

Chapter 22 - 25 Summary

Chapter

22 God chooses and prepares Balaam

23 First two Oracles of blessing for Israel

24 Two more Oracles of blessing for Israel

Three Oracles of judgment on nations

25 Israel's harlotry at Baal of Peor



Increasing



The Oracles – A Summary

1st Oracle : Chosen by God

- A. *The blessing of God is irrevocable.*
- B. *Israel is unique among the nations.*
- C. *Numbers acknowledged*
- D. *Balaam's desire to share Israel's blessing*

2nd Oracle: Justified/The kingdom of God is among them.

- A. *The character of God*
- B. *The blessing is irrevocable.*
- C. *No iniquity in Israel*
- D. *God is with them.*
- E. *Israel shall devour their enemies.*

The Oracles

3rd Oracle : A Rich Inheritance

- A. *Blessing in the land*
- B. *The blessings of Israel are in her God.*
- C. *The blessings are assured.*

4th Oracle: Future Glory/Dominion

- A. *Messianic prophecy*
- B. *Dominion by Israel*

5th Oracle: *Destruction of Amalek*

6th Oracle: *Kenite (descendants of Cain) to be consumed.*

7th Oracle: *Affliction of Asher and Eber*

A Summary of the Oracles for Israel

The history of Israel in 4 Oracles from their election as a nation to their exaltation in the kingdom:

1st Chosen by God

2nd The kingdom of God is with them

3rd A rich inheritance – the promise fulfilled

4th Future glory – the star/scepter

- crush their enemies*
- dominion*

Lessons of Chapters 22-25

1. *When God has decided to bless, who can reverse it?*
- 2.
3. *Messianic prophecies of the coming Messiah*
4. *The love of money can rob us of God's blessing and may lead us to a destination we don't want.*
5. *God is again demonstrating His covenant faithfulness. He brings them the word of hope without their requesting it.)*
6. *The authority/accuracy of God's Word is not dependent on the worthiness or piety of the messenger.*
7. *reward. (note Saul's zeal before becoming a believer)*

Lessons of Chapters 22-25

- 8. God is with them. “If God be for us...”.*
- 9. The ways of the enemy – He doesn’t give up after one unsuccessful attack. (See also Jesus’ temptations on the mount.)*
- 10. God does not remain angry forever.*
- 11. God moves in mysterious ways.*
- 12. Having a “word of God” does not assure faithfulness.
Having a “word of God” is an opportunity for blessing but not a guarantee. (often there is a condition of obedience. Exceptions: rainbow, well of Num 21)*

The Character of God in the Oracles

1. *God is not a man, that He should lie.*
2. *He does not sin and therefore has no need to repent.*
3. *He is faithful to His Word.*
4. *He is powerful:* - *when he blesses, who can undo it?*
- *He brings them out (of Egypt)*
- *one of His names is “Almighty”*
- 5.
6. *He is omniscient (all-knowing):*
- *He speaks in advance of things that are to occur.*
- *He knows the secret thoughts of our hearts.*
7. *He is not bound by the wisdom of man...uses whom He chooses. (Who would have thought to use Balaam?)*

What does this mean to me/us?

- *It is a reminder:*
 - *of the character of the God we serve. (e.g. omnipotence, faithfulness, interested in us.)*
 - *that God knows the thoughts and intents of our hearts. (You can't fool God.)*
 - *that the "love of money" is a powerful snare.*
- *Recognize that temptation is not "once and done."*
- *If God can use a donkey or a pagan mantic, can He not also use you? Learn your gifts and calling in God.*

My recommendation: *Get in the path of God's blessing by doing the things that please God. {I want to be in the place that the 2nd generation was in.}*