

Scripture reading: Numbers 22:1-18

God always intends Good towards His People

When the Israelites reached the plains of Moab, Balak the king of Moab was afraid. There was a prophet of God called Balaam. Since the Israelites were convinced with this prophet, Balak decided to bribe him and curse the people of Israel. He had full assurance that his words will come to pass. But Balaam said to that king that he would respond after inquiring of the lord and he asked God regarding this. God answered and said that the Israelites were blessed by Him and he should not speak curses against them. He said to the King about God's response. The King persisted and called him again promising to offer him more gifts. Balaam said that he would not go against God's command even if he was offered a house full of Gold and silver

Question:

Who is this Balaam? Though these people had often murmured against God, why did God save them from curses?

Answer:

God separated Abraham for himself and through Him chose the people of Israel. But even before and after that, God had chosen a few for Himself. One among them was Balaam. All of his words came to pass as he was a prophet chosen of God. The people there therefore regarded him with much honor. That's the reason Balak called Balaam. When people go against God, though His righteousness provokes Him to destroy them, His love and kindness gives them time to repent. This is what we see here in this incident. Balaam was desiring to somehow receive from Balak the gifts he promised after cursing the people of Israel with God's permission. But God did not permit. Though God chastens us, we should never forget that He is loving, gracious, merciful and longsuffering towards us. Since He loved us so much, He saved us.

"But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." Psalms 86:15

Prayer

Dear father, let not mean pleasures and desire for riches overtake us. Help us to always seek the things above. Amen