

## 10-29-2025 – Balaam & the Talking Donkey

**Mid-week Encouragement.** Videos – dogs & cats saving their owners.

**Balak** (king of Moab), **Balaam** (sorcerer & prophet) & his **donkey**.

- Prophet serves a divine purpose; sorcerers serve themselves.
- **Intro** – Israel, led by Moses, moves toward Canaan. Hundreds/ thousands!
  - **Been successful.** Defeated those who opposed them.

Israelites camp on the plains of Moab, along the Jordan across from Jericho.

- **Balak** is afraid; sends message to Balaam to hire him:
- **NUMBERS 22:6** – “Please come & curse these people for me because they are too powerful for me. Then perhaps I will be able to conquer them and drive them from the land. I know that blessings fall on any people you bless, and curses fall on people you curse.”

**Balaam** – stay tonight; let me consult w/God.

- **Balaam is like us.** He has a heart to follow God, but enticed by \$.
  - His ultimate downfall will be his desire to go for the money.
    - **James 1:4-15** – “Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.”
- **Balaam consults God.**
  - **vs. 12** - But God told Balaam, “Do not go with them. You are not to curse these people, for they have been blessed!”
  - Delivers message: No. The messengers return to Balak.
- **Balak tried again.** “This time he sent a larger number of even more distinguished officials than those he had sent the first time.”

**VS. 17** – “I will pay you very well and do whatever you tell me. Just come and curse these people for me!” **18** But Balaam responded to Balak’s messengers, “Even if Balak were to give me his palace filled with silver and gold, I would be powerless to do anything against the will of the LORD my God. **19** But stay here one more night, and I will see if the LORD has anything else to say to me.” **20** That night God came to Balaam and told him, “Since these men have come for you, get up and go with them. But do only what I tell you to do.”

- **Lesson 1: God answered the first time.** When we want a different answer, we'll persist... God may give in to us, but it doesn't mean God changed His mind. We hear what we want to hear, do what we want.

Next morning **Balaam** saddled his donkey & goes w/ 2 Moabite officials.

<sup>22</sup> But God was angry that Balaam was going, so he sent the angel of the Lord to stand in the road to block his way.

<sup>1</sup>- **Balaam's donkey** sees angel standing in the road w/ drawn sword in hand, donkey **bolted off the Rd into a field**; Balaam beat it, gets it back on the Rd.

<sup>2</sup>- Angel stands at place where **Rd narrows** between 2 **vineyard walls**. The **donkey** saw the angel & **tried to squeeze by, but crushed Balaam's foot** against the wall. So Balaam beat the donkey again.

<sup>3</sup>- Angel moved farther down the Rd, stood in a place **too narrow** for the donkey to get by at all. This time, the **donkey** sees the angel & **lays down under Balaam**. In a fit of rage Balaam beat the donkey again with his staff.

<sup>28</sup> Then the Lord gave the donkey the ability to speak. "What have I done to you that deserves your beating me three times?" it asked Balaam.

<sup>29</sup> "You have made me look like a fool!" Balaam shouted. "If I had a sword with me, I would kill you!" <sup>30</sup> "But I am the same donkey you have ridden all your life," the donkey answered. "Have I ever done anything like this before?" "No," Balaam admitted.

<sup>31</sup> Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the roadway with a drawn sword in his hand. Balaam bowed his head and fell face down on the ground before him. <sup>32</sup> "Why did you beat your donkey those three times?" the angel of the Lord demanded. "Look, I have come to block your way because you are stubbornly resisting me. <sup>33</sup> Three times the donkey saw me and shied away; otherwise, I would certainly have killed you by now and spared the donkey." <sup>34</sup> Then Balaam confessed to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned. I didn't realize you were standing in the road to block my way. I will return home if you are against my going."

<sup>35</sup> But the angel of the Lord told Balaam, "Go with these men, but say only what I tell you to say." So Balaam went on with Balak's officials.

## Lesson 2: God doesn't control people. We do what we want.

- **#3** - God gives us **warnings** along the way. Chances to turn back.
  - **Man more stubborn than a donkey**; donkey had spiritual sense!
- **#4** – Never doubt that **God can do the impossible**.
  - **If a donkey can speak**, God can cause ... people/apologize ... income/increase ... relationship/heal ... Congress to agree ...
- **#5** – Our **eyes are closed** to much of the spiritual realm.
  - God is working behind the scenes. Doing more than we know.
- **#6** – How we treat our **animals** matters. They **matter**. Save your life!

**Balak meets Balaam.** <sup>38</sup> Balaam: “Look, now I have come, but I have no power to say whatever I want. I will speak only the message that God puts in my mouth.”

**CH. 23.** They go up to a high place. Next a.m., 7 alters, 7 bulls, 7 rams.

- **Balaam** delivers this **Message from God**:
- <sup>7</sup> “Balak summoned me to come from Aram; the king of Moab brought me from the eastern hills. ‘Come,’ he said, ‘curse Jacob for me! Come and announce Israel’s doom.’  
<sup>8</sup> But how can I curse those whom God has not cursed?  
How can I condemn those whom the LORD has not condemned?  
<sup>9</sup> I see them from the cliff tops; I watch them from the hills.  
I see a people who live by themselves, set apart from other nations.  
<sup>10</sup> Who can count Jacob’s descendants, as numerous as dust?  
Who can count even a fourth of Israel’s people?  
Let me die like the righteous; let my life end like theirs.”

**Balak** is not happy. **Israel has been blessed, not cursed!**

**Balaam**: “I will speak only the message that the Lord puts in my mouth.”

So **Balak tries a 2d time**. You’ll see some of them ... outskirts... curse them.

7 more alters. **Balaam gets a 2<sup>nd</sup> message** from God:

"Rise up, Balak, and listen! Hear me, son of Zippor.

<sup>19</sup> God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

<sup>20</sup> Listen, I received a command to bless; God has blessed, and I cannot reverse it!

<sup>21</sup> No misfortune is in his plan for Jacob; no trouble is in store for Israel.

For the LORD their God is with them; he has been proclaimed their king.

<sup>22</sup> God brought them out of Egypt; for them he is as strong as a wild ox.

<sup>23</sup> No curse can touch Jacob; no magic has any power against Israel.

For now it will be said of Jacob, 'What wonders God has done for Israel!

**Balak tries a 3rd time. (Idiotic response).** Maybe u can curse them there.

7 more alters. **NUM 24 - Balaam** looked out toward the wilderness and saw the people of Israel camped, tribe by tribe. The **Spirit of God came** on him, he delivered a **3<sup>rd</sup> message** from God:

<sup>5</sup> How beautiful are your tents, O Jacob; how lovely are your homes, O Israel! <sup>6</sup> They spread before me like palm groves, like gardens by the riverside. They are like tall trees planted by the LORD, like cedars beside the waters. <sup>7</sup> Water will flow from their buckets; their offspring have all they need. Their king will be greater than Agag; their kingdom will be exalted.

<sup>8</sup> God brought them out of Egypt; for them he is as strong as a wild ox.

He devours all the nations that oppose him, breaking their bones in pieces, shooting them with arrows. <sup>9</sup> Like a lion, Israel crouches and lies down; like a lioness, who dares to arouse her? Blessed is everyone who blesses you, O Israel, and cursed is everyone who curses you."

Balak is furious. The Lord has kept you from being rewarded. Go home.

**Didn't I tell you? Let me warn you of what's to come. 4 prophecies**

**Lesson #7: God doesn't change His mind/doesn't fail. Align w/God's will.**

- **#8 – The Enemy doesn't stop** trying.
- **# 9 - What God has blessed** can't be cursed.
  - **Blessed are those** who bless God's people. Gen. 12. Abraham.
  - "God blesses his loyal people, but punishes all who want to get rich quick." - **Prob. 28:20**                      **In our faithfulness... blessed.**