

1. What is your Old Testament Scripture passage?
  - a. Pericope Numbers 22-24
2. What is your topic?
  - a. I will research the Balaam Oracles and focus primarily on the validity of the messenger and his message as it relates to the messianic glimpse (24:17). Balaam's mission ties into his (God's) message and ultimately God's overall plan for humanity. There were 7 oracles; the first three blessing Israel the fourth a key oracle of the messianic glimpse and the last three curses of Israel's enemies. The message in the fourth oracle ties into God's overall plan to bless Israel and redeem His chosen and covenant people who he separated from among the nations.
3. What method(s) have you selected?
  - a. Redaction Criticism
  - b. Rhetorical Criticism
  - c. The Canonical Approach
4. Briefly describe the method(s).
  - a. I will utilize both diachronic and synchronic approaches. Redaction criticism, which is a diachronic approach will attempt to examine how the redactor reinterpreted the sources to achieve his or her purposes (Hill and Walton, 755). Through this approach and my research, I will attempt to provide a transition between diachronic and synchronic approaches. Rhetorical criticism assumes the unity of form and content. It is interested in discovering how the form of the literature aids the content in communicating the intended message (Hill and Walton, 756). Finally, the Canonical approach will view the pericope in terms of the whole canon as a context rather than portions of books or the books themselves being the context.
5. Why did you select this approach? I selected the redaction approach to see if the donkey story was inserted later to discredit Balaam in view of the canonical context even though he received divine permission. Rhetorical approach will examine poetic features of the pericope. Canonical approach will focus on the messianic glimpse and how that relates to Balaam's message and reputation as a good messenger and prophet in God's overall plan
6. List at least 3-5 questions you have about the text using your selected method(s).
  - a. Where in the pericope Numbers 22-24 did Balaam disobey God?
  - b. What stirs YHWH's anger although Balaam receives divine permission to travel in Number 22:20?
  - c. Is Balaam a discredited prophet; does his status diviner/seer affect his message?

- d. How does the messianic glimpse, Balaam's fourth oracle tie in his message and mission to God's overall plan for Israel and the nations?
  - e. What text in the pericope provides proof Balaam was a villain?
  - f. How does Chapter 31 change the dynamic of Balaam's reputation and status?
7. Optional but important: what is the big picture outline for how you will organize your paper. In using the Canonical approach, the messianic glimpse opens up the story of God's plan and purpose for humanity. Balaam's status as a messianic prophet as an inspiration to the Magi and as someone who was disobedient, ultimately cursing Israel by leading the men into sexual immorality in Chapter 31 outside of the pericope under review.