

Numbers 23:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?

Analysis

Balaam concludes 'He shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows.' This graphic victory imagery intensifies the lion metaphor, prophesying total conquest of enemies. Yet Israel's history shows incomplete fulfillment in Canaan conquest, pointing toward Christ's ultimate victory over all spiritual enemies (1 Corinthians 15:25, Colossians 2:15, Revelation 19:15-21).

Historical Context

Israel did conquer Canaan but never fully subdued all enemies as this oracle predicted. This partial fulfillment pointed to a greater Lion who would completely vanquish all God's foes—the Messiah who crushes Satan under His feet (Romans 16:20).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do Old Testament conquest promises find ultimate fulfillment in Christ's spiritual victories?
2. What enemies in your life will Christ's lion-like power ultimately vanquish?

Interlinear Text

אָל יִבֹּר	יְדִבֶּר	הֵל אֶל	בָּלָק	אֶל	יֵאמֹר	בְּלֹעַם	וַיַּעַן
Told	unto Balak	and said	But Balaam	answered			
H413	H3808	H1111	H559	H1109	H6030		
אֶעֱשֶׂה:	אֵת וְ	יְהוָה	יְדִבֶּר	אֲשֶׁר	כֹּל	לֵאמֹר	
that I must do	that I must do	All that the LORD	Told	and said			
H6213	H853	H3068	H1696	H559	H3605	H834	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:29 (Parallel theme): Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Numbers 22:18 (References Lord): And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

2 Chronicles 18:13 (References Lord): And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak.

Numbers 22:38 (Parallel theme): And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.