

## **Scripture reading: Numbers 23:1-30**

### **God is not a man to change his mine**

When Balak saw Balaam, he gladly took him on the mountain top and built an altar there on which they sacrificed 7 oxen and 7 rams as a burnt offering. After the sacrifice, Balaam went to inquire of God. He came back and said to the king, "How can I curse those whom God has not cursed? How can I hate those whom God has not hated?" when the king heard it, he was disappointed and went to a place called Pisgah and again made a similar sacrifice. He asked Balaam to once again inquire of God. He came back and said, "Behold, I have received a command to bless. He is to one who blesses and I cannot turn it around. He has not seen iniquity in Jacob, neither has he seen perverseness in Israel. God is in their midst. The shout of the King is among them". Balak was very discouraged and said to Balaam why you have done this to me. Balaam replied, "not I but the Lord caused me to speak in this manner".

### **Question:**

The King of Moab offered sacrifices to God and Balaam was a prophet who obeyed God, then why not did God fulfill their desire?

### **Answer:**

1. The Lord God rejoices and blesses his people when they pray, when they worship Him and offer sacrifices unto Him. He gives them that which they ask and also that which they haven't asked.
2. He blesses and gives His people not because of their sacrifices but rather because of the joy He has over them.
3. No matter how great sacrifices we make, we can never receive from Him that which he hates.
4. When God makes a covenant with a person, even if the person is not faithful in his commitment, God never changes His heart. He will surely fulfill what He promised. Since Balak and Balaam sought after God for something that displeased Him, they did not receive an answer inspite of their many sacrifices.

"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" Numbers 23:19

### **Prayer**

God of Israel, we thank You for being with us, protecting us and guiding us. We are glad that we are the covenant children of a promise keeping God. Amen