

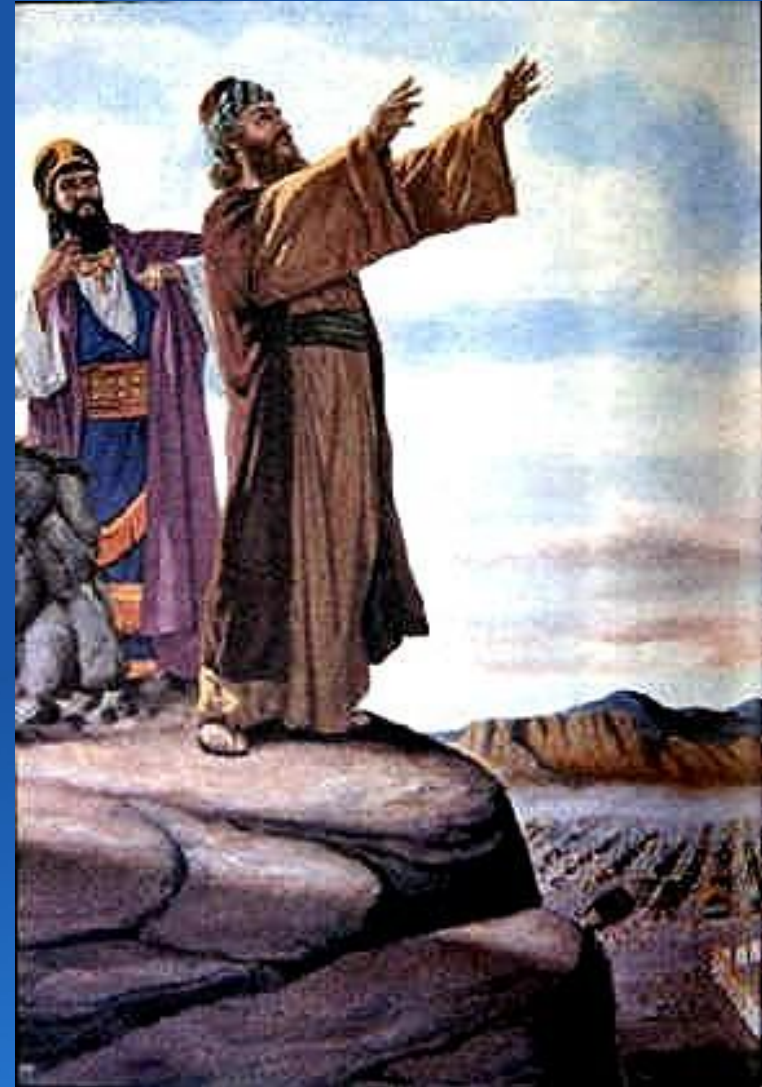
# BALAAM AND BALAK



- **Principle:** a false prophet can at times be accurate. God may even have direct contact with that false prophet
- Balaam could not see the Angel of the Lord because he was spiritually blind
- **Principle:** the Evil One can appear as light, and can counterfeit
- **Principle:** when our desires appear to be blocked, there may be a divine reason

# FREE WILL

- The Lord will only go so far to intrude on our Free Will
- Balaam kept asking God for a new answer to the question of cursing Israel
- Principle: The Lord will miraculously use men's free will to achieve HIS will
- Yehoveh uses the Free Will of both the evil AND the righteous



# Num. 23:13

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Oracle

- Oracle #1 dealt with Israel's PRESENT condition
- The Lord does NOT see Israel as “among the nations”, rather it is distinct and set-apart
- Balaam (gentile) says: “*..may my fate be like theirs...*”
- Ruth 1:16 “*..your people shall be my people....*”
- Focus is: How can a gentile be included under the Abrahamic Covenant of Israel?



## Oracle #2:

# Will of God is made known by Prophets

- False religions use magic and sorcery to discover the will of the gods
- Yehoveh makes His will known through direct oracles to His Prophets
- Believers can know the Lord's will by means of His Holy Spirit, and from His written Word
- We don't have to discern what part of the Bible is true, it's ALL true
- Our job is to discern how to apply the truth to our lives

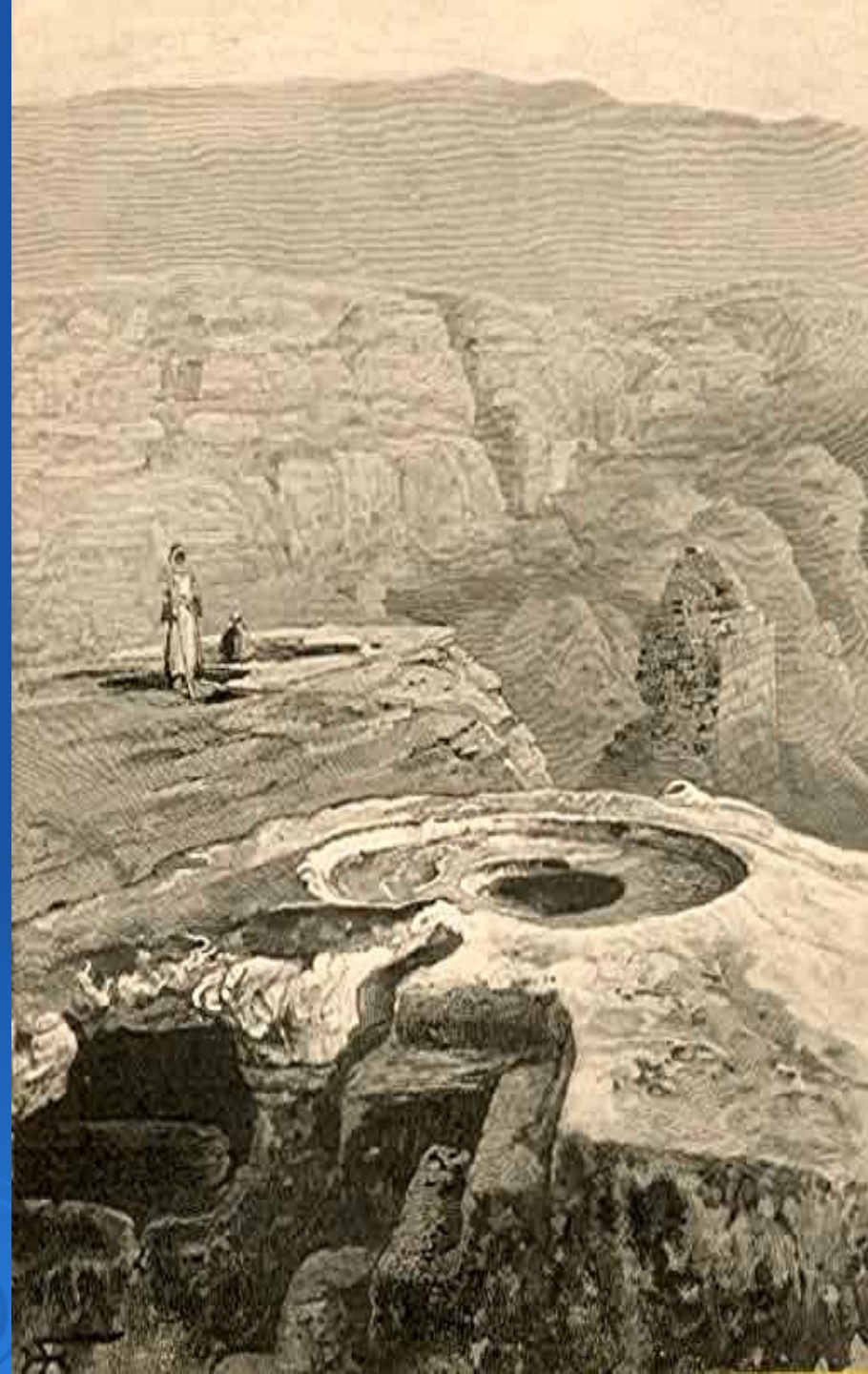
# THE END OF OMENS



- Israel just starting to learn that God's prophets were preferable to omens
- Urim and Thummim
- Used by High Priest
- On Mt. Sinai a new and unique culture of the Kingdom of Heaven was created
- It was an ideal, that Israel would not immediately adopt
- The Church is also slow to adopt all of God's truth

# MOUNTAIN OF THE WATCHMEN

- Balak takes Balaam to Sedeh-zophim to try again to curse Israel
- Look-out post, astronomical observation, observe bird flight
- Gods were worshipped on mountain tops (high places)
- Cathedrals served similar purposes



# THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ATTEMPT GOES AS BAD AS THE 1<sup>ST</sup>

- God directs Balaam's speech at Balak
- Principle: God is not a man that He should be capricious (change)
- *Ben 'adam* = son of man
- Capriciousness was TYPICAL of the gods
- Principle: The Lord has neither established nor permits magic and divination in Israel
- Like the Law (Torah) this is an ideal that will not be fully realized by the Hebrews
- Oracle ends by prophesying that Israel will destroy its enemies

# “....AT LEAST DON'T BLESS THEM.....!”



- Balak is angry at Balaam, but still doesn't give up
- Takes Balaam to the peak of Peor
- This is another high place dedicated to Ba'al
- Balak hopes that the 3<sup>rd</sup> time will be the charm
- Balaam finally is understanding that it PLEASES God to bless Israel and it's useless to fight it



# THE SPIRIT OF GOD RESTS UPON BALAAM

- BEFORE.... the Lord PUT words directly into Balaam's mouth
- NOW.....The Spirit rests upon Balaam and he speaks his own mind and words
- Balaam now understands truth and reality
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Oracle is more like the New Testament whereby a teacher speaks with his own words, but his mind is inspired by the truth of the Spirit
- The NT Apostles did NOT use perfect words, but they did communicate perfect principles

# NO MAN EVER SPOKE LIKE JESUS SPOKE

- Yeshua was perfectly articulate
- The Apostles were NOT
- We need to take an “over-all” understanding of the Apostles rather than try to dissect each word and phrase
- Paul had the difficult job of explaining to Jews how the Torah remained, but was transformed
- He also had to explain a Gospel to gentiles who did not FIRST know the Torah or who God was
- Paul’s words WERE HIS OWN, but were inspired as was Balaam’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Oracle



# BOTH SIDES OF THE COIN



Inspiration

Revelation

- OT Prophet = Revelation
- NT Prophet = Inspiration
- OT Prophet = direct from the Lord
- NT Prophet = teacher of the Word
- ***“...this is the word of Balaam....”***
- Fallen means to worship (not to sin)
- El Shaddai = God of the Mountain
- Balaam declares how pleased God is with Israel

# BALAAM CURSES MOAB

- Balaam pronounces the fate of the people of Canaan and the Trans-Jordan
- A wonderful Messianic hope is spoken
- Principle: Often a prophetic event happens twice.....once and then again far into the future
- Seth, Shet should be “Shut”
- Edom and Seir are one in the same
- Edom, Moab and Shut to be defeated by Israel
- The remaining nations by some other means
- Sea Peoples = Philistines