

Outline

Numbers 22

"Let us travel through your land. We will be careful not to go through your fields and vineyards. We won't even drink water from your wells. We will stay on the king's road until we have passed through your territory." Numbers 21:22.

⁹ *God came to Balaam and asked, "Who are these men with you?"*

¹⁰ *Balaam said to God, "Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent me this message: ¹¹ 'A people that has come out of Egypt covers the face of the land. Now come and put a curse on them for me. Perhaps then I will be able to fight them and drive them away.'"*

¹² *But God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed. "*

¹³ *The next morning Balaam got up and said to Balak's princes, "Go back to your own country, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you."*

¹⁴ *So the Moabite princes returned to Balak and said, "Balaam refused to come with us."*

¹⁵ *Then Balak sent other princes, more numerous and more distinguished than the first. ¹⁶ They came to Balaam and said:*

"This is what Balak son of Zippor says: Do not let anything keep you from coming to me, ¹⁷ because I will reward you handsomely and do whatever you say. Come and put a curse on these people for me."

¹⁸ *But Balaam answered them, "Even if Balak gave me his palace filled with silver and gold, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the Lord my God. ¹⁹ Now stay here tonight as the others did, and I will find out what else the Lord will tell me. "*

²⁰ *That night God came to Balaam and said, "Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you."*

²¹ *Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. ²² But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road.*

²⁴ *Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with walls on both sides.*

²⁵ *When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat her again.*

²⁶ *Then the angel of the Lord moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. ²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she lay down under*

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Balaam, and he was angry and beat her with his staff. ²⁸ Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"

²⁹ Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now. "

³⁰ The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?"

"No," he said.

³¹ Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.

³² The angel of the Lord asked him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. Numbers 22:9-32

Balaam

The Balaks of the World

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" John 15:5

Fear

Balaam's Motivation

"They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—a beast without speech—who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness." 2 Peter 2:15-16

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"What sorrow awaits them! For they follow in the footsteps of Cain, who killed his brother. Like Balaam, they deceive people for money. And like Korah, they perish in their rebellion." Jude 1:11

The "Officials of Moab"

Blinded to What's in Front of You

Blessing or Curse