

Numbers 24

Verses 1 - 2

**When Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times to seek omens, rather he turned his attention toward the wilderness.
2 And Balaam raised his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of God came upon him**

When Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times to seek omens

We find out here that Balaam normally sought omens.

An omen was a sign or warning from nature that something good or bad was about to happen.

In the past, comets were considered to be both good and bad omens.

At the Battle of Hastings on October 14, 1066, King Harold II of England was defeated by the invading Norman forces of William the Conqueror

Halley's Comet was a "bad omen" for King Harold II of England but it was a "good omen" for William the Conqueror.

The star of Bethlehem was a good omen for believers and a bad one for unbelievers.

When it says, **he did not go as at other times to seek omens**, it cannot refer to the two previous messages from Balaam, because in both of these cases Balaam left Balak to meet with God and the messages came from God.

Therefore, it has to refer to times when Balaam was helping others.

And Balaam raised his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of God came upon him

In the first two, God put a word in Balaam's mouth but here the Spirit of God comes upon him

Verses 3 – 9

3rd Oracle

Then he took up his discourse and said,

“The declaration of Balaam the son of Beor,
And the declaration of the man whose eye is opened;
⁴ The declaration of him who hears the words of God,
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,
Falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered,
⁵ How pleasant are your tents, Jacob,
Your dwelling places, Israel!
⁶ Like valleys that stretch out,
Like gardens beside a river,
Like aloes planted by the Lord,
Like cedars beside the waters.
⁷ Water will flow from his buckets,
And his seed *will be* by many waters,
And his king shall be higher than Agag,
And his kingdom shall be exalted.
⁸ God brings him out of Egypt,
He is for him like the horns of the wild ox.
He will devour the nations *who are* his adversaries,
And will crush their bones,
And smash *them* with his arrows.
⁹ He crouches, he lies down like a lion,
And like a lioness, who dares to rouse him?
Blessed is *everyone* who blesses you,
And cursed is *everyone* who curses you.”

**The declaration of him who hears the words of God,
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,**

There are two different names for God here.

Elohiym is translated God

And El Shadday translated Almighty

Parallel verses with two words that mean the same thing is common in scripture

**Water will flow from his buckets,
And his seed *will be* by many waters,**

These are symbols of the blessings that Israel will receive from God

A land flowing with milk and honey

**And his king shall be higher than Agag,
And his kingdom shall be exalted.**

Agag was the official title of all the kings of Amalek

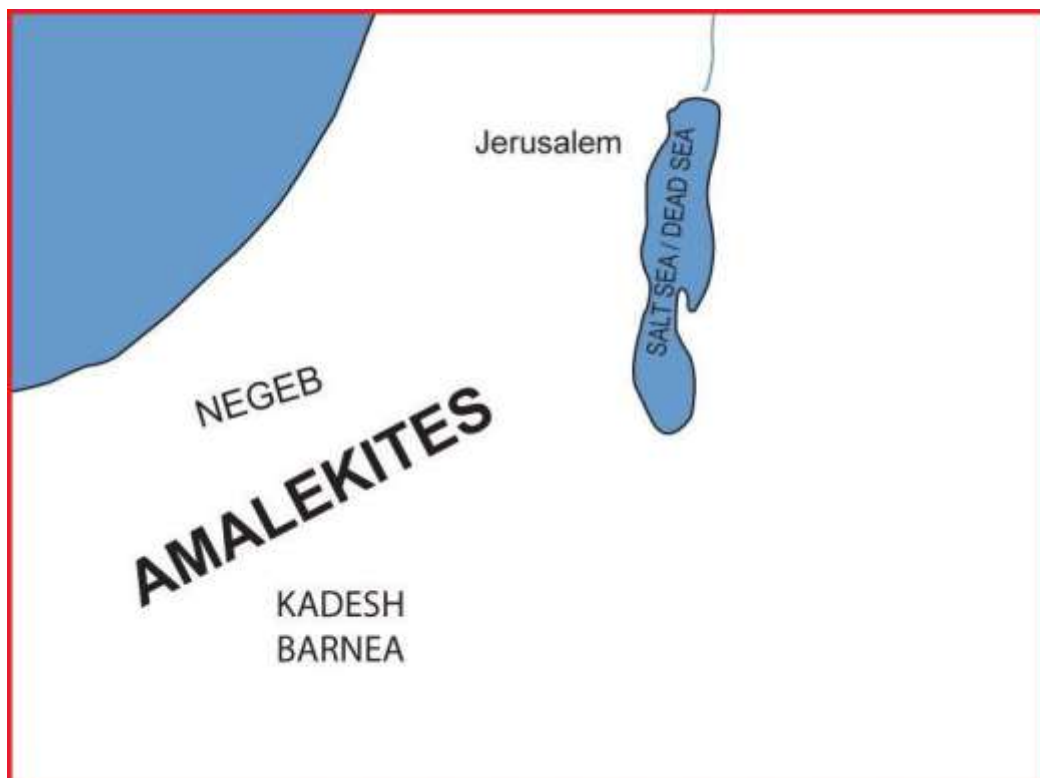
Amalek became the father of the Amalekites

He was the son of Eliphaz and grandson of Esau

See Genesis 36:12 - 16

The Amalekites were then the most powerful of all the desert tribes

See Map 2405



God brings him out of Egypt,
He is for him like the horns of the wild ox.
He will devour the nations *who are* his adversaries,
And will crush their bones,
And smash *them* with his arrows.

Balak had hoped that this 3rd effort to curse Israel would be successful

But Balaam's words here went further than the first two messages

Israel will become the greatest nation in the land of Canaan during the reigns of David and Solomon.

See map 2410



Verses 10 - 14

¹⁰ Then Balak's anger burned against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, but behold, you have persisted in blessing them these three times! ¹¹ So flee to your place now. I said I would honor you greatly, but behold, the Lord has held you back from honor." ¹² And Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not in fact tell your messengers whom you had sent to me, saying, ¹³ 'If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do *anything* contrary to the command of the Lord, either good or bad, of my own accord. What the Lord speaks, I will speak'? ¹⁴ So now, behold, I am going to my people; come, *and* I will advise you of what this people will do to your people in the days to come."

And Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not in fact tell your messengers whom you had sent to me, saying, ¹³ 'If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do *anything* contrary to the command of the Lord, either good or bad, of my own accord

Balaam did tell them this.

See Numbers 22:18

However, it was only a half truth

See Numbers 22:12

He avoided telling them that he could not curse Israel in order to get his fee

Balaam was guilty of deception because a half-truth has the same effect as telling a lie?

So now, behold, I am going to my people; come, *and* I will advise you of what this people will do to your people in the days to come."

Balaam says he is about to go home but first he would give Balak a glimpse into the future.

This delay will cost him his life

See Numbers 31:8

We are not expected to tell everyone everything but if what we say is connected to an exchange of funds then both sides have a right to full disclosure.

15 Then he took up his discourse and said,

**“The declaration of Balaam the son of Beor,
And the declaration of the man whose eye is opened,
16 The declaration of him who hears the words of God,
And knows the knowledge of the Most High,
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,
Falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered:**

**17 I see him, but not now;
I look at him, but not near;
A star shall appear from Jacob,
A scepter shall rise from Israel,
And shall smash the forehead of Moab,
And overcome all the sons of Sheth.
18 And Edom shall be a possession,
Seir, its enemies, also will be a possession,
While Israel performs valiantly.
19 One from Jacob shall rule,
And will eliminate the survivors from the city.”**

**A star shall appear from Jacob,
A scepter shall rise from Israel,
And shall smash the forehead of Moab,
And overcome all the sons of Sheth.**

Moab will be defeated by Israel in the future (998 BC).

See 2 Samuel 8:2

The “children of Seth” means all of mankind.

The global flood destroyed all of mankind except Noah and his family.

Noah was a descendant of Seth and his three sons became the progenitors of mankind.

So the fulfillment of this prophesy will take place when Christ returns

**And Edom shall be a possession,
Seir, its enemies, also will be a possession,
While Israel performs valiantly.**

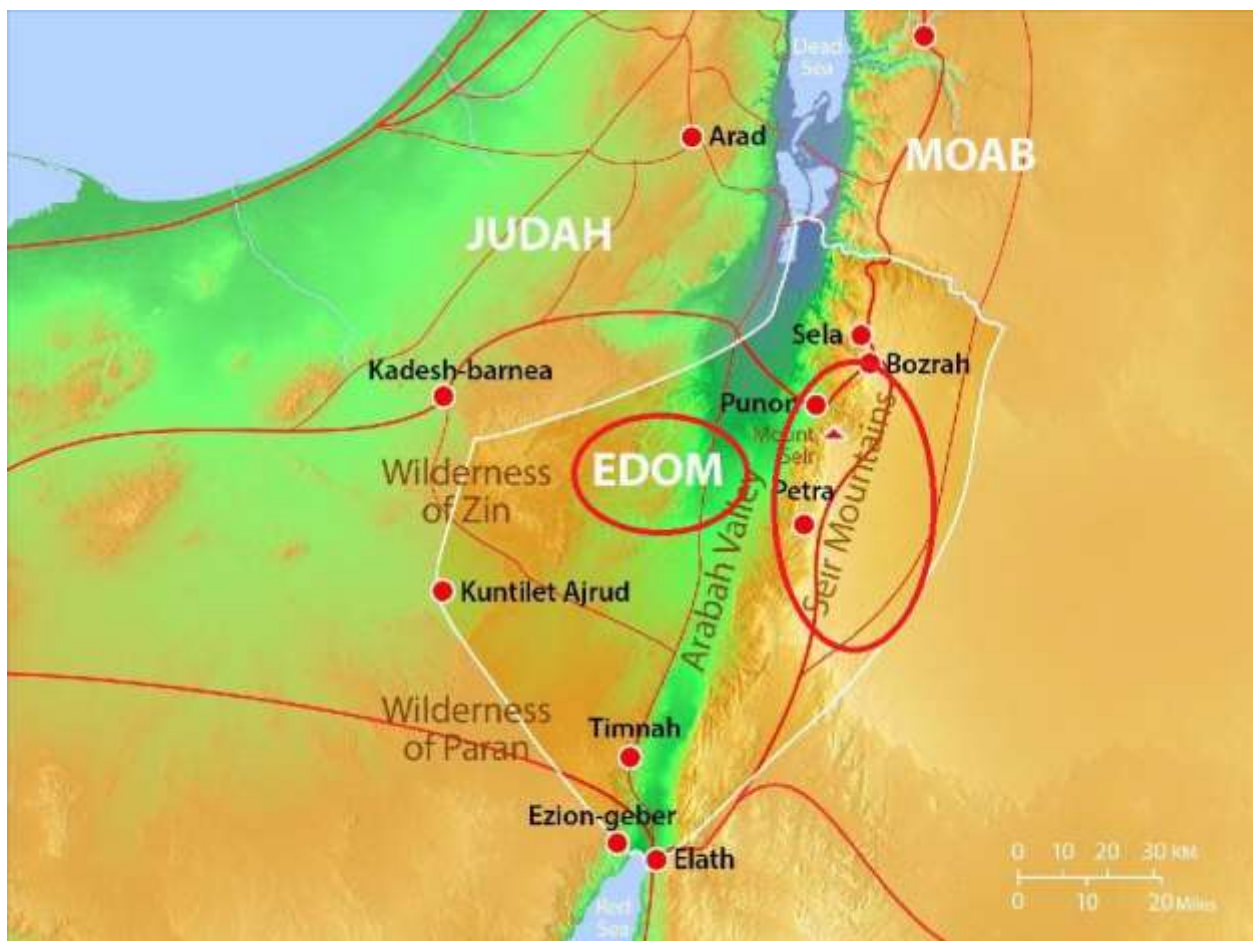
The translation here is probably not good.

Seir was not an enemy of Edom; it was another name for Edom

See Genesis 32:3

The Seir Mountains were part of Edom.

See pics 2415



Petra was located in the Seir Mountains.

There are two videos about Petra in chapter 20.

Verse 20 5th Oracle

²⁰ And he looked at Amalek and took up his discourse and said,

“Amalek was the first of the nations,
But his end *shall be* destruction.”

See comments on verse 7B above.

Verses 21 – 22 6th Oracle

And he looked at the Kenite, and took up his discourse and said,

“Your dwelling place is enduring,
And your nest is set in the cliff.

²² Nevertheless Kain will suffer devastation;
How long will Asshur keep you captive?”

See Judges 1:16

¹⁶ Now the descendants of the Kenite, Moses’ father-in-law, went up from the city of palms with the sons of Judah, to the wilderness of Judah which is in the south of Arad; and they went and lived with the people.

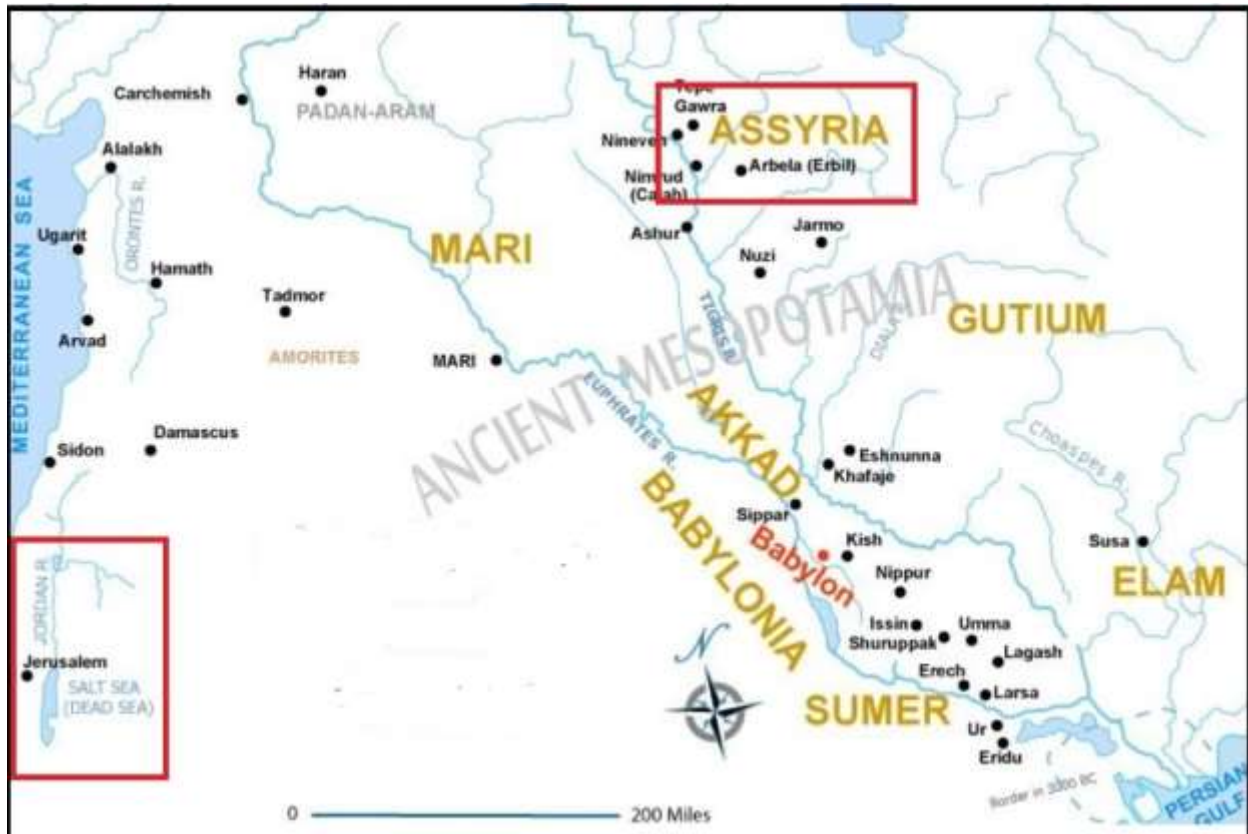
See Map 2420



Nevertheless Kain (the descendants of Moses father-in-law) will suffer devastation; How long will Asshur (Assyria) keep you captive?

Kain is Hebrew means Kenites and Asshur is another name for the Assyrians.

See map 2425



The Assyrians took the Kenites into captivity in 722 BC

So this prophesy was spoken 685 years prior to its fulfillment.

Verses 23 – 24 **7th Oracle**

23 Then he took up his discourse and said,

“Oh, who can live unless God has ordained it?

**24 But ships *shall come* from the coast of Kittim,
And they shall oppress Asshur and oppress Eber;
So they also *will come* to destruction.”**

Oh, who can live unless God has ordained it?

God's judgment of the nations is the center piece of these prophecies.

²⁴ But ships *shall come* from the coast of Kittim,

Kittim means the island of Cyprus.

See Map 2430

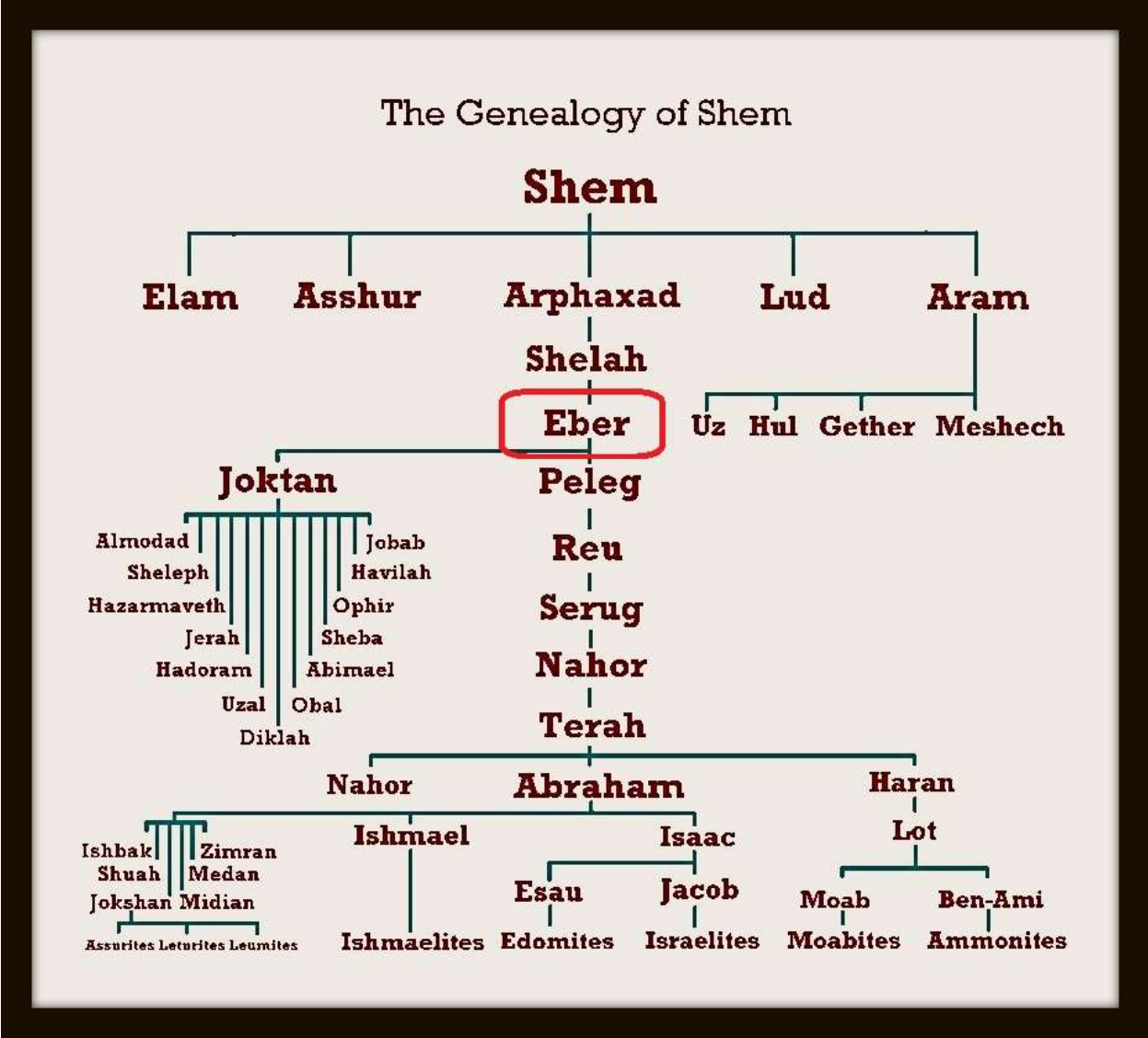


The ships came from Greece, and after a stop at Cyprus the invading army of Greece continued on to conquer Assyria and the known world of that time.

**And they (Greece) shall oppress Asshur (Assyria) and oppress Eber (Israel);
So they (Greece) also *will come* to destruction.”**

Here Eber refers to the nation of Israel.

See Chart 2440



This prophecy was spoken in 1407 BC and covers about 1250 years of History.

Assyria will conquer Israel in 722 BC

Babylon will conquer Assyria in 609 BC

Then the Medes and Persians will conquer Babylon in 539 BC

Greece will conquer Persia in 482 BC

The Romans will conquer Greece around 168 BC

This prophecy stands out as one of the great prophecies of the O.T.

Verse 25

Then Balaam arose, and he departed and returned to his place, and Balak also went on his way.

At the time Balaam was at the northern border of Edom.

The text says he returned to his place.

This means he returned to his residence in Mesopotamia.

If that is the case then he must have traveled back to Midian before the events in Chapter 31 when he dies at the hands of Israel.

See Numbers 31:8

Balaam first appears in chapter 22 and is killed in chapter 31

The time frame between those chapters is a maximum of 4 months