

# Numbers 23:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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Balak's plea 'Come, I pray thee, with me unto another place, from whence thou mayest see them' reveals his assumption that changing location might change the oracle's content. This exposes pagan magical thinking: manipulate circumstances to alter spiritual realities. Balak believed geography, viewpoint, or technique could force the desired outcome. This fundamentally misunderstands God's sovereignty—His will does not depend on location or perspective. The prophet's message comes from divine character and purpose, not situational factors. God 'cannot lie' (Titus 1:2) regardless of circumstances.

## Historical Context

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The multiple locations for Balaam's oracles—Bamoth-baal (22:41), Pisgah (23:14), and Peor (23:28)—show Balak's persistent attempts to find the 'right' place for cursing. This mirrors pagan high place worship where different locations supposedly accessed different divine powers. Balak did not understand that Yahweh's presence was not localized but universal, His will unchangeable by geographical manipulation.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How do we sometimes try to manipulate circumstances hoping to change God's will?
2. What does Balak's failed attempts teach about God's unchanging character?
3. How should we respond when circumstances don't produce our desired outcomes?

## Interlinear Text

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מָקוֹם	אֵל	אֶתִּי	יְנֹאֵל	לְבָרְךָ	בָּלָק	קִי	אֵלַי	וַיֹּאמֶר
	place				And Balak		said	
	H4725		H413	H854	H4994	H1980	H413	H559
מִשָּׁם	תִּרְאֶה	הָאֵשׁ	רַחֲמֵי	אֲחֵר				
	from whence thou mayest see			I pray thee with me unto another				
	H7200		H834	H312				
לֹא	וְכָלֹ	תִּרְאֶה	הָאֵשׁ	הַקֵּצֵהוּ	אָפֶס			
		from whence thou mayest see		the utmost	but			
	H3605	H7200		H7097	H657			
מִשָּׁם:	לֹא	וְכָלֹ	תִּרְאֶה	הָאֵשׁ	הַקֵּצֵהוּ	אָפֶס		
		from whence thou mayest see	them all and curse					
	H0	H8033	H6895	H7200				