Nechama Leibowitz, Studies in BaMidbar, p. 292
In the third blessing there is, however, no hint of any polemic. Balak disappears completely from the picture along with his demands, machinations, and arguments. Without any preliminary invocation the prophet plunges into his panegyric of Israel. We have here neither vindication nor denunciation but pure prophecy. This third blessing is characterized by a more sublime note, richer and more imaginative language than the previous ones. From the linguistic point of view we may note that there are no figures of speech in the first blessing and there is only one taken from the animal kingdom in the second. The third is rich in figurative description, beginning with the vegetable and ending with the animal kingdom.

Ibid. p. 294
“The prophet after recalling the pristine purity of the perfect world in the Garden of Eden proceeds to dwell on the theme of abundance. But we are not treated here to a description of artificial riches, palaces, and urban magnificence, but rather to a natural abundance of fields and vineyards.”
**Numbers 24:5-6**

How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, thy dwellings, O Israel! As valleys stretched out, as gardens by the river-side; as aloes planted of the LORD, as cedars beside the waters;

*Ibn Ezra Numbers 24:6*

“As aloes” (ahalim) - is similar to the word ahalot (aloes) in myrrh and aloes. Note, Balaam compares the tents [of Israel] to stretched-out rivers [next to which cedars and aloe trees are planted].

**Commentary of Da’at Mikra to Numbers 24:5-6**

Bilaam sees in these four passages before us four images describing the beauty and order of the Israelite camp, whose tents are arranged in a plantlike pattern which is beautiful and stunning. The tents of Israel are like ‘riverbeds’ – which can be interpreted to mean that they stretch out and spread like the lush flora around a riverbed. Compare this to the biblical phrase “stretched out like evening shadows”. Also, according to this interpretation, all the imagery remains plant imagery. (translation- Sareet Benayahu)