

# Daily Devotions



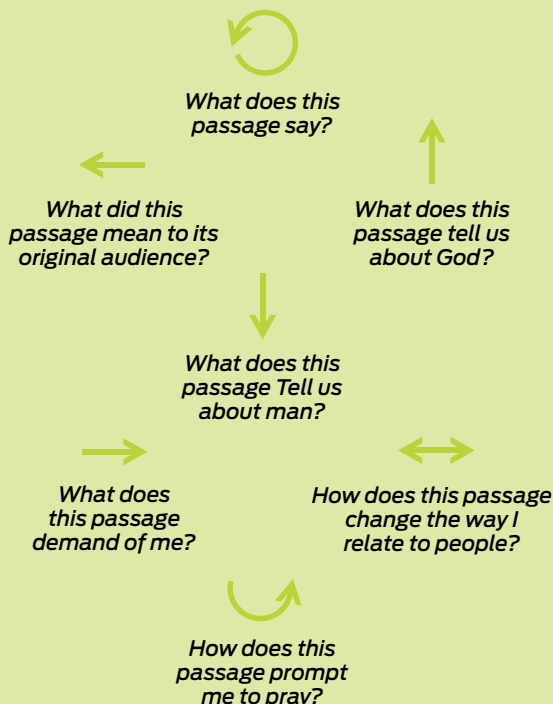
Day 1

## Numbers 22:1-41

In Numbers 22 the Moabites saw the Israelites encamped in the wilderness and feared for their lives. The Moabites had heard of what the Israelites had done to the Amorites and feared that the same fate would come to them. So Balak, king of Moab, sought the help of a diviner named Balaam to curse the Israelites. But God came to Balaam and told him not to go to Balak because the Israelites were blessed (v. 12).

This is a fascinating account full of mystery (who exactly was Balaam and why was he so prone to listen to God?) as well as the supernatural (a talking donkey!). But don't lose sight of an important detail that is easily missed: the Israelites were not present in this story. They don't see the fear of the Moabites. They don't see Balaam's encounter with a talking donkey. They don't hear the oracles Balaam shares. Instead, they are over there, off in the distance, while this account unfolds. Even when the Israelites could not see it, God was working for their good. God is always working all things for the good of those who love Him (Rom. 8:28).

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



**How has God's faithfulness helped you remain faithful to Him even in the midst of difficult circumstances?**

# Numbers 23:1-30

In Balaam's first oracle to Balak, God declared that those whom He has blessed cannot be cursed (v. 8). In the second oracle, God declared Himself to be for Israel like a wild ox (v. 22). In both of Balaam's first two oracles, God's message to Balak, as he tried to curse Israel, was that God cannot be controlled. No person, no matter how powerful he or she may be, can coerce God to do that which He has not desired to do. God had blessed Israel and He would not change His mind because He is faithful and true.

No one and nothing can thwart God's plans for His people. Not even Satan can do anything to curse the people of God (Job 1:12). Our God is like a wild ox and He fights for us. Even though we may face persecution and difficult times, there is nothing that can stop God from fulfilling all that He has planned and promised. God has placed stories of His work for His people in the Bible so that we can see how He works for the good of His people, and in doing so, realize He works for us in the same way.

**How can seeing the unstoppable faithfulness of God change the way you approach difficult situations today?**

# Numbers 24:1-14

In Balaam's third oracle, God gave the diviner a vision of the future blessing that the Israelites would enjoy, and He warned Balak not to come against His people. The promise of blessing that God gave Balaam was a promise of abundant provision and powerful leadership. The warning that God gave Balak was a warning of destruction should he attempt to fight against Israel.

God's promise of eternal life for us is a promise of shelter in His presence and provision that we will delight in (Rev. 7:15-16). We live in a broken world full of broken people, and we look forward to a life with God where brokenness will be no more. As we live today with this hope, we are called to proclaim the good news that Jesus has died on the cross for our sins. The hope that we have is not just for us. The message of the gospel is a message for all the world. God has saved us to display the immeasurable riches of God's grace for the rest of eternity, and He calls us to start now by inviting those who don't know Jesus, to trust in Him and enjoy His presence and provision forevermore.

**How can your guarantee of eternal life motivate you to share the gospel today?**

# Numbers 24:15-25

Balaam's final oracle to Balak was a promise to preserve and protect the people of God. While this oracle would come to pass in part through King David, King Jesus would be its ultimate fulfillment.

Because of our sin, we were separated from God (Eph. 2:1). But on the day when we trusted in Christ, His righteousness was credited to us (Rom. 3:21-26; 2 Cor. 5:21). The righteousness of God that has been given to us does not mean that we no longer sin. But it does mean that Jesus' life was given to us as He took our sin onto Himself. It means that because our sin has been removed and we have Christ's perfect righteousness, we are completely protected from the eternal consequences of sin and our credit as being obedient to the Father is fully preserved.

When we trust in Jesus, we do not trust in Him merely for our salvation and then place that salvation in a safe place to take out again in the future. Our trust in Jesus runs throughout each day, and each minute, of our lives. We trust in His forgiveness, but we also trust in His rule over us, knowing He has done everything necessary for our salvation and righteousness, yet we are called to live in obedience out of love and gratitude for what He has done.

**What is your motivation for obeying God? Why?**

# 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Through Adam, sin and death came into the world. Through Jesus, salvation came into the world; sin and death has been conquered. Jesus' work on earth reversed all the wrong done by Adam, and his descendants, for those who trust in Him. Where Adam disobeyed, Jesus obeyed. Where Adam doubted, Jesus trusted. Where Adam went into the ground and remained there, Jesus went into the ground and burst forth on the third day.

Jesus was the firstfruits of the resurrection, which means He is not the only one who will experience it. All those who have trusted in Him have the same future hope in store. One day, we too will spring forth from the clutches of death into everlasting life. But that life does not begin on that day, it is completed on it. One day Christ Jesus will return, and He will make all things new and kill death for good. At the death of death and the restoration of all things, the rule and reign of Christ will be unchallenged and unhindered. We can trust in God's ability to conquer all things now, since He has already conquered death, which is our greatest enemy.

**How does knowing Jesus conquered our greatest enemy, death, give you boldness when sharing the gospel?**