

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!

Rob Robinson

In our daily Bible last week, we read the fascinating story of a false prophet and a pagan king who thought they could devise a way to get God to curse his chosen people (Israel) whom he had blessed and promised to protect. At first, Balaam and Balak thought that if they came up with enough gold, silver and sacrifices, maybe the Lord would let the Moabites defeat the Israelites. Then they schemed to corrupt the morals and faithfulness of God's people with idolatry and sexual immorality. Though some of God's people did become unfaithful and perished, God remained faithful to his people and kept the nation in his care and protection.

We should realize that, as bizarre as this story seems, it provides a picture of what goes on with us all the time. We Christians, living in 21st century America, also have diabolical adversaries scheming to deprive us of God's blessings. Peter warns, *"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* Our adversary schemes, as elaborately and boldly as did Balaam and Balak, to bring about our spiritual defeat.

Just as with ancient Israel, some of us will become unfaithful, and when we do, we expose ourselves to destruction. But we do not have to do that. Even though we are weak and sometimes stumble spiritually, we can remain faithful and continue to walk in the light. God will help us do that. If his disciples want to remain faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ and to follow him consistently, he has promised, *"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."* And as God revealed through the unwilling lips of Balaam, when God makes promises like that, he keeps them: *"God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?"* It is as we sing, *"No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand."* Let us be faithful to our Lord. He is faithful to us!

(Numbers 22-31, 1 Pet 5:8, Ephesians 6:11, John 10:28, Num 23:19)