

## It is Critical to Choose Blessing Over Curse

*"<sup>1</sup>When Balaam realized that it was pleasing in the eyes of Adonai to bless Israel, he did not resort to sorceries as at the other times, but turned his face toward the wilderness. <sup>2</sup>Lifting up his eyes, Balaam saw Israel dwelling by tribes. The Ruach Elohim came over him. <sup>3</sup>He uttered his oracle and said: "This is the oracle of Balaam son of Beor, and the oracle of a strong man whose eye has been opened, <sup>4</sup>the oracle of one hearing God's speech, one seeing Shaddai's vision, one fallen down, yet with open eyes: <sup>5</sup>**How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, and your dwellings (dwelling places), O Israel!**" (Nu. 24:1-5).*

In *Numbers 24*, the double-minded seer, Balaam, makes it to a mountain overseeing the encampment of Israel unaware and blesses Israel when he was hired to curse Israel. In the text it is *pleasing in the eyes of Adonai to bless Israel*. The Ruach Elohim intervenes when it states: *the Ruach Elohim came over him* and *then* he spoke. Balaam (who will ultimately be declared evil by *The Almighty*) said that *this is the oracle of one hearing God's speech, one seeing Shaddai's vision (not his own vision)*. How powerful could this Blessing or a Curse be? Perhaps a better title for this episode could be: *While Yisrael lived life unaware {not even conscious of their surroundings, the evil one planned their cursing...}*. In *Numbers 25:1*, Scripture relates that while *Yisrael* was at *Shittim*, they played the harlot with Moabite women and idols. As this was going on, *The Almighty* is on the scene (even behind the scenes, if you please) battling the enemy to make it possible for Israel to *inherit the blessing* by *stopping the curse*. In addition, there were human foes who also sought their demise. While Israel was busy living their daily life, *The Almighty* was astounding the world with His Supernatural Power. *The Almighty* can turn curses into blessings!

Balaam's blessing concludes with: *"<sup>9</sup>He crouches like a lion or a lioness – who would rouse him? He who blesses you will be blessed, and he who curses you will be cursed"* (Nu. 22:9). The same as *Gen. 12:3*. Awesome! Scripture tells us that between *Numbers 24* and *Numbers 25* Balaam figured out a way to collect his reward (the lust of the eyes and flesh) from *Balak*. Balaam advised the Moabites how to entice the people of Israel into the grave sin with prostitutes and idolatry. Since he could not curse Israel directly, he came up with a plan for Israel to bring the curse upon themselves. *Balak* followed Balaam's advice, and Israel fell into sin, worshiping *Baal of Peor* and committing fornication with *Midianite* women. The consequence was an ensuing plague, where 24,000 people died. This is way more people than the potential casualties of a war with Moab! Moses refers Balaam's evil work: *"...because they hired against you Balaam son of Beor from Petor of Aram-naharaim to curse you. <sup>6</sup>But Adonai your God refused to listen to Balaam, and Adonai your God turned the curse into a blessing for you because He loves you"* (Deuteronomy 23:5b-6) ...and... *"<sup>28</sup>Then they yoked themselves to Baal of Peor, and ate the sacrifices of dead things. <sup>29</sup>So they provoked Him with their deeds, and a plague broke out among them. <sup>30</sup>But Phinehas stood up and intervened, so the plague was stopped. <sup>31</sup>It was credited to him as righteousness, from generation to generation forever"* (Psalm 106:28-31)

*Yeshua*, at the direction of the Father, has turned our deserved cursing in to blessing – *life and life more abundantly*. The enemy cannot bring about *an underserved curse* upon us, but a *deserved consequence* is another story. The enemy of *Adonai* is continually observing our life (our dwelling places) and scheming to curse us. *These curses are not imagined, they are real!* We are often not even aware that such an evil conniving conspiracy is taking place right under our noses, so to speak. Wake up! We have been blessed by *Adonai* and His Son *Yeshua* and we **CAN** choose the blessing and not the cursing. You have nothing to fear when it comes to curses because *Adonai's* protective hand is over you. No weapon, curse, or ill will can touch you in the palm of His protective hand (as long as you choose to stay there). Fear not, for He is always with you. Trust Him completely and stay in His dwelling places and **DO NOT GIVE THE ENEMY ANY PERMISSION/REASON TO CURSE YOU!** *Shabbat Shalom!*