

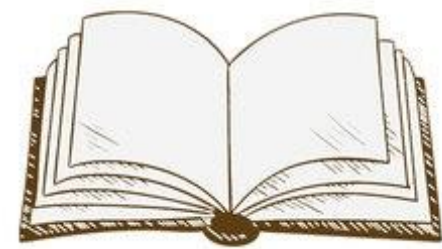


BALAAM'S THIRD ORACLE – NUMBERS 24:1-13

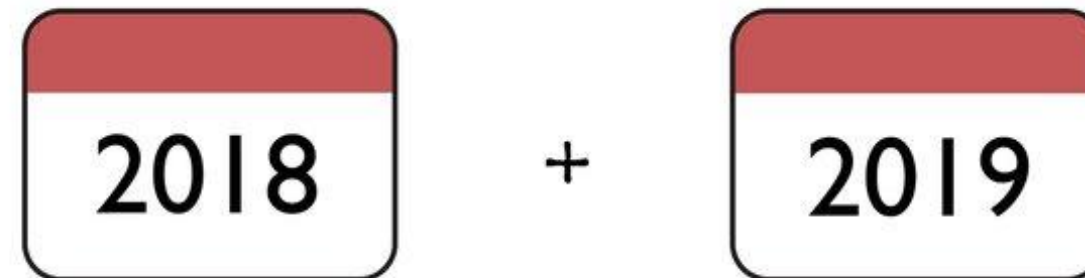


PMC BIBLE MARATHON

One Book



Two Years



100 Sermons



Living Out God's Word in the Real World



BALAAM'S THIRD ORACLE – NUMBERS 24:1-13

The Names of Numbers

Numbers 1:1-2

“The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, “Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by father’s houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.

The Names of Numbers

Numbers 1:1-2

“The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, “Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by father’s houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.

The Names of Numbers

Numbers 1:1-2

The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, “Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by father’s houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.

God speaks through Balaam, a pagan prophet to Balak, the king of Moab, Israel's enemy.

The Context



The Wilderness Journey



The Context



OBSERVATION #1

The LORD says to Balak: I am the Almighty, the one true living God.



Numbers 24:1

“When Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not go, as at other times, to look for omens, but set his face toward the wilderness.”

Balaam is no ordinary witchdoctor

Numbers 22:4-6

“...So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw, to call him, saying, “Behold a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me. Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”

Balaam is no ordinary witchdoctor

Numbers 22:4-6

“...So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, sent messengers to **Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw, to call him, saying, “Behold a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me. Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”**”

Balaam is no ordinary witchdoctor

Numbers 22:4-6

“...So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw, to call him, saying, “Behold a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me. Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.””

An Elaborate Ritual

Numbers 22:41

“And in the morning Balak took Balaam and brought him up to Bamoth-Baal, and from there he saw a fraction of the people.”

NUMBERS



An Elaborate Ritual

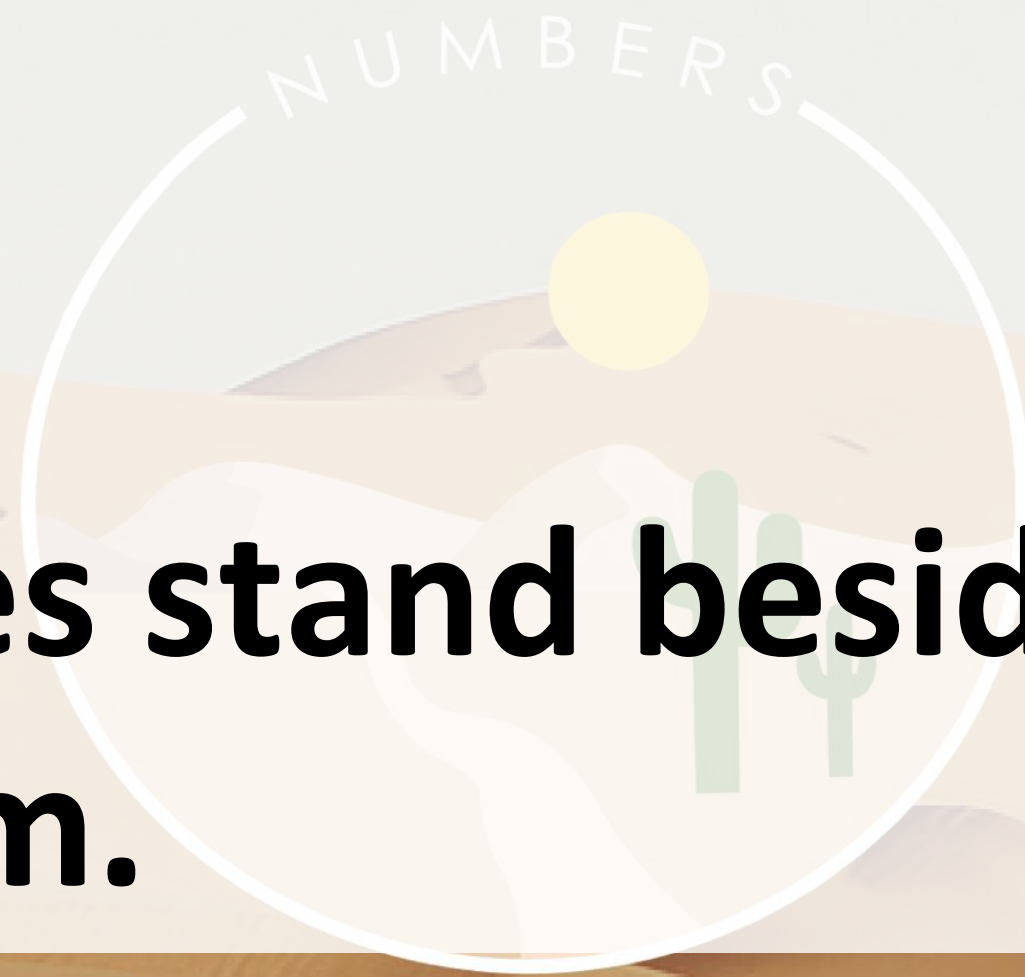
Significant Locations

- **Bamoth-Baal ('sanctuary of Baal') – Num 22:41**
- **Top of Pisgah (highest hill in Moab) – Num 23:14**
- **Top of Mt Peor (sacred mountain of Baal) – 23:28**

An Elaborate Ritual

Perfect number of sacrifices – 7 altars with 7 bulls and 7 rams.

Balak and his princes stand beside each altar as they wait for Balaam.



Numbers 24:12-13

**“Did I not tell your messengers whom you sent to me,
‘If Balak should give me his house full of silver and
gold, I would not be able to go beyond the word of
the LORD, to do either good or bad of my own will.
What the LORD speaks, that will I speak’?”**

Numbers 24:2-4

“...The oracles of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, the oracle of him who hears the word of God, **who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered.**”

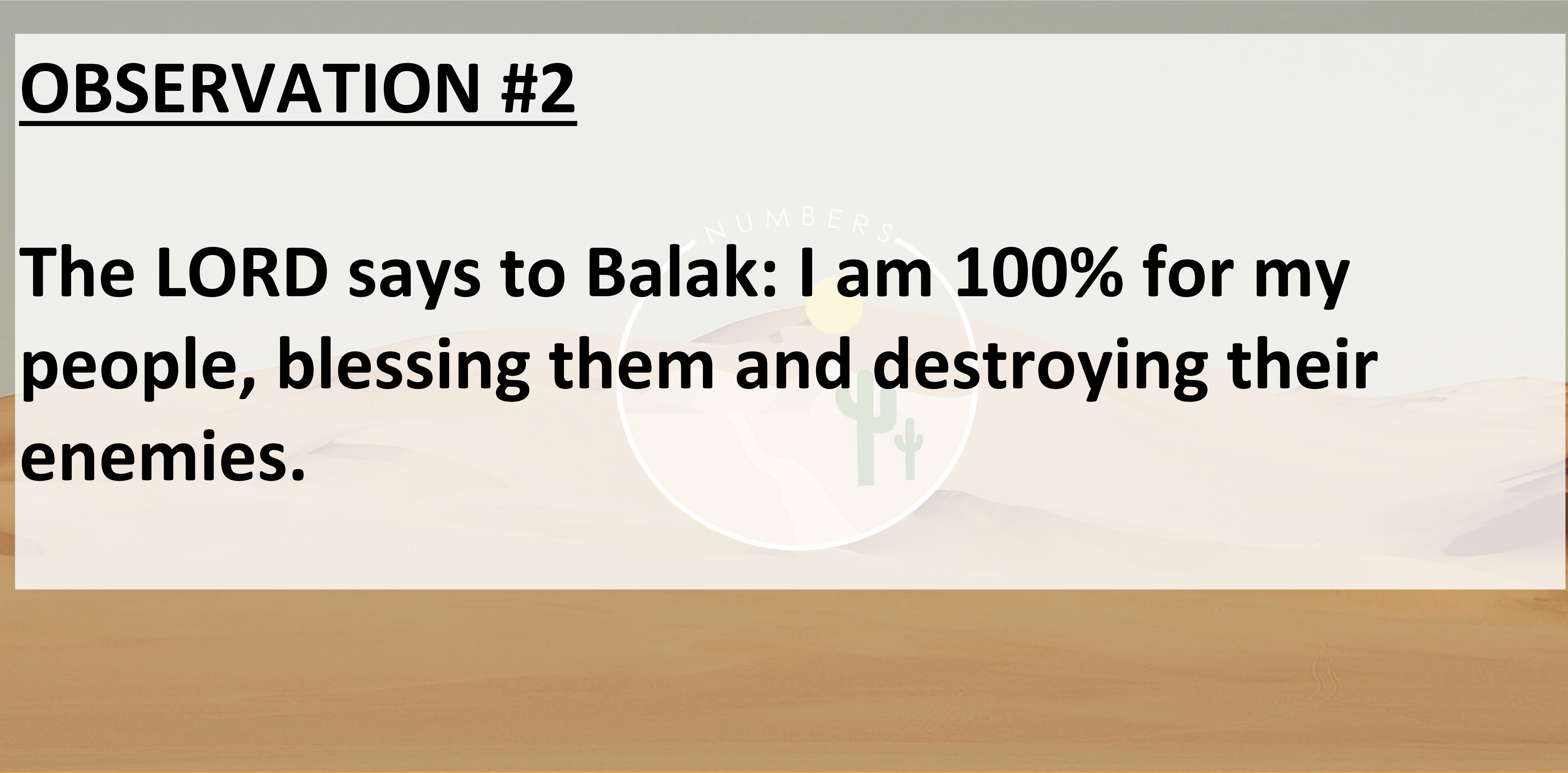
OBSERVATION #1

The LORD says to Balak: I am the Almighty, the one true living God.



OBSERVATION #2

The LORD says to Balak: I am 100% for my people, blessing them and destroying their enemies.

The background features a stylized desert landscape with rolling sand dunes in shades of tan and brown. A circular logo is centered in the background, containing the word "NUMBERS" in a light, sans-serif font. Inside the circle, there is a yellow sun and a green saguaro cactus. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

God is for His people

Numbers 24:5-6

**“How lovely are your tents, O Jacob,
your encampments, O Israel!
Like palm groves that stretch afar,
like gardens beside a river,
like aloes that the LORD has planted,
like cedar trees beside the waters.”**

God is for His people

Numbers 24:7

**“Water shall flow from his buckets,
and his seed shall be in many waters,
his king shall be higher than Agag,
and his kingdom shall be exalted.”**

Numbers 24:8-9

God is for His people

**“God brings him out of Egypt
and is for him like the horns of the wild ox;
he shall eat up the nations, his adversaries,
and shall break their bones in pieces
and pierce them through with his arrows.
He crouched, he lay down like a lion
and like a lioness; who will rouse him up?
Blessed are those who bless you,
and cursed are those who curse you.”**

Numbers 24:8-9

God is for His people

**“God brings him out of Egypt
and is for him like the horns of the wild ox;
he shall eat up the nations, his adversaries,
and shall break their bones in pieces
and pierce them through with his arrows.
He crouched, he lay down like a lion
and like a lioness; who will rouse him up?
Blessed are those who bless you,
and cursed are those who curse you.”**

OBSERVATION #3

The LORD says to Balak: I am for my people by raising for them an exalted king.



An Exalted King

Numbers 24:7

**“Water shall flow from his buckets,
and his seed shall be in many waters,
his king shall be higher than Agag,
and his kingdom shall be exalted.”**

Numbers 24:17

**“I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near;
a star shall come out of Jacob,
and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel;
it shall crush the forehead of Moab
and break down all the sons of Sheth.”**

An Exalted King

Psalm 110:1

“The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.”



A Coronation & A Crown

Summary

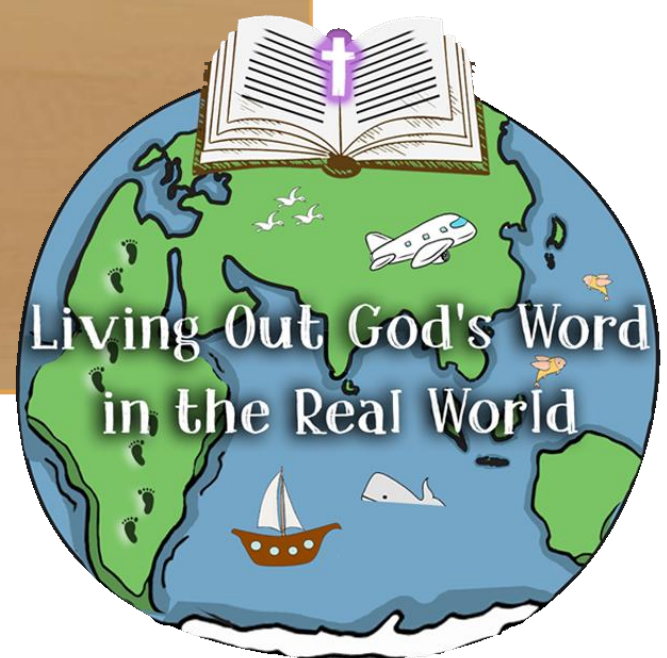
**The LORD says to Balak:
I am the Almighty God, who is 100% for His
people, blessing them and destroying their
enemies, by raising for them an exalted king.**



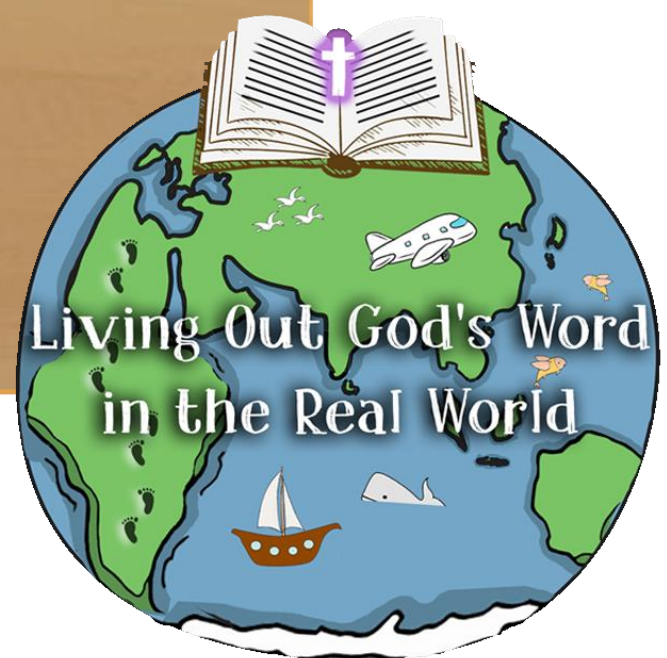
Living Out God's Word
in the Real World

Do you trust that God is 100% for you?

**Or do you have a superstitious
understanding of God?**



**Do you believe that God is the best father
you could possibly have?**



Psalm 56:8-9

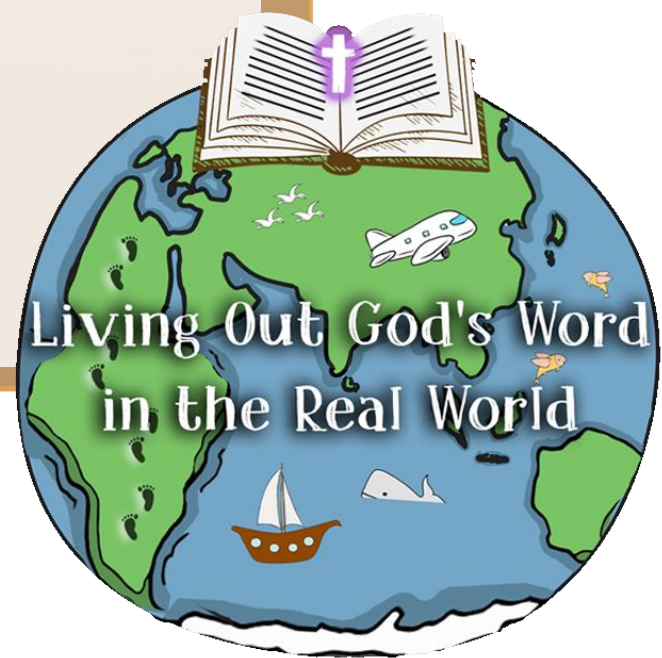
(A Miktam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.)

**“You have kept count of my tossings,
put my tears in your bottle.**

Are they not in your book?

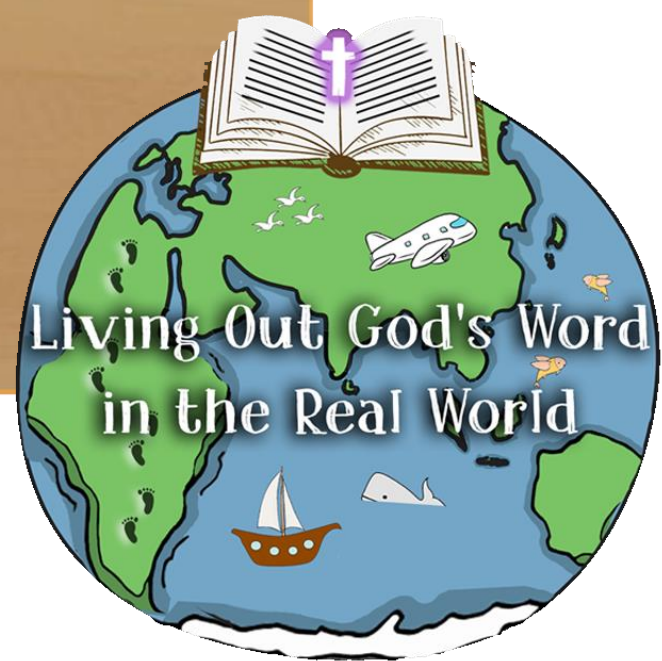
**Then my enemies will turn back
in the day when I call.**

This I know, that God is for me.”

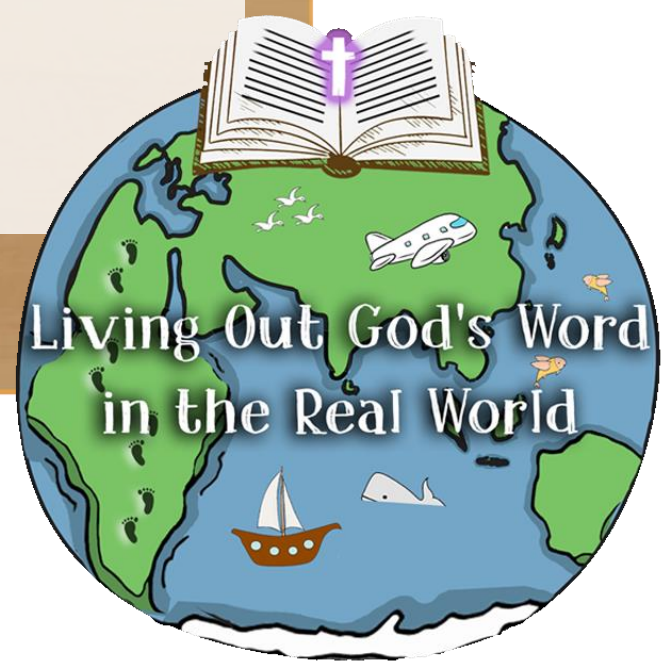


Romans 8:31-32

“If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

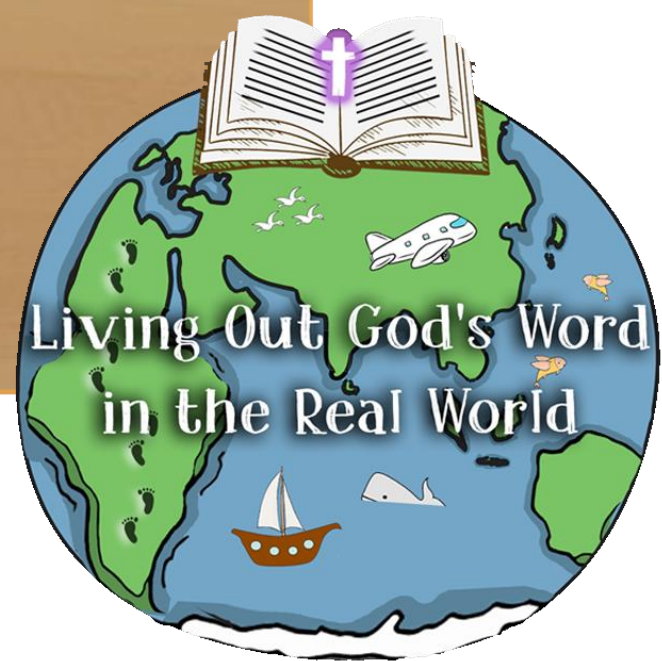


“We shall then see and acknowledge, that mercy and goodness directed every step; we shall see, that what our ignorance once called adversities and evils, were in reality blessings which we could not have done well without; that nothing befell us without a cause; that no trouble came upon us sooner, or pressed us more heavily, or continued longer, than our case required.” (John Newton)



John 1:11-12

“[Jesus] came to his own, and his own did not recognize him. But to all who did receive him, who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”





BALAAM'S THIRD ORACLE – NUMBERS 24:1-13