sovereign choice to bless His covenant people. Human scheming cannot thwart divine purposes.

Historical Context

Balak hired Balaam specifically to curse Israel (22:6), believing spoken curses had power to weaken enemies. Ancient Near Eastern cultures highly valued blessing and cursing formulas, viewing them as spiritually binding pronouncements with real-world effects.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage assure you that no curse or accusation can override God's blessing on you in Christ?
2. What contemporary attempts to curse God's people (through slander, false teaching, persecution) are ultimately futile?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	בָּלָק	אֶל	בְּלָעַם	הָ	עָשָׂה יְהוָה	לִי
said	And Balak	H413	unto Balaam	H4100	What hast thou done	H0
H559	H1111		H1109		H6213	
לְקַלֵּב	אֹיְבֵי	לְקַחְתִּי יָג	וְהִנֵּה	בָּרַךְ:		
thee to curse	mine enemies	unto me I took	H2009	and behold thou hast blessed		
H6895	H341	H3947		H1288		
				בָּרַךְ:		
				and behold thou hast blessed		
				H1288		

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 13:2 (Blessing): Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing.

Numbers 24:10 (Blessing): And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together: and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed them these three times.

Numbers 22:11 (Curse): 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.

Numbers 22:17 (Curse): For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.

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