

Introduction: King Balak wanted Balaam to curse Israel. But Balaam actually heard God and was sensitive to His voice. Balaam could have been a prophet for the Lord, but instead, he was a mercenary, a "prophet for hire". He was just as quick to use divination (a form of so called "magic") as he was to build an altar of worship to God. King Balak didn't really have a faith or belief. King Balak just wanted Israel to be cursed...so Israel would not win!

Look at what Balaam tells the king on these occasions: Numbers 23:16-23; 24:10, 11a... Then Balaam told king Balak what God would do to his people...

Proposition: Times can be difficult. And sometimes we don't understand why things happen. But our position is to be found IN CHRIST and to TRUST GOD. Believe in His sovereignty! Believe in His Word! Believe in His Promises! I want us to look at this in a new Sermon Series intitled: For Sure!

Text: Luke 16:16 (NKJV) Philippians 3:14 (NASB); Romans 8:28 (NLT)

Outline:

I. God Established!

A. King Saul vs. King David: When the people of Israel decided they wanted a human king, God allowed it because the people were adamant about it. So God allowed Israel to have a king. But God wanted to be their king. Israel's sin was not that they wanted a king, but because they wanted to be like all the other nations (1 Samuel 8:5). God does not want popular or status quo. He want's what is SURE. What will bless and benefit all. This brings Him glory!

→ But God heard the cries of His people for help and for a king and God sent Samuel to anoint the son of Kish, from the Tribe of Benjamin; the smallest tribe of Israel. God gave Saul a new heart and a new nature.
(1 Samuel 10:9) But as we know, Saul's heart eventually strayed... Man cannot be counted on as a sure thing...we fail.

→ When King David was chosen, the Bible says: God established him to be King. This word Established means: To set and fix unalterably; there is a permanence to it. (Genesis 17:7 NKJV) When God sets something or someone in place, it is not just for a temporary purpose. When God sets a

law, a principle, a statute, a command, it is not just for that time – it is for all times. When God does a miracle, it does not just benefit the one or two, it benefits His plan throughout the chain of timelines... It will bring Him glory for all History! All Peoples! All days! God does not show off! He just simply IS!

- God as King vs. Man as King? Who is the sure thing?

→ Why was King David "Established"? God was putting in motion to <u>turn</u> <u>things around</u>. To cause all things to work out for the Good and for His glory! For out of the line of David came Jesus! And He would be King! And He would be God! And He would be Perfect! For Sure!

B. Trust that God is Sure!

- If God does something, He is For Sure!

- Sometimes we struggle with why things happen. How are we supposed to see these things?

- If someone dies for instance..., whether it is by accident or by old age... God has His hand on the timeline. That does not mean that God caused the accident or the disease...He didn't, but in His sovereignty, He takes it...and places it in the realm of Good and His Glory! He somehow steers things so that His plan is not thrown off. I don't know how! I don't understand how it all plays out for Good or His glory! But I'm not meant too! I am meant to trust God! Trust what is For Sure! And there is one thing for Sure!! **God is good!** Psalm 34:8 (NLT); Psalm 107:1 (NKJV)

- That is what makes Him God! I'm through with doubt! I'm through with questioning God! I am trusting Him! I am going to live for Him! And nothing and NO one is going to change my mind or stop my fervency to seek Him!

HE IS GOOD! HE IS GOOD! HIS LOVE IS EVERLASTING AND HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER!!

If God says He will Forgive you...It is For Sure! 1 John 1:9

If God says He can deliver you... It is For Sure! Psalm 34:4, 17 (NKJV)

If God says He will Heal you...It is For Sure! Jeremiah 17:14