### Numbers

## Chapter 24

1It was then that BalaAm finally realized that it pleased God to bless IsraEl, so he didn’t follow his usual custom of looking for omens. Rather, he just turned his face towards the desert.  
  
2Well, as BalaAm gazed, he saw IsraEl camped by their tribes, and God’s Breath came over him, 3causing him to speak this prophecy:  
  
 ‘BalaAm, son of BeOr;  
 This man who truly does see…  
 4Who hears the prophecies of the [great] Mighty One…  
 Whose eyes opened and saw a vision of God…  
 While he slept, his eyes opened wide.  
  
 5‘Good are the places where you live, O Jacob,  
 And [good] are your tents, O IsraEl.  
 6Like shady groves and gardens by rivers;  
 Like tents pitched by God and as cedars by water.  
  
 7‘For a man will come from your offspring  
 Who’ll rule many nations.  
 His kingdom will be raised and he will grow mighty;  
 8For, out of Egypt, God brought him.  
  
 ‘The glory of the rhinoceros is his,  
 And he’ll consume the nations that hate him…  
 Yes, he will drink all their marrow,  
 And shoot those who hate him with arrows.  
  
 9 ‘He’ll lie down and rest like a lion,  
 And as a young lion, who’ll wake him?  
 So, those who bless him are blest,  
 And those who curse him are cursed.’  
  
10Well, this made Balak very angry with BalaAm, so he clapped his hands and said to him:  
  
 ‘I called you to curse my enemy, but look; you’ve blessed him for the third time!  
  
 11‘Now, hurry and go back to your home. For even though I said that I’d honor you, the Lord has now deprived you of your glory!’  
  
12And BalaAm replied to Balak:  
  
 ‘Didn’t I tell the messengers whom you sent to Me 13that even if Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I wouldn’t oppose the Lord and do either good or bad by myself?  
  
 ‘Rather, [I told them that] I’d say whatever The God told me to say!  
  
 14‘So now, {Look!} I’ll go back to my home... But [first], come here and I’ll tell you what these people will do to your people in the last days.’  
  
15Then he spoke this prophecy:  
  
 ‘BalaAm, son of BeOr, says this; the man who truly sees, tells you this...  
  
 16‘I heard the prophecies of God,  
 Knowledge from the Most High, I have received.  
 I saw a vision from God in my sleep  
 And it opened my eyes.  
  
 17‘I’ll point to him, but not now;  
 I’ll bless him, although he’s not nearby.  
 ‘A star must arise out of Jacob,  
 And from IsraEl, a man must then spring  
 Who’ll crush the leaders of MoAb,  
 And all sons of Seth, he will plunder.  
  
 18‘For his courage, he’ll receive Edom,  
 And inherit his enemy, Esau.  
 19[This man] will come out of Jacob,  
 And destroy all those who run from your towns.’  
  
20Then he noticed the AmaLechites and spoke this prophecy:  
  
 ‘AmaLech is the first among nations,  
 But their offspring will [also soon] die.’  
  
21Then he noticed the Kenites, and he spoke this prophecy:  
  
 ‘Although the place where you live is very strong,  
 You should build your nest on a rock.  
 22Even if BeOr shows you places to hide;  
 The Assyrians will take you as captives.’  
  
23Then he noticed Og, and he spoke this prophecy:  
  
 ‘Oh, oh; who’ll survive when God does such things?  
 24For, ships will come from Cypriot shores  
 Who’ll defeat Assyria and Eber…  
 Together, they’ll all be destroyed.’  
  
25Then BalaAm got up and left for his [land], and Balak went back home.