

# Numbers 23:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he returned unto him, and, lo, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab.

## Analysis

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Balaam returning to Balak 'and, lo, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab' shows Balak's expectation of favorable results. The Hebrew *hineh* (lo/ behold) emphasizes Balak's readiness to receive the curse. All Moab's leadership gathered expecting Balaam to spiritually destroy Israel. Their unified expectation would be dramatically disappointed. This illustrates how human plans confidently made can be utterly reversed by divine sovereignty. 'The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will' (Proverbs 21:1).

## Historical Context

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The princes of Moab (Hebrew *sarei Moav*) represented the nation's power structure. Their presence made this a state ceremony, not merely private divination. The public nature of Balaam's oracles meant Balak could not suppress them. When Balaam blessed instead of cursed, all Moab's leadership witnessed God's sovereignty. This public testimony to God's protection of Israel spread throughout the region.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's reversal of confident human plans demonstrate His sovereignty?
2. What purpose do public demonstrations of God's power serve?
3. How should we respond when elaborate schemes against us fail because of God's intervention?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיָּשֶׁב	וְאֵלָיו	וְאֵלָיו	וְאֵלָיו	וְאֵלָיו	וְאֵלָיו
<b>And he returned</b>	H413	H2009	<b>unto him and lo he stood</b>	H5921	
H7725			H5324		

  

וְעַל	וְעַל	וְעַל	וְעַל	וְעַל	וְעַל
<b>by his burnt sacrifice</b>	H1931	H3605	<b>he and all the princes</b>	H4124	<b>of Moab</b>
H5930			H8269		

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