

Numbers 23:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward Jeshimon.

Analysis

And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward Jeshimon—The location shift to **Peor** (פְּעוֹר Pe'or, named for the Baal-peor deity) situated Balaam overlooking **Jeshimon** (הַיְשִׁימון haYeshimon, 'the wasteland'), the barren wilderness where Israel camped. This third venue choice is doubly ironic:

1. Peor would later become the site of Israel's own sin with Moabite women and Baal-worship (Numbers 25:1-3),
2. the 'wasteland' view emphasized Israel's vulnerable wilderness condition—yet even from this disadvantageous perspective, Balaam could only bless them.

The repetitive venue changes (22:41; 23:14; 23:28) demonstrate that no geographic manipulation, pagan high place, or strategic viewing angle could overcome God's determination to bless His covenant people.

Romans 8:31 asks 'If God be for us, who can be against us?'—rendering all opposition futile, regardless of the spiritual firepower arrayed against believers.

Historical Context

Peor's mountain summit in Moabite territory overlooked the plains of Moab where Israel camped before entering Canaan. The site later became notorious for Israel's sin with Moabite women 'joined unto Baal-peor' (Numbers 25:3), resulting in 24,000 deaths. The location's spiritual significance makes God's blessing-oracles from there even more remarkable.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's turning of curses to blessings from Baal-peor's summit (a future site of Israel's sin) demonstrate His sovereignty over both pagan power and His people's failures?
2. What does the irony of Peor (site of cursing attempts and later Israelite sin) teach about God's faithfulness despite our unfaithfulness?
3. How can you trust God's protective purposes when circumstances seem most vulnerable ('overlooking the wasteland')?

Interlinear Text

וּבָרַךְ	וּבָרַךְ	אֶת	בָּלָעַם	רֹאשׁ	הַפֶּעַז	הַנִּשְׁקָה	עַל
brought	And Balak	H853	Balaam	unto the top	of Peor	that looketh	H5921
H3947	H1111		H1109	H7218	H6465	H8259	

פָּנָיו	הַיְשִׁימוֹן:
toward	Jeshimon
H6440	H3452

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 21:20 (Parallel theme): And from Bamoth in the valley, that is in the country of Moab, to the top of Pisgah, which looketh toward Jeshimon.

