

Text: Numbers 22:22-41**Title: "God's anger was aroused" Numbers 22:22**

²² Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants *were* with him. ²³ Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. ²⁴ Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, *with* a wall on this side and a wall on that side. ²⁵ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again. ²⁶ Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there *was* no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. ²⁷ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

Numbers 22:22-27

1. God's Anger

- a) It was directed at Balaam
- b) Reasons for God's anger:
 - i) He went against God's commandment
 - ii) He was hired to curse the children of Israel

2. God still gave Balaam a chance

- a) The Angel of the Lord stood against Balaam
- b) He became an Adversary to Balaam

3. The donkey

- a) He saw the Angel of the Lord
- b) But Balaam could not see the Angel of the Lord
- c) He tried to avoid the Angel of the Lord
- d) He crushed Balaam's foot
- e) He sat down and refused to move

THE DONKEY SPOKE TO BALAAM

²⁸ Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

²⁹ And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

³⁰ So the donkey said to Balaam, "*Am* I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since *I became* yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."

Numbers 22:28-30

OPENING THE EYES OF BALAAM

³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. ³² And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because *your* way is perverse before Me. ³³ The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live."

Numbers 22:31-33

1. The Lord had enabled the donkey to speak to Balaam
2. Balaam had struck his donkey three times
3. The donkey queried Balaam

"What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

Numbers 22:28

4. Balaam's reply

"Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

Numbers 22:29

5. The donkey reasoned with Balaam

"*Am* I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since *I became* yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?"

Numbers 22:30

6. Balaam's response to the donkey

"No."

Numbers 22:31

7. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Balaam

- a) Why had he struck his donkey three times?
- b) Rebuke of Balaam
 - i) His way was perverse to God
 - ii) The donkey had in fact saved his life three times
 - iii) If he had moved forward, Balaam would have been killed
 - iv) The donkey would have been spared

BALAAM'S CONFESSION

³⁴ And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back."

³⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Numbers 22:34-35

1. Balaam expressed:

- a) Some remorse
- b) Also his ignorance of the presence of the Angel
- c) He offered to return home

2. The Angel's word

- a) He may carry on with his journey
- b) But he can only speak what he has been instructed to do

3. Balaam went with the princes of Balak

BALAK'S CONVERSATION WITH BALAAM

³⁶ Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory. ³⁷ Then Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honour you?"

³⁸ And Balaam said to Balak, "Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak." ³⁹ So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kirjath Huzoth. ⁴⁰ Then Balak offered oxen and sheep, and he sent *some* to Balaam and to the princes who *were* with him. ⁴¹ So it was, the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people.

Numbers 22:36-41

1. Balak remonstrates with Balaam

"Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honour you?"

Numbers 22:37

2. Balaam's response

"Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak." Numbers 22:38

3. Balak offers worship

4. He sent part of the offerings to Balaam and his princes

LESSONS FOR US TO LEARN

¹⁵ They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

¹⁶ but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

2 Peter 2:15-16

1. The danger of forsaking the right way and going astray

2. Balaam's love for the wages of unrighteousness

3. The donkey restrained the madness of the prophet