

WHOSE EYES ARE OPENED

Numbers 24:3-4 (NKJV) ³Then he took up his oracle and said:

"The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor,

The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened,

⁴ The utterance of him who hears the words of God,

Who sees the vision of the Almighty,

Who falls down, with eyes wide open:

The chapters 23-24 in the book of Numbers are fascinating. In chapter we read about the greedy Balam who sets out to curse Israelites for the love of money and he is cut to size by his own donkey. Balam is an intriguing character. He has no qualms about cursing God's people for money, yet when he went up to curse them and went apart to the bare heights, his eyes were opened. This is how he starts the third and fourth prophecy, "the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened." This is always the way of God. He opens the eye of a very amoral prophet who is willing to curse for money.

When God encounters us, no matter how we are – moral, immoral or amoral, our eyes are opened. Our eyes are opened with the realization of our sinfulness and our eyes are opened to the Sovereign power of the Almighty. When one sees the vision of the Almighty, he falls down with eyes wide open. When the eyes are opened, then automatically the knee buckles and we fall down before the majesty and greatness.

God's awesome power transforms our words, our life and our everything. This very same Balam who a moment ago, prepared himself to curse Israel, is now singing praise of God's children and is blessing them with all the blessing. They are like wide, deep rivers. His eyes open and he sees the star- the Dayspring from heaven, he sees the sceptre, he sees fountains of water gurgling and flowing out to the world.

The revelation of God changes our words. We who were very comfortable with cursing and swearing, suddenly sing praises of our God.

This is so important in our Christian walk that our eyes are opened, that our hearts are opened and see what God sees in our life and His Promises over our lives.

Even if a mercenary Balam who came to curse, could only bless Israel after his eyes were opened, how much more should we speak God's blessing.

There are enough mouths to curse, but let us pray that our eyes be opened and let us speak words of hope, words that give a future, words that heal, words that transform and words that attest the work of our Father.