

# BALAAM'S WISE DONKEY

By Keith Greer

The children of Israel had moved and camped in the plains of Moab. Now Balak was the king of the Moabites. When he looked upon the great number of Israelites, "and Moab was sick with dread." He went to the elders of Midian, " ... Now this company will lick up everything around us, ... " {Numbers 22:4}

What can he do? Balak sends for Balaam the son of Beor. Balak implores him saying, "Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed. " {Numbers 22:6}

Now Balaam was a diviner. He told the men that Balak had sent, that he would consult with the Lord. "And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed." {Numbers 22:12}

Did Balaam understand? " Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more. " {Numbers 22:18}

Balak sent more princes, more numerous and honorable. Maybe Balaam will consult God one more time. The second time God told him to go with them, but instructed him "only the word which I speak to you-that you shall do."

We are told that "... God's anger was aroused because he went, ... " {Numbers 22:22} Why? Did he think because of Balak pleading, that God would change His mind? Could it be that God made a mistake the first time?

Balaam was riding on his donkey one day and the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with a drawn sword In His hand. So the donkey turned into the field! Balaam struck the donkey and he went a little further, in a narrow path and the donkey saw the angel again, so she turned and pushed herself against the wall. He struck her again!

Finally, they came to a place with no passage to left or right. When the donkey saw the angel, she lay down under Balaam. He struck him with his staff. Then something strange took place. The Lord opened the mouth of the donkey! "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? 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! 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}

Then God opened his eyes, and he saw the angel standing in the way! The Angel of the Lord informed him why he was there. " ... To stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. " {Numbers 22:32} God had not changed His mind to have the prophet curse God's own people.

Every time I read this story I'm amazed that Balaam had a conversation with this donkey as if it was normal for a donkey to be talking! Balaam was so focused on getting back to Balak that he missed the point all together—God's true prophet only speak His words—even if speaking other words would be personally more profitable for God's servant. Sadly, I wonder what would happen if a donkey starting speaking to Benny Hinn, of His displeasure with him? \*\*\*