

## Chapter 23

*Balaam endeuoureth to curfe Ifrael, but God forceth him to blefse them. 11. Againe he vrgeth him to curfe them, but he ftill prophecieth good things of them. 26. Yet Balac infifteth willing him to curfe, or not to bleffe them.*

**A**nd Balaam faid to Balac: <sup>a</sup>)Build me here feuen altares, and prepare as manie calues, and rammes of the fame number. <sup>2</sup> And when he had done according to the word of Balaam, they together laid a calfe and a ramme vpon an altar. <sup>3</sup> And Balaam faid to Balac: Stand a while befide thy holocaufte, vntil I goe, if happely the Lord wil meete me, and whatfoeuer he shal command, I wil fpeake to thee. <sup>4</sup> And when he was gone in haft, God mette him. And Balaam fpeaking to him, faid: I haue erected feuen altares, and haue laid thereon a calfe and a ramme. <sup>5</sup> And our Lord put a word in his mouth, and faid: Returne to Balac, and thus shalt thou fpeake. <sup>6</sup> Returning he found Balac ftanding befide his holocaufte, and al the princes of the Moabites: <sup>7</sup> and taking vp his parable, he faid: From Aram hath Balac King of the Moabites brought me, from the mountaines of the Eaft: Come, quoth he, and curfe Iacob: make haft, and deteft Ifrael. <sup>8</sup> How shal I curfe, whom God hath not curfed? By what meanes may I deteft, whom the Lord detefteth not? <sup>9</sup> From the higheft flintes shal I fee him, and from the hilles shal I view him. The people shal dwel alone, and among the Gentiles shal not be accounted. <sup>10</sup> Who may be able to number the duft of Iacob, and to know the number of the ftocke of Ifrael? <sup>b</sup>)My foule die the death of the iuft,

<sup>a</sup> Before the diuel would curfe Gods people he required facrifices which being offered yet he could not worke his malice. For by Gods commandmēt (faith *S. Hierom. de manf. 42.*) Ifrael is bleffed, curfing turned into praife and Gods voice is heard founding from a profaine mouth.

<sup>b</sup> Heretikes, & other infidels defire fometimes to die in ftate of Catholiques, though they wil not liue as they do. *S. Greg. li. 33. c. 27. Moral.*

and my laft endes be made like to them. <sup>11</sup> And Balac faid to Balaam: What is this that thou doeft? That thou shouldeft curfe mine enemies I called thee: and thou contrariwife bleffed them. <sup>12</sup> To whom he answered: Can I fpeake ought els, but that which the Lord commandeth? <sup>13</sup> Balac therefore faid: Come with me into an other place whence thou mayeft fee part of Ifrael, and canft not fee the whole, from thence curfe them. <sup>14</sup> And when he had brought him into a high place, vpon the toppe of the mountaine Phafga, Balaam builded feuen altares, & laying thereon calues and rammes, <sup>15</sup> he faid to Balac: Stand here befide thy holocauft, whiles I goe to meete him. <sup>16</sup> Whom when our Lord had mette, and had put the word in his mouth, he faid: Returne to Balac and thus thou shalt fpeake to him. <sup>17</sup> Returning he found him ftanding befide his holocauft, and the princes of the Moabites with him. To whom Balac faid: What hath the Lord fpoken? <sup>18</sup> But he taking vp his parable, faid: Stand Balac, and harken, heare thou fonne of Sephor: <sup>19</sup> God is not as man, that he may lie, nor as the fonne of man, that he may be changed. Hath he faid then, and wil he not doe? hath he fpoken, and wil he not fulfil? <sup>20</sup> I was brought to bleffe, the bleffing I am not able to ftay. <sup>21</sup> There is no Idol in Iacob, neither is there fimulachre to be feene in Ifrael. The Lord his God is with him, and the found of the victorie of the king in him. <sup>22</sup> God hath brought him out of Ægypt, whose ftrength is like to the vnicorne. <sup>23</sup> There is no Southfaying in Iacob, nor diuination in Ifrael. In their times it fhall be faid to Iacob and Ifrael what God hath wrought. <sup>24</sup> Behold the people fhall rife vp as a lioneffe, and as a lion fhall raife it felf: It fhall not lie downe til it deuoure the pray, and drinke the bloud of the flaine. <sup>25</sup> And Balac faid to Balaam: <sup>a</sup>)neither curfe, nor bleffe him. <sup>26</sup> And he faid: Did I not tel thee, that whatfoeuer God should command me, that would I doe? <sup>27</sup> And Balac faid to him: Come, and I wil bring thee to an other

liknes of idol.

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<sup>a</sup> VVhen Infidels can not draw others to falfe worfhip, or curfing, they are content that men profefse no God, nor religion at al.

place: if happely it please God that thence thou mayest curse them. <sup>28</sup> And when he had brought him vpon the toppe of the mountaine Phofgor, which looketh to the wilderneffe, <sup>29</sup> Balaam said to him: Build me here feuen altares, and prepare as manie calues, and rammes of the same number. <sup>30</sup> Balac did as Balaam had said: and he laide the calues and the rammes on euerie altar.