

# Numbers 23:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on every altar a bullock and a ram.

## Analysis

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The record 'Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on every altar a bullock and a ram' shows Balak's compliance and participation in the ritual. Both king and prophet engaged in the sacrificial ritual, uniting political and spiritual power in common purpose against Israel. Yet their joint effort would prove futile against God's will. This teaches that human alliances, no matter how powerful or religiously elaborate, cannot thwart divine purposes. 'There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD' (Proverbs 21:30).

## Historical Context

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The joint offering by king and prophet created a covenant alliance sealed in sacrifice. In ancient Near Eastern thought, shared sacrifice created binding relationship. Balak sought to bind Balaam through this ritual to ensure he would curse Israel effectively. However, God would not be bound by their pagan treaty. His sovereign will would override their covenanted intentions.

## Related Passages

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

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do human alliances and covenants fail when they oppose God's purposes?
2. What does the futility of Balak's ritual teach about religious activity apart from God's will?
3. How should we respond when powerful forces unite against God's people?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּלֹא וְעַל וּבְלֹעַ מִכְאַשְׁר דָּבָר בְּלֹא וְעַש  
did And Balak had spoken and Balaam offered And Balak  
H6213 H1111 H834 H1696 H1109 H5927 H1111

בְּמִזְבֵּחַ אֲלֵי וּבְלֹעַ מִכְאַשְׁר רֵגֶל  
and Balaam a bullock and a ram on every altar  
H1109 H6499 H352 H4196

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 23:14** (Sacrifice): And he brought him into the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar.

**Numbers 23:30** (Sacrifice): And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar.