

# Numbers 24:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness.

## Analysis

---

When Balaam 'saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments.' After two failed attempts to curse Israel, Balaam abandoned divination and simply 'set his face toward the wilderness.' This shift suggests partial submission to God's will, yet his later treachery (31:16) proved his heart remained divided between God's word and personal gain.

## Historical Context

---

The phrase 'seek for enchantments' reveals Balaam's prior practice of using divination techniques to discern divine will. His abandoning these methods acknowledged God's clear intent to bless Israel regardless of magical manipulation attempts.

## Related Passages

---

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

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

## Study Questions

---

1. What manipulative religious practices must you abandon to simply accept God's revealed will?
2. How can external compliance with God's word mask continued internal resistance?

## Interlinear Text

---

אֶת	לְבָרֶךְ	יְהוָה	בְּעֵינַי	טוֹב	כִּי	בִלְעָם	וַיֵּרָא
	to bless	the LORD	that it pleased			And when Balaam	saw
	H1288	H3068	H5869	H2895	H3588	H1109	H7200
לְקַבֵּל	אֶת	בְּפָעַם	בְּפָעַם	עִם	הֵלַךְ	וְלֹא	יִשְׂרָאֵל
to seek		not as at other times	not as at other times		he went		Israel
H7125		H6471	H6471	H413	H1980	H3808	H3478
פָּנָיו:	הַמִּדְבָּר	אֶל	וַיָּשֶׁת	נְחָשִׁים			
his face	toward the wilderness		but he set	for enchantments			
H6440	H4057	H413	H7896	H5173			

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Numbers 23:3** (References Lord): And Balaam said unto Balak, Stand by thy burnt offering, and I will go: peradventure the LORD will come to meet me: and whatsoever he sheweth me I will tell thee. And he went to an high place.

**Numbers 23:23** (References Israel): Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

**Revelation 2:14** (References Israel): But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

**Numbers 22:13** (References Lord): And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you.

**Numbers 23:15** (References Lord): And he said unto Balak, Stand here by thy burnt offering, while I meet the LORD yonder.

**Numbers 23:20** (Blessing): Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

**Numbers 23:28** (Parallel theme): And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward Jeshimon.

**Numbers 31:16** (References Lord): Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

**1 Samuel 26:2** (References Israel): Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

**1 Samuel 24:20** (References Israel): And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand.