

# Numbers 24:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour.

## Analysis

Balak's dismissal 'Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour' ironically blames God for preventing Balaam's reward. The Hebrew *kavod* (honour/wealth) indicates Balak had promised great payment. Balak correctly identifies that 'the LORD hath kept thee back,' acknowledging divine intervention but resenting it. This reveals the unregenerate heart's response to God's sovereignty—acknowledging His power while opposing His will. Balak recognized God's hand yet remained hostile.

## Historical Context

Balaam had been promised rewards (22:17, 37) and 'rewards of divination' (22:7). The cancelled payment represented substantial wealth—enough to make a 400-mile journey worthwhile. Balak's accusation that God prevented Balaam's honor is ironically true: God indeed controlled the prophet's words to protect Israel. The payment's withdrawal demonstrates that God's purposes override financial incentives.

## Related Passages

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How do unbelievers acknowledge God's sovereignty while resenting it?
2. What does Balak's reaction teach about financial incentives versus divine commands?
3. How should believers respond when obedience costs them worldly rewards?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַתָּה בַּךְ לֹא אַלְמָת בְּמָקוֹם בְּאַמְּרָתִי  
H6258 Therefore now flee H1272 H0 H413 thou to thy place H4725 H559 I thought

מְכֹבֵד: הִתְּהִלֵּה אַכְזָבָב אַכְזָבָב מְנֻעָב  
honour honour H2009 hath kept thee back but lo to the LORD from honour  
H3513 H3513 H4513 H3068 H3519

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 22:17** (Parallel theme): For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.

**Numbers 22:37** (Parallel theme): And Balak said unto Balaam, Did I not earnestly send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour?