

Numbers 23:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto another place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence.

Analysis

And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto another place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence—Balak's third attempt אולִי יישַׁר בְּעִינֵי בָּאָלָהִים (ulay yishar be'einei ha'Elohim, 'perhaps it will be right in God's eyes') reveals pagan superstition that changing locations might alter divine will. After two failed curse attempts (23:7-10, 23:18-24), Balak persisted in seeking manipulable outcomes.

The phrase **it will please God** exposes fundamental misunderstanding of Yahweh's character—God's will doesn't fluctuate based on geography or repeated requests. Isaiah 14:27 declares 'The LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it?' Balak's persistence exemplifies the pagan mindset that divine favor is negotiable through finding the right formula, contrasting with biblical submission to God's unchanging purposes.

Historical Context

This third cursing attempt moved from Bamot-baal (22:41) to Pisgah's field (23:14) to Peor's summit (23:28), demonstrating Balak's desperation. In pagan thought, different locations had varying spiritual 'power levels,' making prophetic outcomes venue-dependent. Balaam exploited this superstition, collecting fees for each failed attempt.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Balak's venue-hopping to manipulate God's will parallel modern attempts to find the 'right formula' for guaranteed blessings?
2. What does Balak's phrase 'perhaps it will please God' reveal about pagan versus biblical understanding of divine sovereignty?
3. How can you discern when persistence in prayer reflects faith versus attempts to manipulate God into reversing His clear will?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר בְּלָק וְאֵל בְּלָק בְּלָק מִלְּכָה נָא אָמַר
said And Balak H413 unto Balaam H1980 H4994 I pray thee I will bring H3947
H559 H1111 H1109

אָלָה יְמִינְךָ וְאֶתְּנָא אָלָה יְמִינְךָ אָלָה יְמִינְךָ וְאֶתְּנָא
place thee unto another H194 H3477 H5869 God H430
H413 H4725 H312

מְשֻׁמָּךְ לְךָ תֹּזֶע
that thou mayest curse H0 H8033
H6895

Additional Cross-References

Romans 11:29 (References God): For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.