

God Will Take Care of You

Numbers 22-24

May 31, 2020

Introduction:

Structure of the book - Mount Sinai to the Wilderness of Paran to the Plains of Moab

Context - defeats of Sihon and Og inspire a different strategy for Balak

Characters - who are these people? Sihon, Og, Balak, and...

Balaam - appears 3 times in the NT: 2Peter 2.15; Jude 11; Revelation 2.14

Balaam / the Magi

Blessings and curses - prophet for hire

Examining the passage

The flow of the story

The intervention with the donkey

The seven messages

The fulfillment of Scripture - from Abraham to Jesus

The implications of the text

God doesn't change his mind - his promises to Abraham and Judah stand

God protects Israel even when Israel is unaware that they need protecting

God blesses Israel even though they don't deserve it

What does this mean for us?

We can experience peace in our daily lives because

1. God is dependable
2. God watches over us
3. God's grace is based on His character, not ours.

Conclusion:

God protects and blesses his people for his glory

No matter what happens life, don't worry...

God will take care of you.

Comparison between Balaam and the Magi¹

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| <p>Balak Balaam Moses/Israel</p> | <p>Herod Magi Jesus/Israel</p> |
| <p>Balak is from Moab</p> | <p>Herod is from Edom (or Idumea)</p> |
| <p>Balak wants Israel (and Moses) cursed</p> | <p>Herod wants Jesus killed, and ends up killing many Israelites</p> |
| <p>Balaam (is referred to as a <i>magos</i> by Philo)</p> | <p>Magi (several possibilities: astrologers, Zoroastrian priests, etc.)</p> |
| <p>Balaam is from the East (Syria? Babylon? Midian?)</p> | <p>The magi are from the East (Persia? Babylon? Arabia?)</p> |
| <p>Balaam is accompanied by two servants</p> | <p>Tradition usually identifies three magi</p> |
| <p>Balak is outwitted by Balaam</p> | <p>Herod is outwitted by the magi</p> |
| <p>“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near— a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel”</p> | <p>“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east (‘at its rising’) and have come to worship him”</p> |
| <p>Balaam returns to his home</p> | <p>Magi return to their own country another way</p> |

¹ Courtesy of Dr. J. Shepherd, Professor of OT at Taylor Seminary