



Numbers 22:2-25:9 Expanded Chiasm

IA.1) 22:2-39 BALAK of Moab **INVITED BALAAM TO** come and **CURSE ISRAEL**;

1a) 22:2-19 Balak sends for Balaam;

1A.1) 22:2-6 And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. **3** And Moab was very afraid of the people, because they were many; and Moab was overcome with dread because of the children of Israel. **4** And Moab said to the elders of Midian, “Now will this multitude lick up all that is round about us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field.” And Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time. **5** And he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor, to Pethor, which is by the River, to the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, “Behold, a people has come out from Egypt; behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me. **6** Come now therefore, I pray you, **CURSE THIS PEOPLE FOR ME**; for they are too mighty for me; perhaps I shall prevail, that we may strike them, and that I may drive them out of the land; for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed;”

1A.2) 22:7A And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the **REWARDS OF DIVINATION** in their hand;

1B) 22:7B And **THEY CAME TO BALAAM**, and spoke to him the words of Balak.

1C) 22:8 And he said to them, “Lodge here this night, and I will bring you back word, **AS YHVH MAY SPEAK TO ME**.” And the **PRINCES OF MOAB** abode with Balaam;

1D) 22:9-11 And God came to Balaam, and said, “What men are these with you?” **10** And Balaam said to God, “Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, **11** ‘Behold the people that has come out of Egypt, they cover the face of the earth; now, **COME CURSE THEM FOR ME**; perhaps I shall be able to fight against them, and shall drive them out;”

CENTRAL AXIS) 22:12A AND GOD SAID TO BALAAM, “YOU SHALL NOT GO WITH THEM;

2D) 22:12B YOU SHALL NOT CURSE THE PEOPLE; for they are blessed;”

2C) 22:13-15 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said to the princes of Balak, “Go to your land; for **YHVH HAS REFUSED TO GIVE ME LEAVE TO GO WITH YOU**.” **14** And the **PRINCES OF MOAB** rose up, and they went to Balak, and said, “Balaam refuses to come with us.” **15** And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honorable than they;

2B) 22:16-17A And **THEY CAME TO BALAAM**, and said to him, “Thus says Balak the son of Zippor, ‘Let nothing, I pray you, hinder you from coming to me; **17** for I will promote you with very great honor, and whatever you tell me, I will do;

2A.1) 22:17B Come therefore, I pray you, **CURSE THIS PEOPLE FOR ME**;”

- 2A.2) 22:18-19** And Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, “If Balak would give me **HIS HOUSE FULL OF SILVER AND GOLD**, I cannot go beyond the word of YHVH my God, to do anything, small or great. **19** Now therefore, I pray you, tarry here also this night, that I may know what YHVH will speak to me additionally;”
- 1b) 22:20-21** And God came to Balaam at night, and said to him, “If the men are come to call you, rise up, **go with them; but only the word which I speak to you, that will you speak.**” **21** And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his donkey, and **went with the princes of Moab;**
- 1c) 22:22a** And God’s anger was kindled because he went; and the angel of YHVH placed Himself **in the way as an adversary against him;**
- 1d) 22:22b-27** Now he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. **23** And the donkey saw the angel of YHVH standing in the way, with His sword drawn in His hand; and **the donkey turned aside** out of the way, and went into the field; and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the way. **24** Then the angel of YHVH stood in a hollow way between the vineyards, a fence being on this side, and a fence on that side. **25** And the donkey saw the angel of YHVH, and **she thrust herself to the wall**, and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall; and he struck her again. **26** And the angel of YHVH went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. **27** And the donkey saw the angel of YHVH, and **she lay down under Balaam;** and Balaam’s anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff [*i.e., the donkey turned aside three times*];
- 1e) 22:28a** And **YHVH opened the mouth of the donkey;**
- central axis) 22:28b-30** And she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?” **29** And Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you have mocked me; I would that there were a sword in my hand, for by now I would have killed you.” **30** And the donkey said to Balaam, “Am not I your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Was I ever wont to do so to you?” And he said, “No;” [*i.e., The donkey talked to Balaam, and he answered*];
- 2e) 22:31a** Then **YHVH opened the eyes of Balaam;**
- 2d) 22:31b-33** And he saw the angel of YHVH standing in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand; and he bowed his head, and fell on his face. **32** And the angel of YHVH said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come forth as an adversary, because thy way is contrary to me; **33** and the **donkey** saw me, and **turned aside before me these three times;** unless she had turned aside from me, surely by now I would have even slain you, and saved her alive;”
- 2c) 22:34** And Balaam said to the angel of YHVH, “I have sinned; for I did not know that You **stood in the way against me;** now therefore, if it displease You, I will go back;”

2b) 22:35 And the angel of YHVH said to Balaam, “Go with the men; but only the word that I shall speak to you, that you shall speak.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak;

2a) 22:36-23:2 Balaam arrives to Balak;

1A) 22:36 And when Balak heard that Balaam had come, HE WENT OUT TO MEET HIM AT IR-MOAB, which is on the border of the Arnon River, which is in the furthest part of the border;

1B) 22:37A And Balak said to Balaam, “Did I not earnestly send for you to call you? WHY DID YOU NOT COME TO ME?”

CENTRAL AXIS) 22:37B AM I NOT INDEED ABLE TO PROMOTE YOU TO HONOR?”

2B) 22:38 And Balaam said to Balak, “Lo, I HAVE COME TO YOU; but have I now any power at all to speak anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that shall I speak;”

2A) 22:39-23:2 And Balaam went with Balak, and THEY CAME TO KIRIATH-HUZOTH. 40 And Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and sent some to Balaam, and to the princes that were with him. 41 And it came to pass in the morning that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up to the high places of Baal, and he saw from there the farthest part of the people. 23:1 And Balaam said to Balak, “Build me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.” 2 And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on every altar a bull and a ram;

1A.2) 23:3-24:13 YHVH'S BLESSING OVER ISRAEL;

1a) 23:3-6 Balaam assures Balak that he will tell him whatever YHVH shows him;

1A) 23:3A And Balaam said to Balak, “STAND BY YOUR BURNT OFFERING, and I will go;

1B) 23:3B-4 Perhaps YHVH will come to meet me; and WHATEVER HE SHOWS ME I WILL TELL YOU.” And he went to a bare height. 4 And God met Balaam; and he said to Him, “I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered up a bull and a ram on every altar;”

CENTRAL AXIS) 23:5A AND YHVH PUT A WORD IN BALAAM'S MOUTH;

2B) 23:5B And said, “Return to Balak, and THUS YOU SHALL SPEAK;”

2A) 23:6 And he returned to him, and, lo, he STOOD BY HIS BURNT OFFERING, he, and all the princes of Moab;

1b) 23:7-8 And he took up his parable, and said, “From Aram Balak brought me, the king of Moab from the mountains of the East, ‘Come, curse Jacob for me, and come, execrate Israel.’ 8 How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I execrate whom YHVH has not execrated?”

1c) 23:9-10 For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, it is a people that shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the

nations. 10 Who has counted the dust of Jacob, or numbered the stock of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my end be like his!”

1d) 23:11 And Balak said to Balaam, “What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and, behold, **you have blessed them altogether;**”

1e.1) 23:12 And he answered and said, “**Must I not take heed to speak that which YHVH puts in my mouth?**”

1e.2) 23:13-17 Balak requests Balaam come **to another place** to curse Israel;

1A) 22:13-15 And Balak said to him, “Come with me, I pray you, to another place, from there you shall see them; you shall see but the furthest part of them, and shall not see them all; and curse them for me from there. **14** And he took him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered up a bull and a ram on every altar. **15** And he said to Balak, “**STAND HERE BY YOUR BURNT OFFERING,** while I go to a meeting further on;”

CENTRAL AXIS) 22:16 AND YHVH MET BALAAM, AND PUT A WORD IN HIS MOUTH, AND SAID, “RETURN TO BALAK, AND THUS YOU SHALL SPEAK;”

2A) 22:17 And he came to him, and, lo, he **STOOD BY HIS BURNT OFFERING,** and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said to him, “What has YHVH spoken?”

central axis) 23:18-24 Balaam’s 2nd oracle: I am commanded to bless; and when He has blessed, I cannot call it back;

1A) 23:18-19 And he took up his parable, and said, “Arise, Balak, and hear; give ear to me, you son of Zippor: **19** God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent. When He has said it, will He not do it? Or when He has spoken, will He not make it good? [*i.e.*, **GOD IS A TRUTH-TELLER**];

1B) 23:20 Behold, I am commanded to bless; and when **HE HAS BLESSED,** I cannot call it back;

1C) 23:21A NONE HAS BEHELD INIQUITY IN JACOB, neither has anyone seen perverseness in Israel;

1D) 23:21B YHVH his GOD IS WITH HIM;

CENTRAL AXIS) 23:21C AND THE SHOUTING OF A KING IS AMONG THEM;

2D) 23:22 GOD who brought them forth out of Egypt **IS AS THE LOFTY HORNS OF THE WILD OX FOR THEM;**

2C) 23:23A For there is **NO ENCHANTMENT AGAINST JACOB,** neither is there any divination against Israel;

2B) 23:23B But now is it said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘**WHAT HAS GOD WROUGHT!**’

2A) 23:24 Behold, **A PEOPLE** that rises up as a lioness, and **AS A LION** he lifts himself up; he shall not lie down until he eats of the prey, and drinks the blood of the slain;

2e.1) 23:25-26 And Balak said to Balaam, “Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.” **26** But Balaam answered and said to Balak, “ Did I not tell you, saying, ‘**All that YHVH speaks, that I must do?**’

2e.2) 23:27-28 And Balak said to Balaam, “Come now, I will take you **to another place**; perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there.” **28** And Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, that looks down upon the desert;

2d) 23:29-24:2 And Balaam said to Balak, “Build me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.” **30** And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered up a bull and a ram on every altar.” **24:1** And when Balaam saw that **it pleased YHVH to bless Israel**, he went not, as at the other times, to meet with enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness. **2** And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel dwelling tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of God came upon him;

2c) 24:3-9a And he took up his parable, and said, “The saying of Balaam the son of Beor, and the saying of the man whose eye is opened; **4** the saying of him who hears the words of God, who sees the vision of the Almighty, fallen down, yet with opened eyes: **5** How pleasant are your tents, O Jacob, and your dwellings, O Israel! **6** As valleys stretched out, and as gardens by the riverside; as aloes planted by YHVH, and as cedars beside the waters; **7** water shall flow from his branches, and his seed shall be in many waters; and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. **8** God who brought him forth out of Egypt is like the lofty horns of the wild ox for him; **he shall eat up the nations that are his adversaries**, and shall break their bones in pieces, and pierce them through with his arrows. **9** He crouched, he lay down as a lion, and as a lioness; who shall rouse him up?

2b) 24:9b **Blessed be every one that blesses you, and cursed be every one that curses you;**

2a) 24:10-13 **What YHVH speaks, that will I speak;**

1A) 24:10 And Balak’s anger was kindled against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, “I called you to curse my enemies, and, behold, **YOU HAVE ALTOGETHER BLESSED THEM** these three times;

1B) 24:11 Therefore now flee to your place; **I THOUGHT TO PROMOTE YOU TO GREAT HONOR**, but, lo, YHVH has kept you back from honor;”

CENTRAL AXIS) 24:12 **AND BALAAM SAID TO BALAK, “DID I NOT SAY ALSO TO YOUR MESSENGERS THAT YOU SENT TO ME, SAYING;**

2B) 24:13A ‘If **BALAK WOULD GIVE ME HIS HOUSE FULL OF SILVER AND GOLD;**

2A) 24:13B I cannot go beyond the word of YHVH, to speak either good or bad of my own mind; **WHAT YHVH SPEAKS, THAT WILL I SPEAK?’**

1B) 24:10-14 Balak to Balaam: **FLEE TO YOUR PLACE;**

1a) 24:10 And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam: I called you to curse my enemies, and, behold, **you have altogether blessed them** these three times;

1b) 24:11a Therefore now **flee to your place**;

1c.1) 24:11b I thought to promote you to **great honor**;

1c.2) 24:11c But, lo, **YHVH has kept you back** from honor;

central axis) 24:12 And Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not also say to your messengers that you sent to me, saying;

2c.1) 24:13a If Balak would give me **his house full of silver and gold**;

2c.2) 24:13b **I cannot go beyond the word of YHVH**, to speak either good or bad of my own mind; what YHVH speaks, that will I speak?

2b) 24:14a And now, behold, **I go to my people**;

2a) 24:14b Come, and **I will announce to you what this people shall do** to your people **in the end of days**;

1C) 24:15A And he **TOOK UP HIS PARABLE**, and said;

1D) 24:15B-16 The saying of Balaam, the man whose **EYE IS OPENED**;

1a) 24:15b "The saying of Balaam the son of Beor, and the saying of the man whose **eye is opened**;

central axis) 24:16a The saying of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty;

2a) 24:16b Fallen down, yet with **opened eyes**;

CENTRAL AXIS) 24:17-19 THE PROPHECY OF MESSIAH;

1a.1) 24:17a I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not nigh; there shall step forth a star out of Jacob, and **a scepter shall rise out of Israel**;

1a.2) 24:17b And shall **batter** the corners of Moab, and **break down** all the sons of Seth;

1b) 24:18a And Edom **shall be a possession**, Seir also;

central axis) 24:18b **Even His enemies**;

2b) 24:18c **Shall be a possession**; while Israel does valiantly;

2a.1) 24:19a And **out of Jacob One shall have dominion**;

2a.2) 24:19b And shall **destroy** the remnant from the city;

2D) 24:20A And **HE LOOKED** on Amalek;

2C) 24:20B-24 And **TOOK UP HIS PARABLE**, and said;

1a) 24:20b-22a And took up his parable, and said, "Amalek was the first of the nations; but his end **shall come to destruction**." **21** And he looked on the Kenite, and took up his parable, and said, "Though firm is your dwelling

place, and though your nest is set in the rock; **22** nevertheless Kain shall be wasted;

1b) 24:22b How long until **Asshur shall carry you away captive?**"

central axis) **24:23** And he took up his parable, and said, "Alas, who shall live after God has appointed to him his time?"

2b) 24:24a But ships shall come from the coast of Kittim, and **they shall afflict Asshur**, and shall afflict Eber;

2a) 24:24b And he also **shall come to destruction;**"

2B) 24:25 And **BALAAM** rose up, and went and **RETURNED TO HIS PLACE**; and Balak also went his way; {p}

2A.1) 25:1-2 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit harlotry with the daughters of Moab. **2** And **THEY INVITED THE PEOPLE TO THE SACRIFICES OF THEIR GODS**; and the people ate, and bowed down to their gods;

2A.2) 25:3-9 YHVH'S WRATH OVER ISRAEL; {p}

1a) 25:3-5 That the **fierce anger of YHVH may turn away from Israel**;

1A) 25:3 And Israel **JOINED HIMSELF TO THE BAAL OF PEOR**; and the anger of YHVH was kindled against Israel;

1B) 25:4A And **YHVH SAID TO MOSES**, "Take **ALL THE CHIEFS OF THE PEOPLE**, and **HANG THEM UP** before YHVH in face of the sun;

CENTRAL AXIS) **25:4B** **THAT THE FIERCE ANGER OF YHVH MAY TURN AWAY FROM ISRAEL**;

2B) 25:5A And **MOSES SAID TO THE JUDGES** of Israel, "**SLAY** every one **HIS MEN**;

2A) 25:5B That have **JOINED THEMSELVES TO THE BAAL OF PEOR**;

1b) 25:6a And behold, **one** of the children **of Israel** came and brought to his brothers **a Midianite woman**;

1c) 25:6b In **the sight of Moses**, and in **the sight of all the congregation** of the children of Israel;

central axis) **25:6c** **While they were weeping at the door of the tent of meeting**;

2c) 25:7 And when **Phinehas**, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, **saw it**, he rose up from the midst of the congregation, and took a spear in his hand;

2b) 25:8a And he went after the **man of Israel** into his chamber, and thrust both of them through, the **man of Israel**, and **the woman** through her belly;

2a) 25:8b-9 So **the plague was stayed from the children of Israel**. And those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand. {p}