

Numbers 23:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor:

Analysis

Balaam begins the second oracle 'Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor.' This formal introduction commands Balak's attention for God's authoritative word. The imperative 'rise up' (Hebrew 'qum') indicates standing for solemn pronouncement. Balaam's role as messenger delivering words he didn't author demonstrates the prophetic office—not personal opinion but divine revelation.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern protocol required standing to receive royal or divine pronouncements, showing respect for the message's authority. Balaam's formal opening established that what followed was God's word, not his own assessment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How should you receive God's word with the solemnity and respect it deserves?
2. What distinguishes delivering God's message faithfully from imposing personal interpretations?

Interlinear Text

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