

Timeline of Truth: Balaam Speaks God's Messages (Numbers 22:36 – 23:30)

I. Israel at Mount Sinai (1-10:10)

II. Israel in the Wilderness (10:11-36:13)

1. The Israelites Move (10:11-36)
2. Israel Complains (11:1-35)
3. Aaron and Miriam Complain (12:1-16)
4. The Spies and their Reports (13:1-33)
5. The Nation is Punished (14:1-45)
6. Laws Concerning Offerings in the Land of Israel (15:1-31)
7. A Man Works on the Sabbath and Tassels on Garments (15:32-41)
8. Men Challenge Moses (16:1-43)
9. Aaron's Rod Buds (17:1-13)
10. Responsibilities and Provisions for the Priests and Levites (18:1-32)
11. Uncleaness and Cleansing (19:1-22)
12. Moses Strikes the Rock (20:1-13)
13. Edom Refuses Israel and Aaron Dies (20:14-29)
14. Israel's Battles and the Fiery Serpents (21:1-35)

<p>Numbers 22:36-38 ³⁶ Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which <i>is</i> on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory. ³⁷ Then Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?" ³⁸ And Balaam said to Balak, "Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak."</p>	<p>1. Balak _____ Balaam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Balak is excited to see Balaam b. Balak admonishes Balaam for not coming quickly c. Balaam answers Balak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balaam states the obvious • Balaam explains the ability does not come from him • Balaam explains his words will come from God <p>Lit. "being able am I able to say anything" Word - דַבָּרָה – <i>dabar</i> - speech, word, _____</p>
<p>³⁹ So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kirjath Huzoth. ⁴⁰ Then Balak offered oxen and sheep, and he sent <i>some</i> to Balaam and to the princes who <i>were</i> with him. ⁴¹ So it was the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people. ^{NKJ} Numbers 23:1 Then Balaam said to Balak, "Build seven altars for me here, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams." ² And Balak did just as Balaam had spoken, and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on <i>each</i> altar.</p>	<p>2. Balaam _____ to Hear from God</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Balak and the princes offer sacrifices b. Balaam went to the high places of Baal c. Balaam prepares a sacrifice.
<p>³ Then Balaam said to Balak, "Stand by your burnt offering, and I will go; perhaps the LORD will come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I will tell you." So he went to a desolate height. ⁴ And God met Balaam, and he said to Him, "I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered on <i>each</i> altar a bull and a ram." ⁵ Then the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, "Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak."</p>	<p>3. Balaam _____ with God</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Balaam is committed to hear from the Lord and repeat the message delivered to him. b. God gives the message to Balaam
<p>⁶ So he returned to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, he and all the princes of Moab. ⁷ And he took up his oracle and said: "Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, From the mountains of the east. 'Come, curse Jacob for me, And come, denounce Israel!' ⁸ "How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce <i>whom</i> the LORD has not denounced? ⁹ For from the top of the rocks I see him, And from the hills I behold him; There! A people dwelling alone, Not reckoning itself among the nations. ¹⁰ "Who can count the dust of Jacob, Or number one-fourth of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, And let my end be like his!"</p>	<p>4. Balaam _____ God's First Message</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Balaam's message: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He reviews what has happened • He explains that he cannot curse who God has not cursed • He explains how Israel is chosen • He explains that Israel's fate is in God's hands

<p>¹¹ Then Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and look, you have blessed <i>them</i> bountifully!" ¹² So he answered and said, "Must I not take heed to speak what the LORD has put in my mouth?" ¹³ Then Balak said to him, "Please come with me to another place from which you may see them; you shall see only the outer part of them, and shall not see them all; curse them for me from there." ¹⁴ So he brought him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on <i>each</i> altar. ¹⁵ And he said to Balak, "Stand here by your burnt offering while I meet <i>the Lord</i> over there." ¹⁶ Then the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, "Go back to Balak, and thus you shall speak."</p>	<p>5. Balak is not _____ with God's Message</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Balak is upset because Balaam has not done what he hired him to do. Balaam reiterates that he can only say what God tells him to say. Balak suggests a change in geography. Balaam prepares to hear from God in the same manner as before. God gives Balaam another message
<p>¹⁷ So he came to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab were with him. And Balak said to him, "What has the LORD spoken?" ¹⁸ Then he took up his oracle and said: "Rise up, Balak, and hear! Listen to me, son of Zippor!" ¹⁹ "God <i>is</i> not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" ²⁰ Behold, I have received <i>a command</i> to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it. ²¹ "He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The LORD his God <i>is</i> with him, And the shout of a King <i>is</i> among them. ²² God brings them out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox. ²³ "For <i>there is</i> no sorcery against Jacob, Nor any divination against Israel. It now must be said of Jacob And of Israel, 'Oh, what God has done!' ²⁴ Look, a people rises like a lioness, And lifts itself up like a lion; It shall not lie down until it devours the prey, And drinks the blood of the slain."</p>	<p>6. Balaam _____ God's Second Message</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Balak is impatient to hear Balaam's message Balaam's second message: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balaam explains God's character to Balak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ God's holiness ○ God's truthfulness ○ God's immutability ○ God's faithfulness • Balaam explains that he will obey God "command" is not in the original text" Lit. "Behold I took to bless, and he blesses..." • God has not seen iniquity or wickedness in Israel • God is with them and has been with them • Israel is destined to triumph
<p>²⁵ Then Balak said to Balaam, "Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all!" ²⁶ So Balaam answered and said to Balak, "Did I not tell you, saying, 'All that the LORD speaks, that I must do'?"</p>	<p>7. Balak is not _____ with God's Second Message</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Balak's response: neither curse or bless Balaam states again that he will say what God wants him to say
<p>²⁷ Then Balak said to Balaam, "Please come, I will take you to another place; perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there." ²⁸ So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, that overlooks the wasteland. ²⁹ Then Balaam said to Balak, "Build for me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams." ³⁰ And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on <i>every</i> altar.</p>	<p>8. Balaam _____ for God's Third Message</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Balak once again suggests a change in geography. Why? (see 1 Kings 18:19) Balaam prepares to hear God again in the same manner as before.