

# Numbers 23:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus.

## Analysis

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God 'met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus.' This second oracle followed the same pattern—God controlled Balaam's speech. The repetition emphasized divine sovereignty: attempts to manipulate Balaam into cursing failed because God, not Balak, determined prophetic content. This prefigures Jesus' teaching that disciples speak what the Spirit gives (Matthew 10:19-20).

## Historical Context

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The second oracle (vv.18-24) intensified the blessing, declaring God doesn't lie or change His mind (v.19), and that He sees no iniquity in Jacob. Each successive oracle made Israel's blessed status more emphatic, frustrating Balak further.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does God putting words in prophets' mouths guarantee reliability of Scripture?

2. What comfort comes from knowing God's blessing on His people cannot be revoked or changed?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל בְּلָאָם בְּلֹעַ מֵי שָׁמֶן וְדֹבֶר בְּגַת וְבָאָמָר  
met And the LORD H413 Balaam and put a word in his mouth and said  
H7136 H3068 H413 H1109 H7760 H1697 H6310 H559

תִּזְבְּרָה יְכֹה בְּלַק אֶל שׁוֹב  
Go again H413 unto Balak H3541 and say  
H7725 H1111 H1696

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 23:5** (Word): And the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak.

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