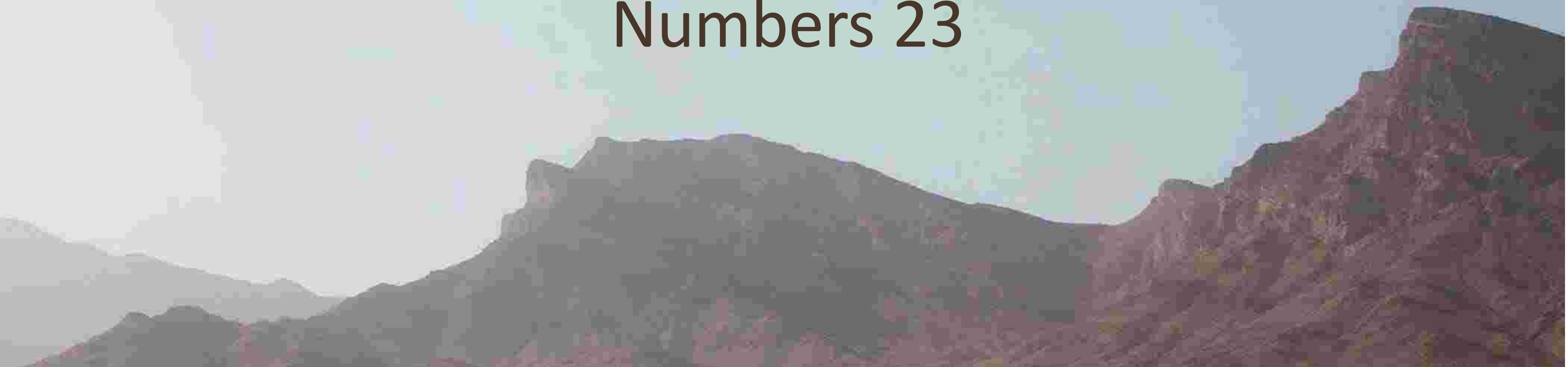


NUMBERS

Walking with God Through the Wilderness

Lessons from the Past for Life in the Present

Numbers 23



The Theological Center to the Holiness

- A Vows and Modifications - due to timing of Jubilee: Leviticus 27
- B Levites: Census - Numbers 1:1 to 5:4
- C Special Situations Involving Gifts to Tabernacle: Numbers 5:5 to 6:21
 - X - CENTER - Priestly, Aaronic Blessing: Numbers 6:22-27
- C1 Special Tribal Gifts to Tabernacle: Numbers 7:1-89
- B1 Levites: Special Status: Numbers 8:5-26
- A1 Passover and Modification - due to timing of Passover: Numbers 9:1-14

The Theological Center in the Plains of Moab - Victory

A Victory over Sihon and Og: Numbers 21:21-35

B Yahweh Stops Moab from Harming Israel: Numbers 22:1-24:25

C Moses takes Idolatrous Leaders and Kills them: Numbers 25:1-18

D Lists: Census Figures for 12 Tribes: Numbers 26:1-27:11

E Joshua and Eleazer to Lead into Canaan: Numbers 27:12-23

F Offerings and Gifts to God: Numbers 28-29

X - CENTER- Victory over Midian: Numbers 31:1-24

F1 Offerings and Gifts to God: Numbers 31:25-54

E1 Joshua and Eleazar Lead Transjordan Tribes: Numbers 32:1-42

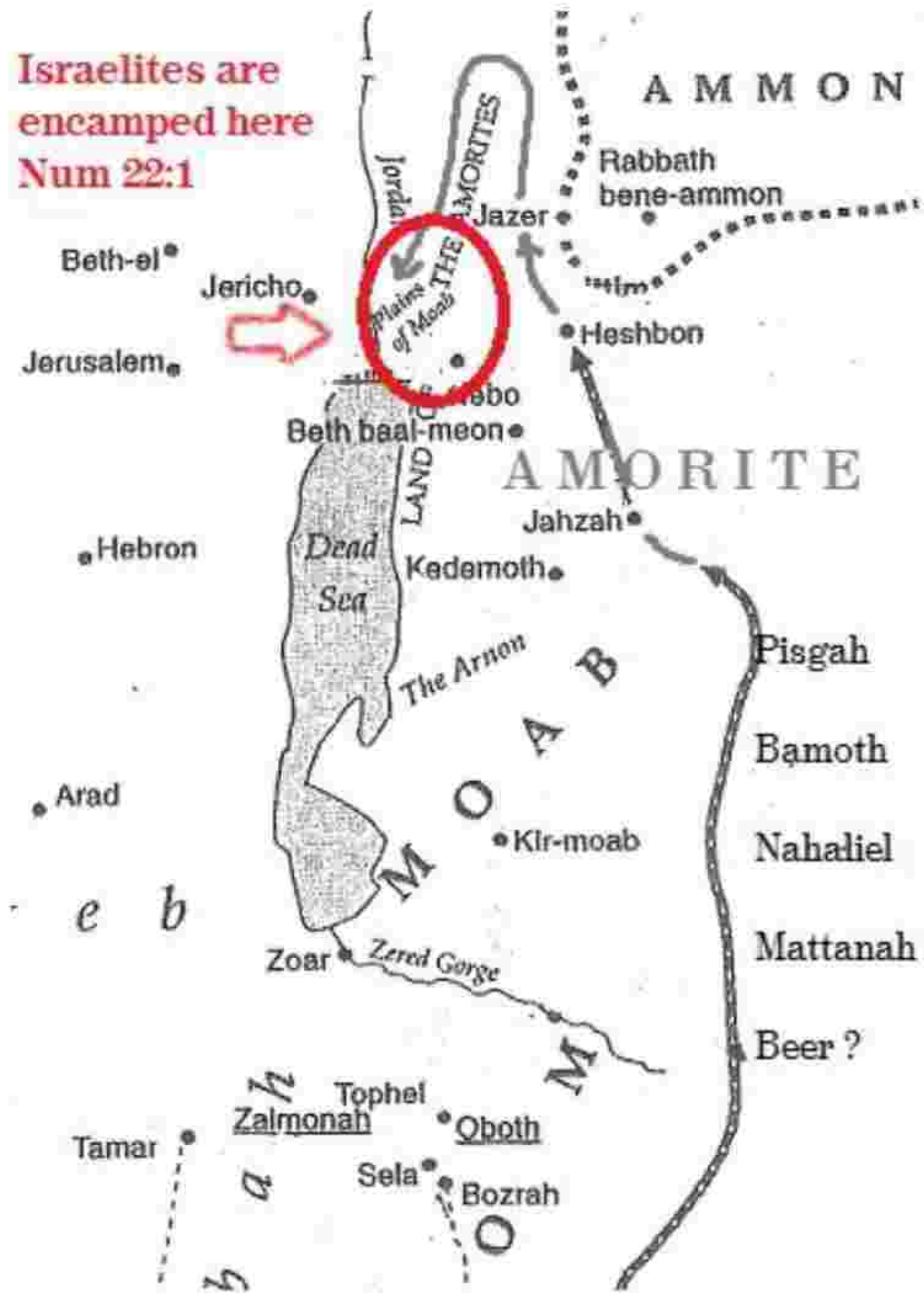
D1 Lists - 42 States of Journey: Numbers 33:1-36:13

C1 Moses takes Wise Leaders and Judges: Deuteronomy 1:1-18

B1 Yahweh Stops Israel from Harming Moab: Deuteronomy 1:19-2:15

A1 Victory over Sihon and Og: Deuteronomy 2:16-3:29

Israelites are encamped here
Num 22:1



KING BALAK'S VIEW OF GOD

22:2 - Balak recognized that the Israelites had defeated the Amorites.

The Amorites had defeated his people previously.

22:3 - Balak feared the Israelites due to their size - "there were many" and the fact "they abide over against" him - next to Moab.

22:6 - Balak recognized the physical and spiritual battle he was facing and saw his need for getting help to defeat Israel and their God Yahweh.



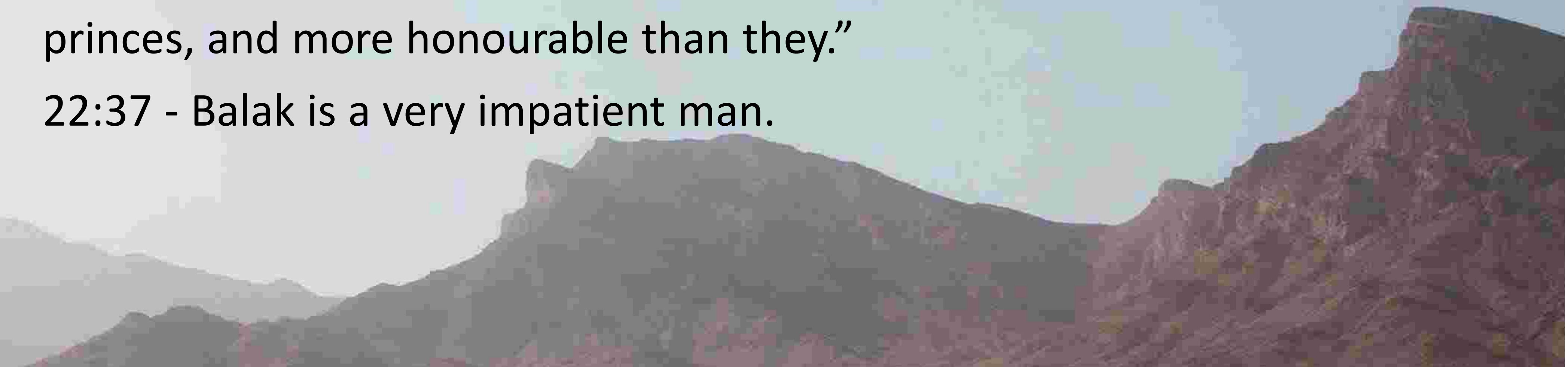
King Balak's View of God

22:7 - Balak believed in divination and that such services could be purchased ("the rewards") and used against Israel and Yahweh.

22:11 - Balak believed the services of Balaam could change the outcome of the war against Israel and Yahweh - "peradventure I shall be able to overcome them."

22:15 - Balak is a very persistent man - "And Balak sent yet again princes, and more honourable than they."

22:37 - Balak is a very impatient man.



King Balak's View of God

1. Balak believes in multiple gods.
2. Balak believes the gods can be purchased, manipulated, maneuvered by the highest bidder.
3. Balak thinks he has some control over the gods and his destiny.
4. Balak believes the gods can change their minds, change "teams" and can have some influence over people.
5. Balak believes the gods can be useful for something if you can just get them on the right side of you through personal sacrifice, self-effort, persistence, works, force, money, etc.

Balak's View of God is Much Like His View of Himself!

2 Corinthians 4:4,

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Balak - with his twisted view of God worships self. When anyone worships anyone or anything other than the true God, they are in reality worshipping Satan.

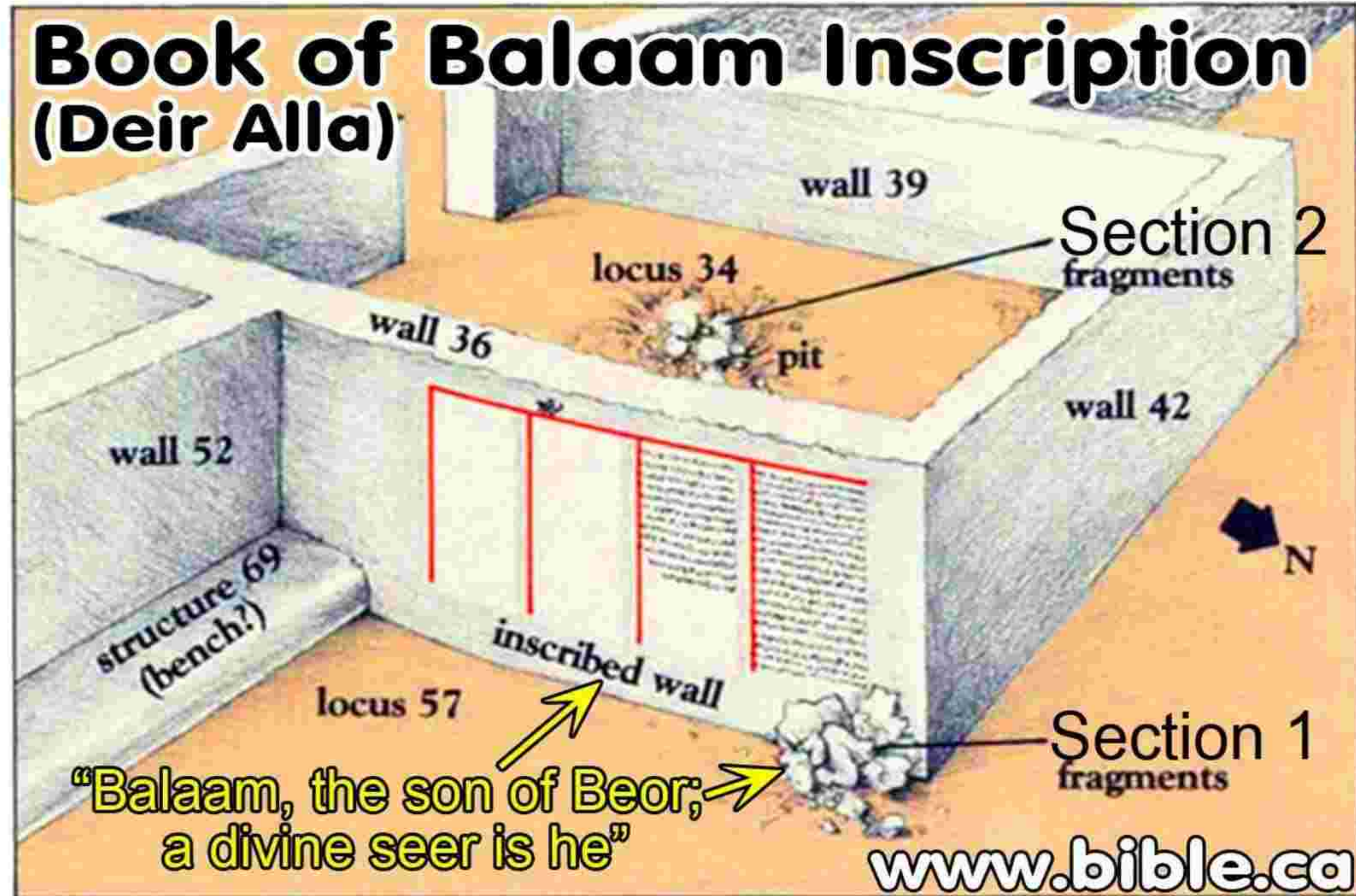
BALAAM'S VIEW OF GOD

1. Balaam believes in multiple gods.
2. Balaam believes that he can communicate with the gods. “As the Lord shall speak unto me” (22:8).
3. Balaam believes that he can manipulate the gods to change their minds if he can just push the right buttons (22:19).
4. Balaam believes Yahweh is just like all the other gods - “rise up, and go with them” (22:20). BALAAM thinks he has won the day with Yahweh.

Balaam's View of God

5. Balaam is spiritually and physically blind to “the Angel of the Lord.” His donkey has more spiritual insight!
6. Balaam has no clue that God/The Angel of the Lord is “his adversary” (22:22). He thinks Yahweh is on his side - not in his way!
7. Balaam does not know that God is all-knowing and that He views his life and way as “perverse.” God is angry (22:22) with his corrupt heart (22:32).”

Book of Balaam Inscription (Deir Alla)



"Balaam, the son of Beor;
a divine seer is he"

Book of Balaam (Deir Alla)



**“Balaam,
the son of Beor;
a divine seer is he”**

The Balaam Inscription - Combination #1 - 15 Lines

1. This is the account of Balaam, son of Beor, who was a seer of the gods. The gods came to him in the night, and he saw a vision.
2. According to the oracle of El. Then they spoke to Balaam son Beor, "This he will do in the future."
3. And Balaam rose on the next day . . . and he wept.
4. bitterly. And his people came up to him and said to him, "Balaam, son of Beor, why do you fast and weep?" And he
5. said to them: "Sit down and I shall relate to you what the SHADDAYIN are going to do. Come now and see the work of the gods! The gods gathered together: . . . for the prince, a tattered loincloth. The respected man shall respect others and the one who gave respect shall be respected

The Balaam Inscription - lines #6-9

6. the SHADDAYIN took their places at the assembly and they said to SHEGER,
“Sew up, bolt up the heavens with your dense cloud, ordain darkness and not eternal light.
7. And place the dark cloud’s seal on your bolt, and do not remove it forever! For the swift shall
8. revile the eagles and the voice of the vulture shall sing, the young of the NAHATS-
bird shall claw up the young of the heron, and the swallow shall tear at
9. the pigeon, and the sparrow . . . the staff. At the place where ewes are
brought, the hares shall eat branches

The Balaam Inscription - lines #10-15

10. . . . drink wine and from cups. They hear this reproach . . .
11. . . . He will take you to the wise women, mourners, the preparer of myrrh, and the priestess
12. . . . for the prince, a tattered loincloth. The respected man shall respect others and the one who gave respect shall be respected
13. . . . The deaf ones shall hear from afar
14. . . . the eyes of a fool shall see visions. Sheger and Ashtar
15. . . . the panther. The pigling chases the young of . . .

Balaam's View of God - God is Capricious

THE DEFINITION OF CAPRICIOUS

1. Balak's gods are given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood and behavior
2. Balak's gods are fickle, inconsistent, changeable, variable, mercurial and volatile.
3. Balak's gods are easily changed and swayed if presented with the right motivation.
4. Balak's gods are very small.

Balaam's View of God is Much Like His View of Himself!

2 Corinthians 4:4,

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Balaam - with his twisted view of God worships self. When anyone worships anyone or anything other than the true God, they are in reality worshipping Satan.

King Balak and Diviner Balaam Finally Meet

Numbers 22:36-38,

And when Balak heard that Balaam was come, he went out to meet him unto a city of Moab, which is in the border of Arnon, which is in the utmost coast. ³⁷And 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? And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.

What is your View of God? Trials bring out your View!

1. Is your God immutable?
2. Is your God all-knowing?
3. Is your God all-wise?
4. Is your God all-loving?
5. Is your God All-mighty?

DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT VIEW OF GOD?

**THE RIGHT VIEW OF GOD COMES
FROM HIS WORD
- THE BIBLE -**

Do you seek to Know God in His Word?

(22:12) Thou shalt not curse the people, for they are blessed.

(22:20) But yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.

(22:35) But only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak.

(22:38) Have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.



Do you seek for your Answers in His Word?

ORACLE #1

(23:5) And the Lord put a word in Balaam's mouth.

(23:12) Must I not take heed to speak that which the Lord hath put in my mouth.



Do you Understand God's Word is Immutable?

ORACLE #2

(23:16) And the Lord met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth.

(23:20) Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed, and I cannot reverse it.

(23:26) Told not I thee, saying, All that LORD speaketh, that I must do?

Do you seek to Know the Mind of God in His Word?

ORACLE #3

(24:4) He hath said, which heard the words of God.

(24:13) I cannot go beyond the commandment of the Lord, to do either good or bad of mine own mind, but what the LORD saith, that will I speak?

God wants you to Have Knowledge of Him from the Bible!

ORACLE #4

(24:16) He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High.



King Balak's Preparation on the High Places of Baal

Numbers 22:39-41,

And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kirjathhuzoth.

⁴⁰ And Balak offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that were with him. ⁴¹And it came to pass on the morrow, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal, that thence he might see the utmost part of the people.



BALAM'S PREPARATION

Numbers 23:1-3,

And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven oxen and seven rams. And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on every altar a bullock and a ram. ³ 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.

GOD MEETS BALAAM - ORACLE #1

Numbers 23:4-6,

And God met Balaam: and he said unto him, I have prepared seven altars, and I have offered upon every altar a bullock and a ram. And the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak. And he returned unto him, and, lo, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab.

ORACLE #1

Numbers 23:7-8,

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. How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?

ORACLE #1

Numbers 23:9-10,

For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him:
lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the
nations. ¹⁰Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the
fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my
last end be like his!

ORACLE #1

ISRAEL IS GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE
AND HIS IMMUTABLE PROMISE TO BLESS THEM!

Romans 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

BALAK'S REACTION AND BALAAM'S RESPONSE

Numbers 23:11,

And Balak said unto Balaam,

What hast thou done unto me?

I took thee to curse mine enemies,

and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether.

Numbers 23:12,

And he answered and said,

Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?

King Balak's Persistence - Takes Balaam to top of Pisgah

Numbers 23:13-14,

And Balak said unto him, Come, I pray thee, with me unto another place, from whence thou mayest see them: thou shalt see but the utmost part of them, and shalt not see them all: and curse me them from thence. ¹⁴And he brought him into the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar.



BALAAM'S SECOND ATTEMPT

Numbers 23:15-17,

And he said unto Balak, Stand here by thy burnt offering, while I meet the LORD yonder. ¹⁶And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus. ¹⁷And when he came to him, behold, he stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said unto him, What hath the LORD spoken?

ORACLE #2

Numbers 23:18-20,

And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor: ¹⁸God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? ²⁰Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

ORACLE #2

Numbers 23:21-24,

He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them. ²²God

brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn. ²³

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! ²⁴Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up

himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat of the prey,

and drink the blood of the slain.

ORACLE #2

ISRAEL IS GOD'S CONQUERING PEOPLE

AND HIS IMMUTABLE PERSON STANDS

BEHIND HIS IMMUTABLE PROMISES TO MAKE IT GOOD

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it?
or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Balak's Reaction and Balaam's Response

Numbers 23:25-26,

And Balak said unto Balaam,

Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.

²⁶ But Balaam answered and said unto Balak,

Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?



Prayer to Receive Salvation from the Lord

Dear God,

I know that I am sinner and that the wages of sin is death. I humbly come to the cross and ask for your blood to cleanse me from all my sin. I believe your Son was raised from the dead. I ask you Lord to give me everlasting life.

Amen.

