



A Brief Survey of Balaam's Prophecies

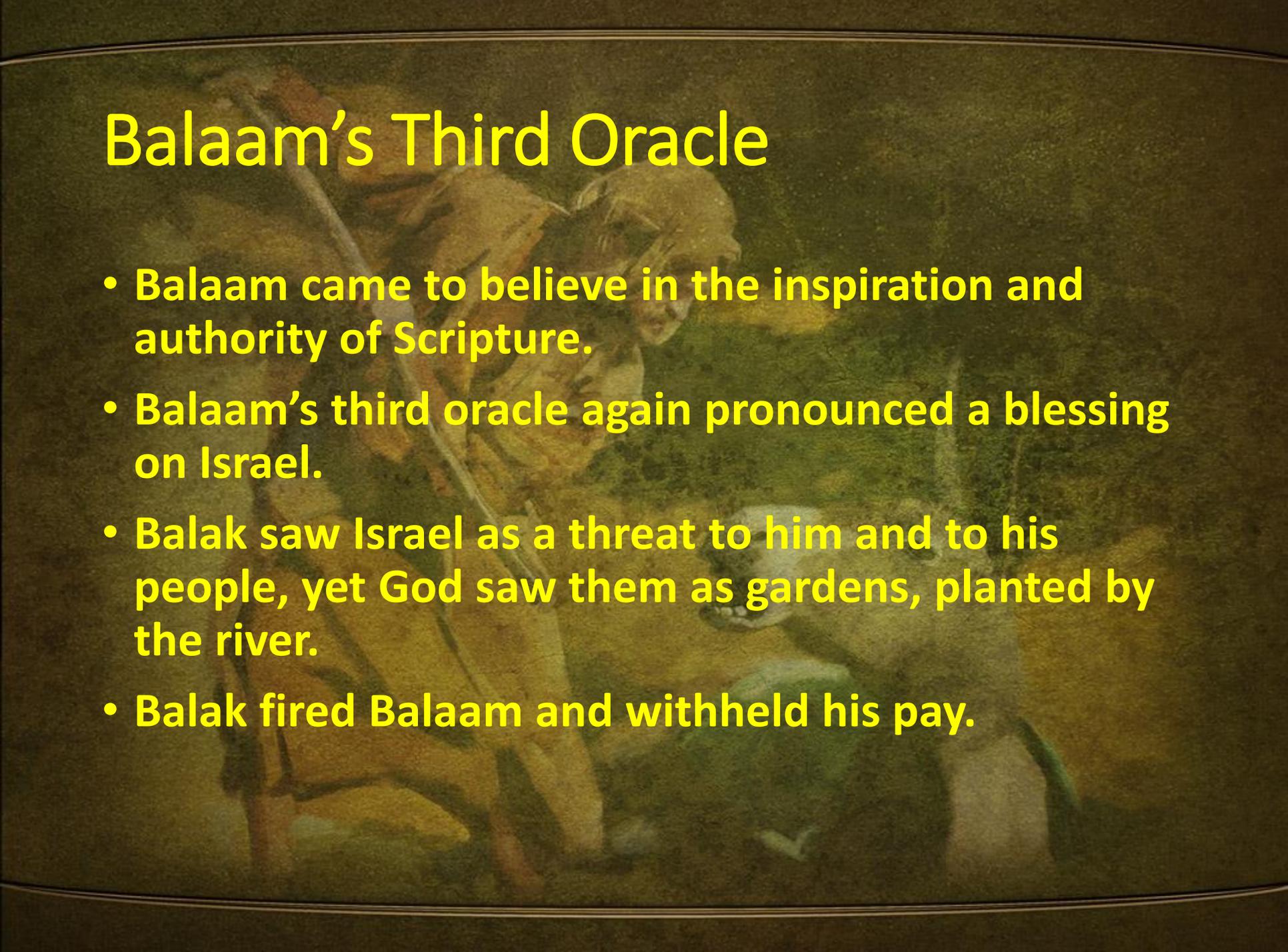
Numbers 23:7-10, 18-24, 24:3-9, 15-25

Balaam's First and Second Prophecy



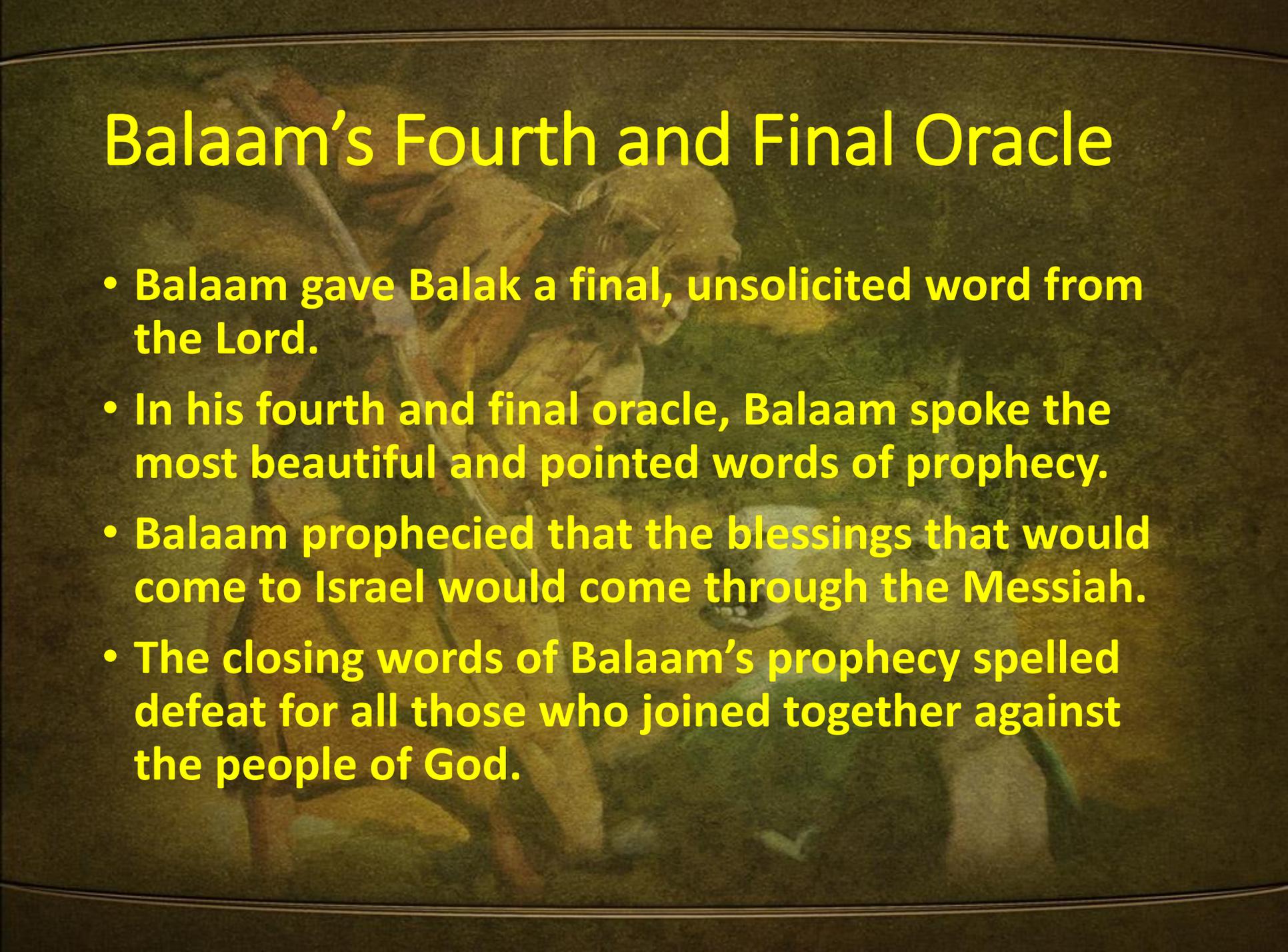
- Balak brought Balaam from Aram to curse Israel, but Balaam could not grant his request because he could echo only what God declared.
- Balaam indicated that he wished he could enter into Israel's blessings.
- Balak was a man who was accustomed to getting his way.
- Since God commanded Balaam to bless Israel, he could not reverse it.
- God did not make His covenant with Israel, based upon Israel's righteousness.
- The blessings of Israel were sure and secure.

Balaam's Third Oracle



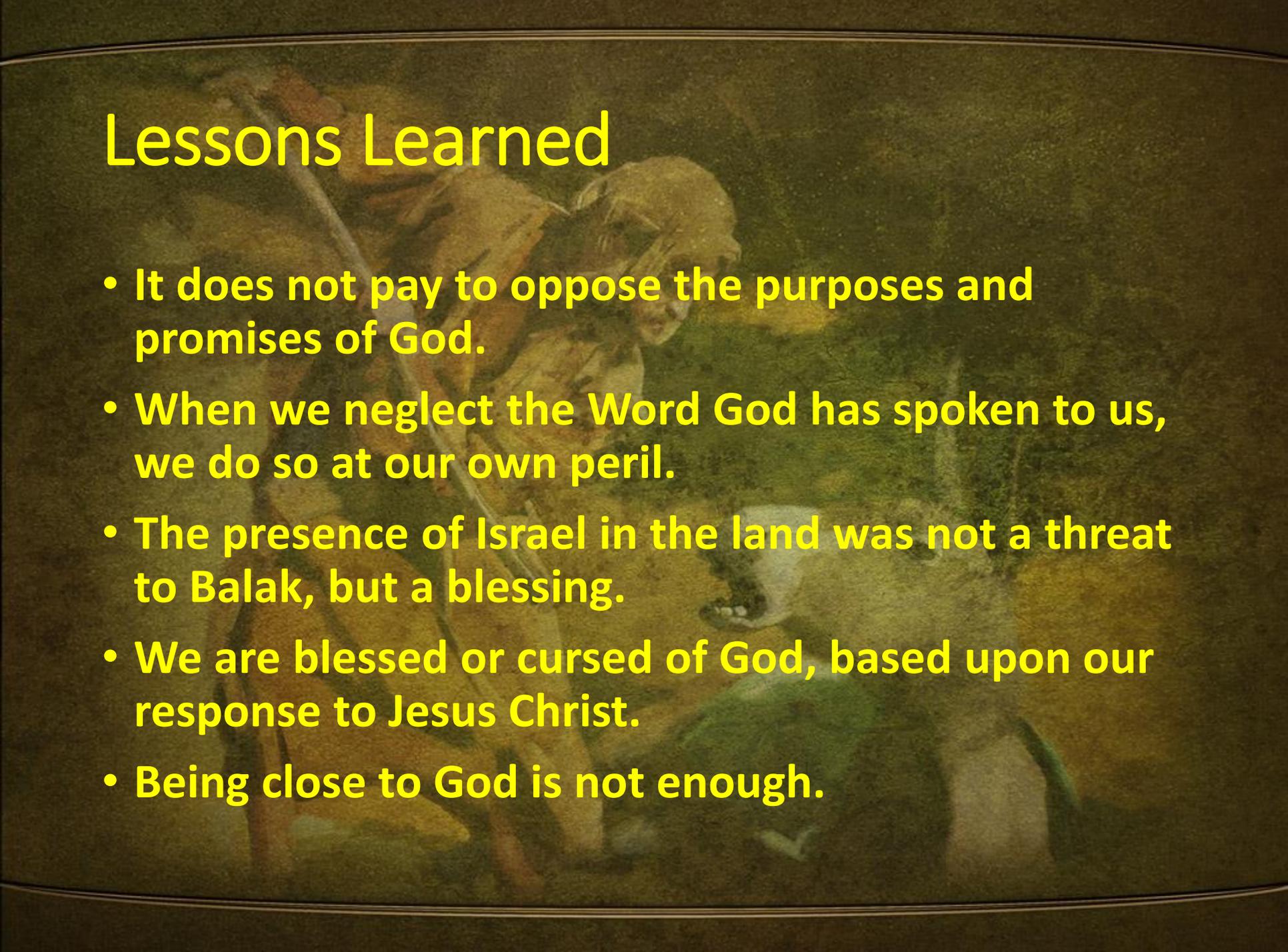
- Balaam came to believe in the inspiration and authority of Scripture.
- Balaam's third oracle again pronounced a blessing on Israel.
- Balak saw Israel as a threat to him and to his people, yet God saw them as gardens, planted by the river.
- Balak fired Balaam and withheld his pay.

Balaam's Fourth and Final Oracle



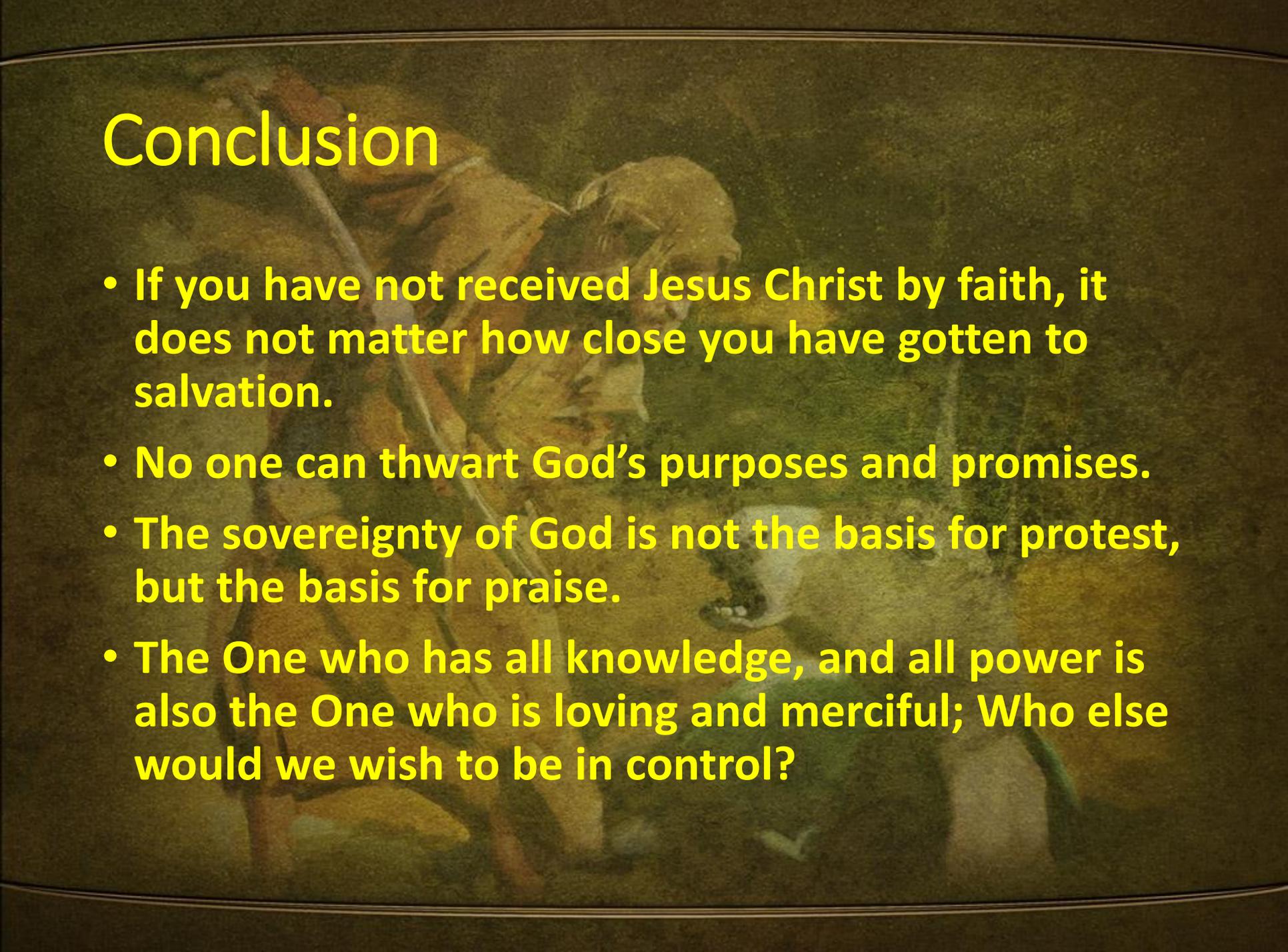
- Balaam gave Balak a final, unsolicited word from the Lord.
- In his fourth and final oracle, Balaam spoke the most beautiful and pointed words of prophecy.
- Balaam prophesied that the blessings that would come to Israel would come through the Messiah.
- The closing words of Balaam's prophecy spelled defeat for all those who joined together against the people of God.

Lessons Learned



- It does not pay to oppose the purposes and promises of God.
- When we neglect the Word God has spoken to us, we do so at our own peril.
- The presence of Israel in the land was not a threat to Balak, but a blessing.
- We are blessed or cursed of God, based upon our response to Jesus Christ.
- Being close to God is not enough.

Conclusion



- If you have not received Jesus Christ by faith, it does not matter how close you have gotten to salvation.
- No one can thwart God's purposes and promises.
- The sovereignty of God is not the basis for protest, but the basis for praise.
- The One who has all knowledge, and all power is also the One who is loving and merciful; Who else would we wish to be in control?