

## Balaam Blesses Israel

When Balaam looked out and saw  
Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit  
of God came upon him and he uttered  
his oracle:

"The oracle of Balaam son of Beor,  
the oracle of one whose eye sees  
clearly,  
the oracle of one who hears the  
words of God,  
who sees a vision from the  
Almighty,  
who falls prostrate, and whose  
eyes are opened:

"How beautiful are your tents, O  
Jacob,  
your dwelling places, O Israel!

"Like valleys they spread out,  
like gardens beside a river,  
like aloes planted by the Lord,  
like cedars beside the waters.  
Water will flow from their buckets;  
their seed will have abundant water.

"Their king will be greater than Agag;  
their kingdom will be exalted.

"God brought them out of Egypt;  
they have the strength of a wild ox.  
They devour hostile nations  
and break their bones in pieces;  
with their arrows they pierce them.  
Like a lion they crouch and lie down,  
like a lioness—who dares to rouse them?

"May those who bless you be blessed  
and those who curse you be cursed!"

Numbers 24:2-9