

# 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

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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

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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

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

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

## Study Questions

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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

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אָתָּה לְבָבָךְ יְהוָה בְּלֹעַם יְהִי בְּעִינֵּי תִּזְבְּחֵנִי  
את לבך יהוה בלועם כי ביעין תזבחני  
saw And when Balaam H3588 H2895 that it pleased the LORD to bless H853  
H2200 H1109 H3068 H1288

לְקַרְבָּן אֶת בְּפָעָם בְּפָעָם בְּפָעָם  
to seek not as at other times not as at other times not as at other times  
Israel he went not as at other times not as at other times to seek  
H3478 H3808 H1980 H6471 H7125

פָּנָיו כְּמִדְבָּר אֶל יְיָ שָׁתָּן יְמִשְׁעָן  
his face toward the wilderness but he set but he set for enchantments  
H6440 H4057 H413 H7896 H5173

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.