

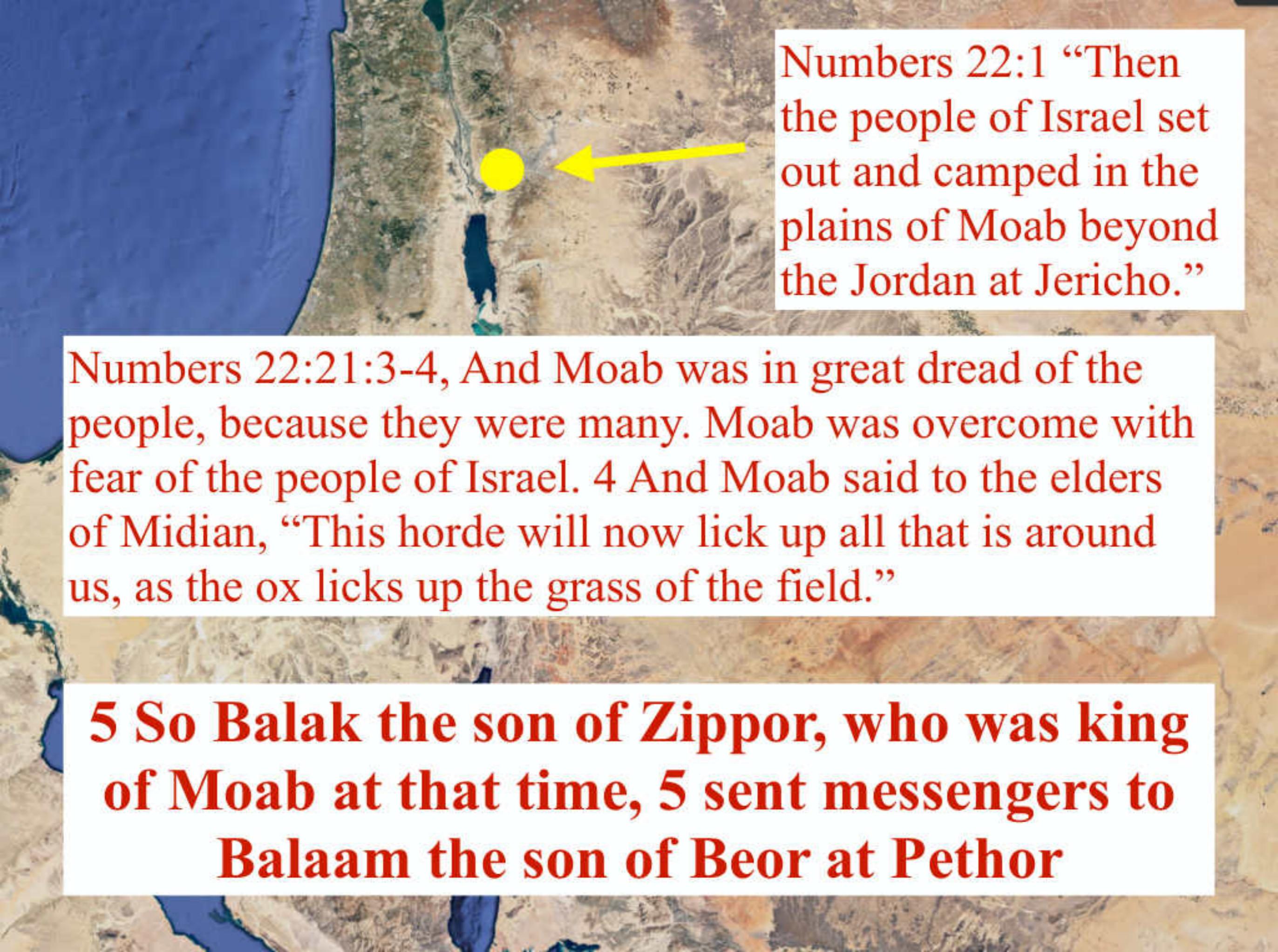


*“Four blessings of the  
Lord amidst  
adversity.”*  
Numbers 22-24

July 4th, 2021  
New Baptist Church

Numbers 22:1 “Then the people of Israel set out and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan at Jericho.”

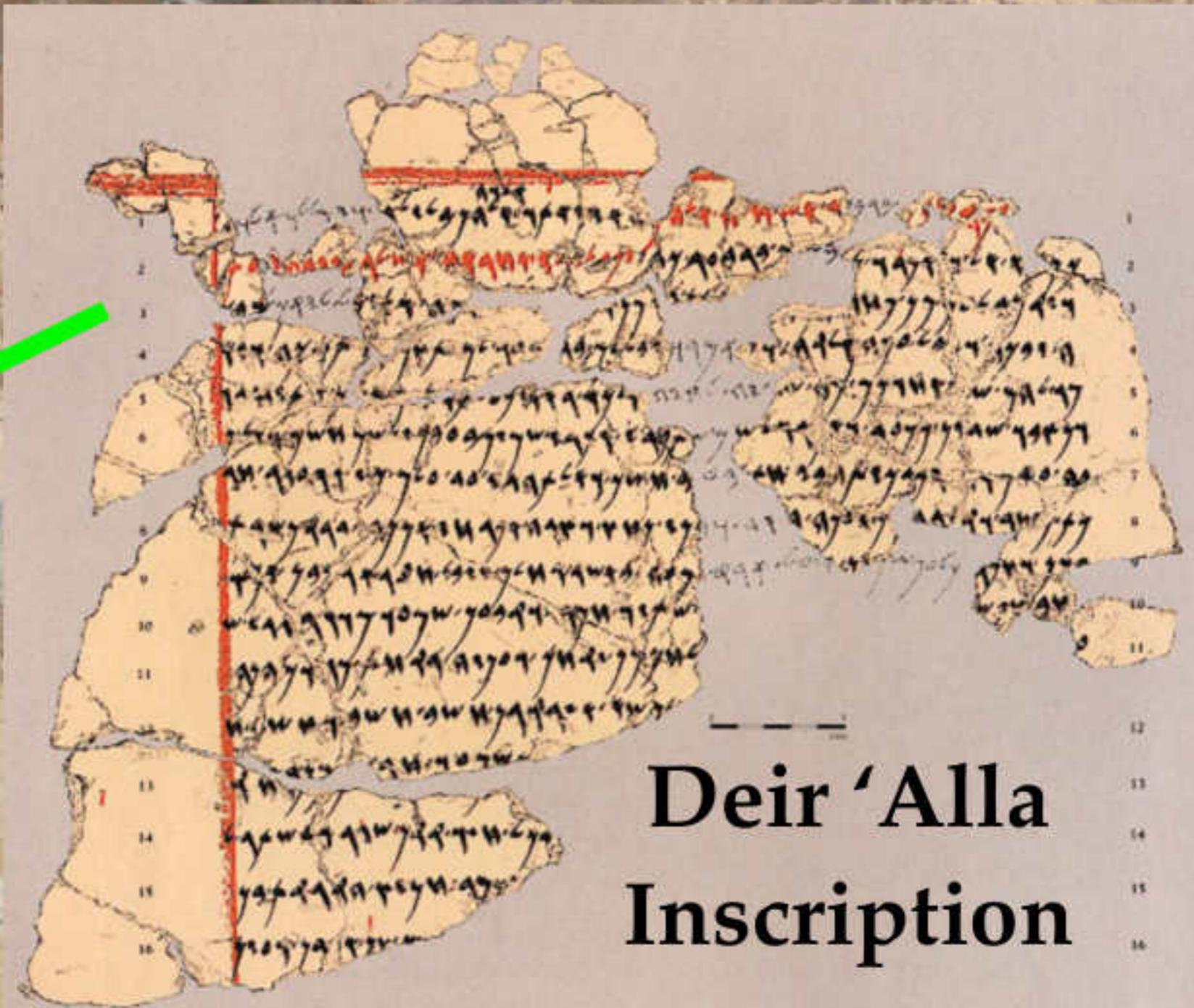




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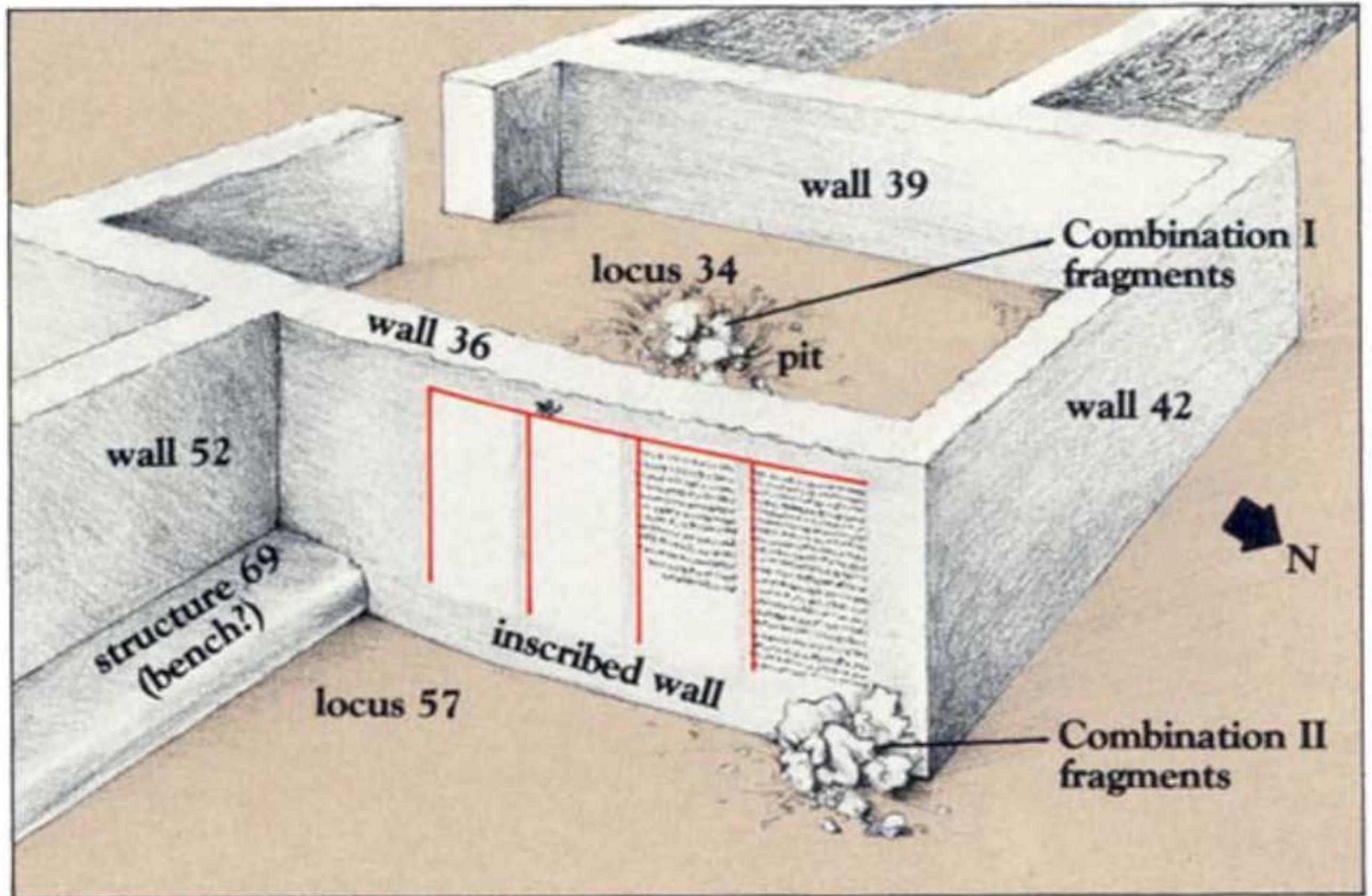
Numbers 22:21:3-4, And Moab was in great dread of the people, because they were many. Moab was overcome with fear of the people of Israel. 4 And Moab said to the elders of Midian, “This horde will now lick up all that is around us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field.”

**5 So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, 5 sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor**

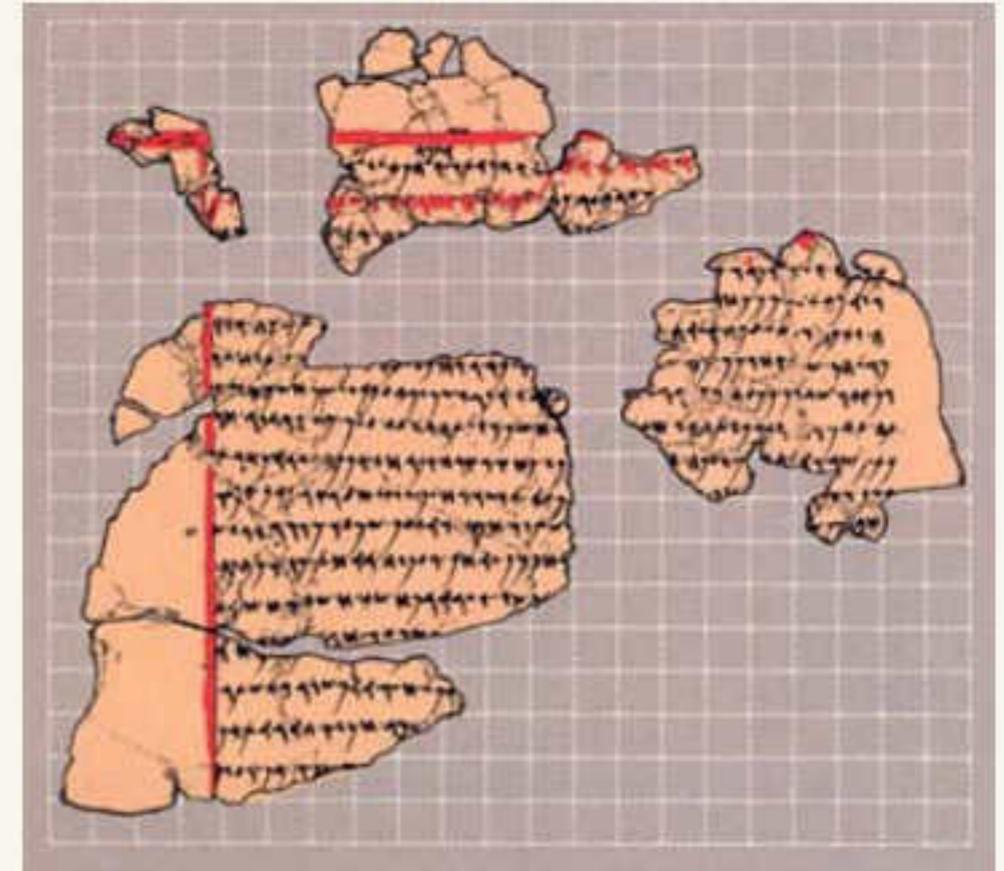
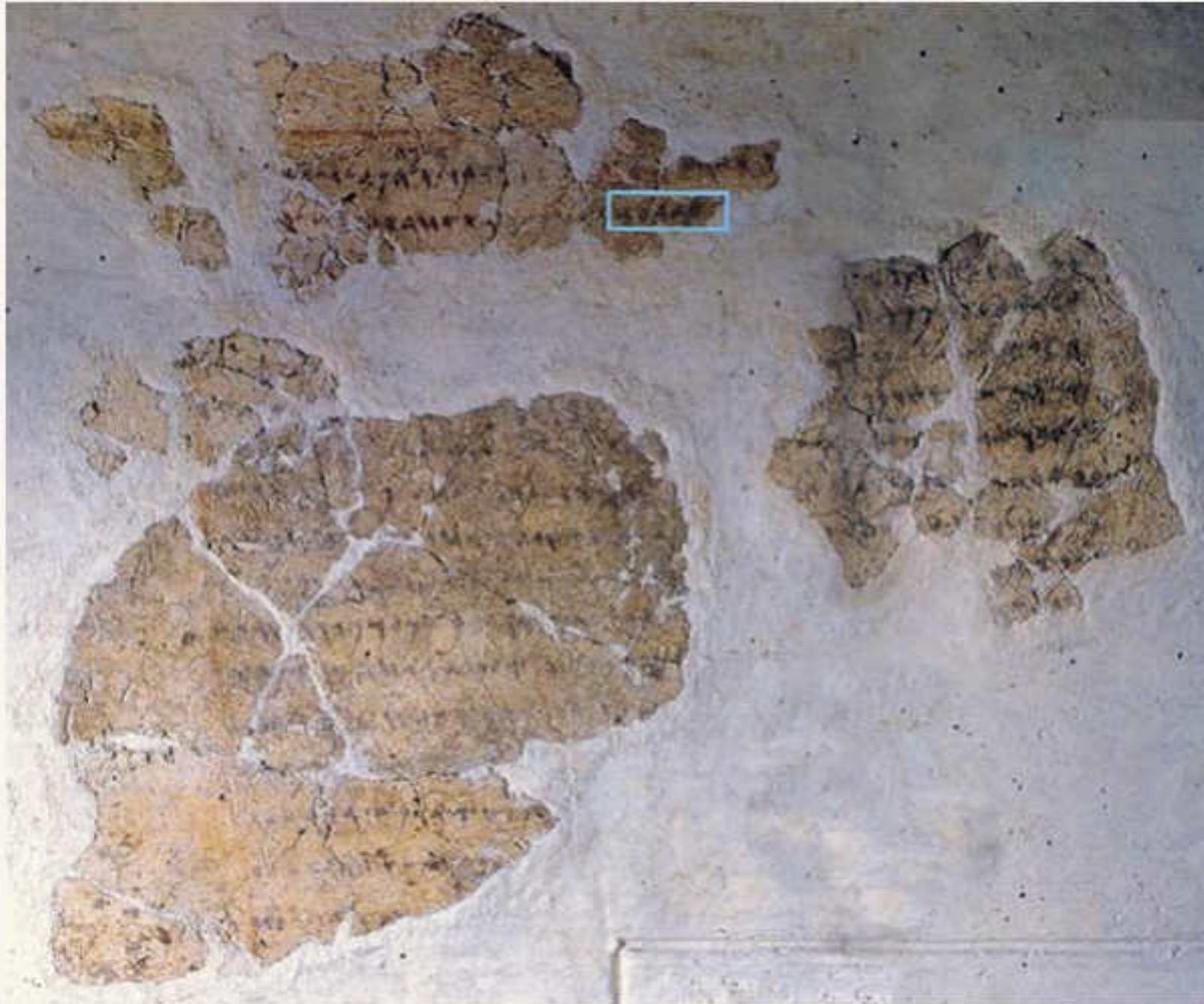


**Deir 'Alla  
Inscription**

# Deir 'Alla Inscription



# Deir 'Alla Inscription



**““Book of Balaam son of Beor...””**



## Balaam the Seer

- Claimed to know the will of the gods through the interpretation of signs.
- Claimed to know what pleases God so that God will do his bidding.

Numbers 22:4-6, “So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, 5 sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw, to call him, saying, “Behold, a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me. 6 Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”

**“Go to your own land, for the LORD has refused to let me go with you (22:13).”**

**God says “NO!”**

# Numbers 22:22-35



**Balaam is a fool!!!**



Numbers 23:1-3 (ESV) And Balaam said to Balak, "Build for me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams." 2 Balak did as Balaam had said. And Balak and Balaam offered on each altar a bull and a ram. 3 And Balaam said to Balak, "Stand beside your burnt offering, and I will go. Perhaps the LORD will come to meet me, and whatever he shows me I will tell you."

## Critical Theological Point Regarding Sacrifices

**In Paganism** (those outside of the covenant)  
- the purpose of sacrifice is to please god / the gods in order to get something that is wanted. (Sacrifice is for God)

**In the Covenant** - the purpose of sacrifice is atonement. So that the individual may enjoy the presence of God. (Sacrifice is for the person)

**Hosea 6:6 "For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."**



Four Times  
Balaam tries to  
please God so  
that God may  
curse Israel.

All Four times  
God blesses  
Israel.

# **The Four Blessings of the Lord**

- 1. God Blesses His people through His faithfulness to them. (Oracle 1 - Numbers 23:7-10)**
- 2. God blesses His people through the enjoyment of His presence. (Oracle 2 - Numbers 23:18-24)**
- 3. God blesses His people through is gracious abundance. (Oracle 3 - Numbers 24:3-9)**
- 4. God blesses His people by giving to them victory over their enemies. (Oracle 4 - Numbers 24:15-24)**

**Numbers 24:17** “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel”



**Matthew 2:2** “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.””

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