

# FEBRUARY 16

## Read Numbers 22–24

### CHAPTER 22

**A**ND the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho.

2 ¶ And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

3 And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they *were* many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel.

4 And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all *that are* round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor *was* king of the Moabites at that time.

5 He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which *is* by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me:

6 Come now therefore, I pray

thee, curse me this people; for they *are* too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, *that* we may smite them, and *that* I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest *is* blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

7 And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.

8 And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam.

9 And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men *are* these with thee?

10 And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, *saying*,

11 Behold, *there is* a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I

shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out.

12 And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they *are* blessed.

13 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you.

14 And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said, Balaam refuseth to come with us.

15 ¶ And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.

16 And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me:

17 For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.

18 And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

19 Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more.

20 And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, *and* go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.

21 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.

22 ¶ And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants *were* with him.

23 And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way.

24 But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall *being* on this side, and a wall on that side.

25 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against

the wall: and he smote her again.

26 And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where *was* no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

27 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.

28 And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?

29 And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.

30 And the ass said unto Balaam, *Am* not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since *I was* thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay.

31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.

32 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou

smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because *thy* way is perverse before me:

33 And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.

34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again.

35 And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

36 ¶ 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.

37 And 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?

38 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.

39 And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kirjath-huzoth.

40 And Balak offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that *were* with him.

41 And 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.

### CHAPTER 23

**A**ND Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven oxen and seven rams.

2 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.

4 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.

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

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

7 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.

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

9 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.

10 Who 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!

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.

12 And he answered and said,

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

13. 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.

14 ¶ And 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.

15 And he said unto Balak, Stand here by thy burnt offering, while I meet *the LORD* yonder.

16 And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus.

17 And 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?

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

19 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?

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

21 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.

22 God 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!

24 Behold, 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.

25 ¶ 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?

27 ¶ And Balak 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.

28 And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward Jeshimon.

29 And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven bullocks and seven rams.

30 And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bullock and a ram on *every* altar.

## CHAPTER 24

**A**ND 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.

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

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

4 He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:

5 How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, *and* thy tabernacles, O Israel!

6 As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, *and* as cedar trees beside the waters.

7 He 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.

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

9 He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed *is* he that blesseth thee, and cursed *is* he that curseth thee.

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

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

12 And Balaam said unto Balak,

Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying,

13 If 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?

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

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

16 He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, *which* saw the vision of the Almighty, falling *into a trance*, but having his eyes open:

17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

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

19 Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city.

20 ¶ And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek *was* the first of the nations; but his latter end *shall be* that he perish for ever.

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

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

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

24 And ships *shall come* from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever.

25 And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Balaam was a man who raises many questions for the Bible student. He was a soothsayer, yet he was able to predict the future of Israel. He listened to God's Word and faithfully proclaimed it, yet turned right around and led Israel into sin and judgment.

In verses 1-14 of chapter 22, Balak, king of Moab, is fearful of Israel passing by on her way to Canaan, and sends for Balaam. He asked Balaam to use his demonic magical powers to curse Israel while they were encamped in the plain of Moab. Balaam refused, and Balak's messengers went home and reported failure. However, Balak was not one to give up easily and sent princes more noble than the first, and promised Balaam wealth and honor if he would reconsider the matter of cursing the Jews.

This is what Satan always does. Once we have made the decision to obey God's Word, Satan will make every effort to get us to compromise our standards and change our decision to obey God.

God allowed Balaam to go with the princes of Balak, but only to test Balaam. It is here that the well-known episode with the angel and the ass takes place. The angel stood in Balaam's way, but the prophet did not see him. The ass did, and acted so strangely that Balaam smote her. When he saw the angel, he realized his mistake. In verse 32 God said, "Thy way is perverse," so there was no reason for Balaam to say, "If it displease thee, I will get me back again."

Balaam was playing with God's will. Within his heart he was seeking his own will, wanting God to put His stamp of approval upon it. So he was actually testing God, seeing how far he could go.

The main lesson here is that we find the will of God and obey it, regardless of personal desires or subsequent circumstances. It is always dangerous to play with God's will!

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

"He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends" (Proverbs 17:9).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

**ASSIGNMENT 7:** For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 11.

## HYMN FOR TODAY

**MORE LOVE TO THEE**  
by Elizabeth Prentiss, 1818-1878

"To love Christ more is the deepest need, the constant cry of my soul...out in the woods, and on my bed, and out driving, when I am happy and busy, and when I am sad and idle, the whisper keeps going up for more love, more love, more love!"

These were the words of Elizabeth Prentiss, wife of a Presbyterian minister and author of this hymn text. She was often described by her many friends as "a very bright-eyed little woman with a keen sense of humor, who cared more to shine in her own happy household than in a wide circle of society." Although Elizabeth was strong in spirit, she was frail in body. Throughout her life she was almost an invalid, scarcely knowing a moment free of pain.

"More Love to Thee" was written by Mrs. Prentiss during a time of great personal sorrow, following the loss of two children in a short period of time. For weeks Elizabeth was inconsolable. In her diary she wrote, "empty hands, a worn-out, exhausted body, and unutterable longings to flee from a world that has so many sharp experiences."

During this period of grief, Mrs. Prentiss began meditating upon the story of Jacob in the Old Testament. She noted how God met him in a very special way during his moments of sorrow and need. Elizabeth prayed earnestly that she too might have a similar experience. While she was meditating and praying one evening, these four stanzas were born—words that have since become a universal prayer for devout believers everywhere:

*More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!  
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee;  
this is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee....*

*Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;  
now Thee alone I seek—give what is best;  
this all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to Thee....*

*Let sorrow do its work, send grief and pain;  
sweet are Thy messengers, sweet their refrain,  
when they can sing with me, more love, O Christ, to Thee....*

*Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise;  
this be the parting cry my heart shall raise;  
this still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to Thee.*



## **ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY**

**1945**

### **BATAAN WAS RECAPTURED BY THE AMERICAN FORCES.**

These were the turning days of World War II. The news would come day by day that the war was turning toward the Allies and that victory seemed soon inevitable. How happy it made the troops! This was the war to end all wars, and yet, Korea and Vietnam were future. Let us pray to God to give our nation wisdom and to spare the lives of our boys. The thing that we ought to realize is that safety for a nation comes from God Almighty. We are not to trust in our bombs, but in God.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, the pastor of a church once drove a visiting evangelist to the Sangre de Cristo mountains. He pointed to brown spots in the mountains. He said those were holes and inside those holes were many, many atomic bombs and weapons with which to defend our nation. There is tremendous power and destructive force contained

therein, but think of Psalm 121:1,2: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth." Our help does not come from the hills, but rather the Maker of the hills. Read the entire 121st Psalm now.

**1959**

### **CASTRO BECAME PREMIER OF CUBA.**

## **ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1951**

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL PASSED BILL PROHIBITING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION** in city-assisted housing developments.

**1970**

**JOE FRAZIER KNOCKED OUT JIMMY ELLIS** in the second round of their New York fight and became the world heavyweight boxing champion.

# THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

## Psalm 14

**AUTHOR:** David.

### **THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:**

We come back to the story of David and Absalom and Absalom's rebellion against his father. It is probable that this Psalm was written as David fled from Jerusalem during Absalom's rebellion. It is akin to Psalm 3, so it was written in the darkest hour of David's life after having been forsaken by family and friends.

The dedication to this Psalm, "To the chief musician by David," stands at the head of 53 Psalms. What this means is that these Psalms were intended not merely for private use but that they were also to be sung by the official appointed choir at great assemblies. In other words, these Psalms were to be used for public worship as well as private meditation and praise. The ancient church practiced the singing of these Psalms at public worship.

### **THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:**

This Psalm was sung by the people when they had been forsaken by family and/or friends. When this time comes, the Christian must be reminded that there is One Who will never forsake him. Someone has said that there are 366 promises in the Bible that God is with us and will not leave us. Ah, what great comfort this is! There are 365 days in a year. Think of it—a promise for every day, "But," reminds one, "there are 366 promises." Ah, yes, but is there not a leap year when we have 366 days? God promises to be with us every day, not even omitting one. God reminds us that He will never leave us or forsake us. In this passage there are five negatives. Now in the English language a double negative is bad grammar, but in the Greek, added negatives are given to increase emphasis. God gives us five negatives. The promise could be translated something like this, "No, I will not never leave thee nor not never forsake thee."

# The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

## **MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR SEVEN DAYS:**

### **REACTION OF SIN IN HUMAN NATURE**

(Assignment 7)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV.com page.)

#### **Described as coming from the heart.**

( ) Mark 7:21

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

#### **Manifests itself by many evils.**

( ) Mark 7:22

Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

#### **Defiles the man and makes him unclean.**

( ) Mark 7:23

All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

#### **In this condition declared to be unprofitable.**

( ) Romans 3:12

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

#### **His wicked works prove him to be God’s enemy.**

( ) Colossians 1:21

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.