

Numbers 24:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

Analysis

Balaam's fourth oracle begins identically to the third: 'Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said.' This repetition establishes continuity and emphasizes prophetic authority. The fourth oracle, however, reaches beyond Israel's immediate future to predict the Messiah, showing how God used even a corrupt prophet to prophesy Christ's coming.

Historical Context

The fourth oracle (vv.15-24) contains the famous Messianic prophecy 'there shall come a Star out of Jacob' (v.17), pointing to Christ. Even Balaam's attempt to profit from prophecy couldn't prevent God from revealing His redemptive purposes through him.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God accomplish His purposes even through flawed human instruments?

2. What does God using Balaam to prophesy Christ teach about His sovereignty over revelation?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁלַח	אֶת	מַשָּׁל	וְ	יְօּאמֶר	וְנִאֵם	וְ	בְּלַעַם	בָּעֵר
And he took up	his parable	and said	hath said	Balaam	the son	of Beor		
H5375	H4912	H559	H5002	H1109	H1121	H1160		
וְ	בָּרָךְ	שְׁתַּם	הַנְּזִיר	בְּעֵינֵי				
hath said	and the man	are open	whose eyes					
H5002	H1397	H8365	H5869					

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 23:7 (Parallel theme): And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel.

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