

Numbers 24:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.

Analysis

Balaam says: 'I will advertise thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.' The Hebrew 'acharit yomim' (latter days/end times) introduces eschatological prophecy extending far beyond Balaam's time to Messiah's era and beyond. Balaam's final oracle (v.14-24) encompasses near-term fulfillments (Israel conquering Moab, Edom) and distant Messianic prophecies (v.17, the Star and Scepter). This demonstrates that biblical prophecy often has dual or multiple fulfillments - immediate and ultimate. The phrase 'latter days' appears throughout Scripture pointing to Messiah's coming and final consummation (Gen 49:1, Isa 2:2, Dan 10:14, Acts 2:17).

Historical Context

This introduction preceded Balaam's final oracles concerning various nations' fates (v.15-24). The term 'latter days' established prophetic scope reaching to Christ's era and beyond. The Star prophecy (v.17) was partially fulfilled in David's conquests but ultimately in Christ. Church fathers unanimously interpreted this Messianically, and the wise men followed a star to Christ (Matt 2:2). Balaam's ability to see Israel's distant future while being spiritually blind to his own destiny (dying among Midian's kings, Num 31:8) illustrates that prophetic gift doesn't equal personal righteousness. One can speak truth yet perish in falsehood (Matt 7:22-23).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Do you study biblical prophecy to understand God's sovereign plan while remembering that knowledge alone doesn't save?
2. How does prophetic confidence in Christ's ultimate victory encourage faithfulness despite current opposition?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה ה	הִנֵּנִי י	לָכֶה	לְעַמְּךָ	לָכֶה
H6258	H2005	And now behold I go	thee what this people	And now behold I go
		H1980	H5971	H1980
	אִישׁ אֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר ר	יַעֲשֶׂה ה	לְעַמְּךָ
	therefore and I will advertise	H834	shall do	thee what this people
	H3289		H6213	H5971
				הִנֵּה ה
				H2088
לְעַמְּךָ	בְּאַחֲרֵי יָמֵי	הַמֵּינִים:		
thee what this people	in the latter	days		
H5971	H319	H3117		

Additional Cross-References

Micah 6:5 (Parallel theme): O my people, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the LORD.

Genesis 49:1 (Parallel theme): And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

Revelation 2:14 (Parallel theme): 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.

Daniel 2:28 (Parallel theme): But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

2 Timothy 3:1 (Parallel theme): This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.