Elder's Corner

Look, a people rises like a lioness, and lifts itself up like a lion; It shall not lie down until it devours the prey, And drinks the blood of the slain."
(Num. 23:24)

Balak, son of Zippor, the king of Moab hired an interesting person named **Balaam** to **curse** the children of Israel, so they no longer posed a threat to him and his **people**. **God** had warned **Balaam** not to take part in this evil plan **(Num. 22:12),** or **to curse the people** because **"they are blessed".** This interesting person knew that the Jewish **people** were **blessed** by the Lord their **God (Num. 23:20)** and he could not **reverse it**. One can almost sense the frustration in Balaam's voice as he states, **"How shall I curse whom God has not cursed" (Num. 23:8).** In the next breath **Balaam** proclaims the uniqueness of the **people** that he has been asked to **curse** (see text box). One writes, "Assimilation among the nations may have been tried by the Jews, and to some extent has been partially successful, yet God's decree concerning them as His separated people has never changed and they remain a unique and distinct people."[1]

> **Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. perhaps i shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for i know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed." (Num. 22:6)**

> **for from the top of the rocks i see him, and from the hills i behold him; there! a people dwelling alone, not reckoning itself among the nations. (Num. 23:9)**

There is one thing that we can be sure of in the long ages of time, whether it be Balak or **Balaam** or [illegible] those who have sought to do evil to Israel, [illegible] extermination as a **people** has been Satan. I [illegible] beginning of the article this morning—words given by **God** to **Balaam** which he proclaimed to Balak. Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel was obviously familiar with **Num. 23:24** and declared that military activity that Israel would soon be engaged in was a fulfillment of it:

> Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted at the launch of Operation Rising Lion, targeting Iranian nuclear sites, in a note placed in the Western Wall on Thursday, hours before the planned launch of strikes. The note, which was revealed to the Israeli public on Friday morning, contained a verse from the Torah, from which the inspiration for the name of the IDF's operation was drawn. The note quoted the Book of Numbers 23:24, reading: "Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion." The full verse reads as follows: "Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: He shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain."[2]

This operation was carried out from June 13-24, 2025. Whether it was a fulfillment of **Num. 23:24** is probably up to individual opinion. But do not doubt, a day is coming when it will be fulfilled. **Zechariah 12:6** looks forward to similar actions being taken by a downtrodden **people:**

> **In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem.**

Maranatha!

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[1] J. J. Stubbs, *What the Bible Teaches: Numbers,* gen. ed. W. S. Stevely (Kilmarnock, Scotland: John Ritchie, Ltd., 2003), 309.

[2] 'Rise up as a lion': Netanyahu foreshadows Iranian strike in Western Wall note," *The Jerusalem Post,* June 13, 2025.