

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
NUMBERS 23 – BAAL NUMBERS 24 – BALAK AND BALAAM

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the book of Numbers. Remember in our last lesson of Numbers 22 the last verse says “And it came 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”.

Who was Baal? The word Baal means “lord” “possessor” or “husband”. He is a false god. He was a farm god of the Phoenicians and Canaanites; Baal was responsible for crops, flocks and farm animals. Each locality had its own Baal and was worshipped on high places with self-torture and human sacrifice. From the New Compact Bible Dictionary, pg. 66.

Numbers 23

Say – Balaam is coming to curse Israel; no one, not even Moses knows anything about this curse. Balak builds the alters as Balaam asked and thinks nothing of it. But God knows and he watches over Israel and His people today. Balaam wanted God to forget Israel.

¹And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven (bullock) oxen and seven rams.

²And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on every altar a bullock and a ram.

³And 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.

⁴And 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.

Say – The turning of the curse into a blessing for Israel by the divine power of God.

⁵And the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak.

⁶And he returned unto him, and, lo, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab.

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

⁸How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied? (We have no power to curse or to bless; only God. The Bible tells us ⁵“Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee (Israel).” Deuteronomy 23:5.)

⁹For from the top of the rocks I see him (God and Israel), and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations (God wanted them to be holy people; the Bible tells us ²⁶“There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky. ²⁷The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them. ²⁸Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his heavens shall drop down dew. ²⁹Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD (God rescued them from Egypt.), the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.” This is talking when all His people will know Him and are repentant.) Deuteronomy 33:26-29.)

¹⁰Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel (God told Abraham ¹⁵“For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. ¹⁶And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. ¹⁷Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee (all yours for eternity).” Genesis 13:15-17 Also read ¹⁴“And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Genesis 28:14.)? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his! (The Israelites were a happy people when they obeyed God and from their knowledge of the True God.)

¹¹And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether (The Bible tells us ¹“And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness” Numbers 21:1. Balak is a carnal minded person and does not know who Balaam is working with. Balaam was not an Israelite but God worked with him.)

¹²And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?

¹³And Balak said unto him (Balak tries something else.), 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 (means “watchers” or to spy or keep watch), to the top of Pisgah (Pisgah means “Cleft”. A mountain in Moab

on the northeast shore of the Dead Sea.), and built seven altars, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar.

¹⁵And 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?

¹⁸And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor:

¹⁹God is not a man (and they don't expect God to think like 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 (In other words, faith in God so believe it; lack of faith is evil for it says we don't believe what God says)?

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

²¹He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him (God is not with Balak; God is with Israel and His people today.), and the shout (trumpet) of a king is among them.

²²God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn (wild ox). (The Bible tells us "¹⁹But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. ²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. ²¹Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns." Psalm 22:19-21.)

²³Surely 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 (What God has done in their midst for Israel.) (God had told the Israelites "³¹Regard not them that have familiar spirits (demonic spirits), neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God (Because they will inhabit your mind.) Leviticus 19:31)!

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.

²⁵And Balak said unto Balaam, Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.

²⁶But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?

²⁷And Balak (descendants of Lot – so bits and pieces of the truth as in all religions and people fall for it.) said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring

thee unto another place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence.

²⁸And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of (Beth)-Peor (where Baal stood), that looketh toward jeshimon (a desolate place). Also read how the Israelites worshipped Baal in Numbers 25:1-18.

Say – The Israelites worship Baal, read below.

¹And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. ²And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods (Imagine that!). ³And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

⁴And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads (chiefs or leaders of Israel) of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. (If God did not cut them off they would destroy all the Israelites.) ⁵And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor (This was the only way God could end this situation.). (The people could care less) ⁶And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses (This guy was saying no one is going to tell me what to do.), and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation (What kind of attitude was this.).

⁷And when Phinehas (he took action against the people), the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; ⁸And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. ⁹And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand (just like that).

¹⁰And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹¹Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. ¹²Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace (for one act a reward): ¹³And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

(for an evil act, death) ¹⁴Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites. ¹⁵And the name of the Midianitish woman that was slain was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian.

¹⁶And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹⁷Vex the Midianites, and smite them (The Midianites were most guilty because they brought Baalpeor into Israel.): ¹⁸For they vex you with their wiles (craftiness), wherewith they have beguiled

you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Peor's sake. Numbers 25:1-18.

Back to Numbers 23

²⁹And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven bullocks and seven rams. ³⁰And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar.

Numbers 24

Say – This chapter is of the defeat of Balak and Balaam against Israel; Balaam put aside the enchantments of which he depended on. Verses 1-9 are of the blessing.

¹And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel (Was good in the eyes of Jehovah), he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments (To meet with familiar spirits “¹⁰There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. ¹¹Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.” Deuteronomy 18:10-11), but he set his face toward the wilderness (Balaam was not an Israelite but God worked with him.).

²And Balaam lifted up (to God) his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.

³And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

⁴He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance (Like Peter when he went up on roof and he fell into a trance. Means totally giving themselves to God and the spirit of God fell on them.), but having his eyes open:

⁵How goodly (pleasing) are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles (dwelling place), O Israel! (How impressive it must have looked to Balaam.)

⁶As the valleys (brooks) are they spread forth (stretched out), as gardens (orchards) by the river's side (stream), as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters.

⁷He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted

⁸God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn (wild ox): he shall eat up (destroy) the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows.

⁹He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up (The Lord is My Shepherd, whom shall I fear.)? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee (Israel was to be different than the other nations. The Bible tells us “²⁷The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them. ²⁸Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his heavens shall drop down dew. ²⁹Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD (God rescued them from Egypt), the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places” Deuteronomy 33:27-29.).

Say – Balak speaks in protest against Balaam both in “smiting his hands together” and his speech to Balaam saying “I called thee to curse mine enemies but they are blessed three times.”

¹⁰And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together (showing his anger): and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed them these three times.

¹¹Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour.

¹²And Balaam said unto Balak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying,

¹³If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, 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 (sounds righteous but what happened)?

¹⁴And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise (announce) thee what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days.

Say – Balaam's prediction

¹⁵And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said:

¹⁶He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty (Es Shaddai, the All-bountiful or All-sufficient), falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:

¹⁷I shall see him (I have seen Him.), but not now (speaking about God): I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob (The Messiah, the 2nd coming), and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel (The Bible tells us “¹⁰The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh

(Messiah, gift of God) come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.” Genesis 49:10), and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth (all the enemies of Israel).

¹⁸And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.

¹⁹Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion (Christ and David), and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city (In a great earthquake that is coming in the end times).

²⁰And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations (Grandson of Esau and enemies of Israel; Amalek will perish forever.); but his latter end shall be that he perish (destruction, no peace treaties) for ever.

²¹And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is thy dwellingplace, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock.

²²Nevertheless the Kenite shall be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive.

²³And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this!

²⁴And ships shall come from the coast of Chittim (A son of Javan, son of Japheth, Genesis 10:4), and shall afflict Asshur (Assyrians), and shall afflict Eber (The Hebrews), and he also shall perish (destruction) for ever.

²⁵And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place (Mesopotamia to which he never returned.): and Balak also went his way.

MEMORY VERSE

⁶As the valleys (brooks) are they spread forth (stretched out), as gardens (orchards) by the river's side (stream), as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters.

NUMBERS 24:6

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

THE TURNING OF THE CURSE INTO A BLESSING FOR ISRAEL BY THE DIVINE POWER OF GOD

¹And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel (Was good in the eyes of Jehovah), he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments (To meet with familiar spirits “¹⁰There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. ¹¹Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.” Deuteronomy 18:10-11), but he set his face toward the wilderness (Balaam was not an Israelite but God worked with him.).

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⁴He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance (Like Peter when he went up on roof and he fell into a trance. Means totally giving themselves to God and the spirit of God fell on them.), but having his eyes open:

⁵And the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak.

⁶And he returned unto him, and, lo, he stood by his burnt sacrifice, he, and all the princes of Moab.

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

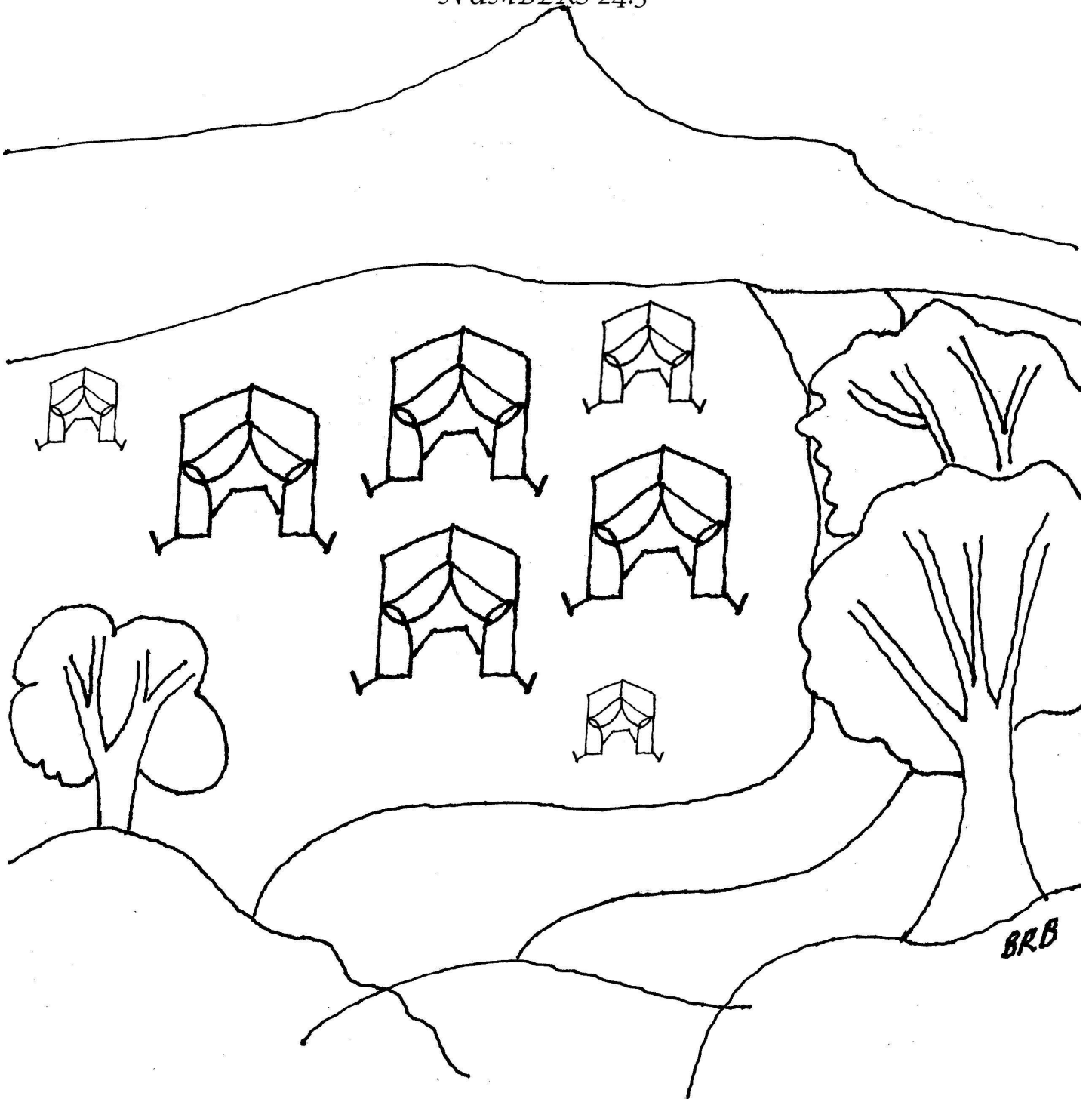
⁸How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied? (We have no power to curse or to bless; only God. The Bible tells us “⁵Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee (Israel).” Deuteronomy 23:5.)

⁹For from the top of the rocks I see him (God and Israel), and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations (God wanted them to be holy people; the Bible tells us “²⁶There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky. ²⁷The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them. ²⁸Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his heavens shall drop down dew. ²⁹Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD (God rescued them from Egypt.), the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine

enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.”
This is talking when all His people will know Him and are repentant.) Deuteronomy
33:26-29.)

*HOW GOODLY (PLEASING) ARE THY TENTS,
O JACOB, AND THY TABERNACLES (DWELLING PLACE),
O ISRAEL!*

*(HOW IMPRESSIVE IT MUST HAVE LOOKED TO BALAAM)
NUMBERS 24:5*



*AS THE VALLEYS (BROOKS) ARE THEY SPREAD
FORTH (STRETCHED OUT),
AS GARDENS (ORCHARDS) BY THE RIVERS SIDE
AS THE TREES LIGN ALOES WHICH THE LORD
HATH PLANTED, AND AS CEDAR TREES BESIDE THE WATERS
NUMBERS 24:6*