



What Can a Donkey Teach a Jackass?

Numbers 22:21-35

Arisen But Not Awake



- Balaam set himself in opposition to God.
- To deliberately oppose the will of God is to make God your adversary.
- The “Angel of the Lord” is an angel who represents God, speaking and acting on His behalf.
- The “Angel of the Lord” is a visible manifestation of the second person of the Godhead, a preincarnate appearance of Jesus.
- Balaam, did not see the Angel of the Lord, but his donkey did.
- The donkey was a better “prophet” or “seer” than Balaam.

The Conversation

A painting depicting the biblical story of Balaam. Balaam is shown on a brown donkey, looking down with a concerned expression. A bright, glowing light emanates from the ground in front of the donkey, representing the Angel of the Lord. The background is dark and atmospheric, with a greenish glow near the light source.

- Three times the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord and three times refused to continue.
- Balaam hardly noticed that his donkey was speaking to him.
- Balaam was angry with his donkey because she had made him look like a fool.
- Balaam seemed to be only concerned about his prestige.
- Balaam cursed his one and only source of blessing.

The Princes



- Balaam, a man highly regarded for his ability to influence the “gods,” could not make his donkey go where he wanted.
- The princes watched in disbelief as Balaam and his donkey carried on a conversation.
- It is very doubtful that those who looked at Balaam talking to the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord.
- The princes who accompanied Balaam must have gaped, wide-eyed, when they saw Balaam fall prostrate to the ground.

A Diviner?

A painting of Balaam riding a donkey, looking back over his shoulder. The scene is set in a dark, rocky landscape. Balaam is wearing a brown robe and a turban. The donkey is white with a brown saddle. The background is a dark, textured green and brown.

- Balaam was supposed to be “in touch” with the spiritual forces.
- A diviner predicted the future based upon the arrangement or relationships of physical elements.
- There was a lesson to be learned, but Balaam completely missed it.
- Balaam did not realize it was God who opposed him on his journey.
- Balaam continued on his way, but his mission would produce the opposite of what the Moabites wanted.
- A person who speaks for God must do so precisely, just as God has spoken

Conclusion

The background of the slide is a painting of Balaam's donkey. It depicts a man in a brown robe riding a donkey. The donkey is looking back over its shoulder towards a dark, stormy landscape with a bright light on the horizon, suggesting a warning or a path leading to destruction. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

- Beware of the grave danger of seeking to “use” God.
 - Many Christians seek to use God, rather than to serve Him.
 - It is our duty and privilege to conform to God, rather than for us to seek to conform Him to our wants and wishes.
- There is nothing more important than being on the right path, nor more dangerous than being on the wrong one.
 - Even Balaam’s donkey could see the danger, but not Balaam.
 - Jesus is the one and only Way to eternal life; sin and self-interest is the way that leads to eternal destruction.