**Once Upon a Time … Balaam’s Donkey Spoke Perfect Hebrew**

Numbers 22-24

**2 Peter 2:15 (ESV)**Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing,

**2 Peter 2:16 (ESV)**but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness.

1. **The Temptation Balaam Faced**

**Numbers 22:2 (ESV)**And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

**Numbers 22:3 (ESV)**And Moab was in great dread of the people, because they were many. Moab was overcome with fear of the people of Israel.

**Numbers 22:4 (ESV)**And Moab said to the elders of Midian, “This horde will now lick up all that is around us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field.” So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time,

**Numbers 22:5 (ESV)**sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw, to call him, saying, “Behold, a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me.

**Numbers 22:6 (ESV)**Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”

**Numbers 22:18 (ESV)**But 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 command of the Lord my God to do less or more.

**Numbers 22:19 (ESV)**So you, too, please stay here tonight, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me.”

**Numbers 22:20 (ESV)**And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, “If the men have come to call you, rise, go with them; but only do what I tell you.”

1. **The Lesson Balaam Learned**

**Numbers 22:22 (ESV)**But God’s anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the Lord took His stand in the way as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him.

**Numbers 22:28 (ESV)**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?”

**Numbers 22:29 (ESV)**And Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you.”

**Numbers 22:30 (ESV)**And the donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?” And he said, “No.”

**Numbers 22:31 (ESV)**Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his drawn sword in His hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face.

**Numbers 22:32 (ESV)**And the Angel of the Lord said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before Me.

**Numbers 22:33 (ESV)**The donkey saw Me and turned aside before Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live.”

**Numbers 22:34 (ESV)**Then Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, “I have sinned, for I did not know that You stood in the road against me. Now therefore, if it is evil in Your sight, I will turn back.”

**Numbers 22:35 (ESV)**And the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but speak only the word that I tell you.” So Balaam went on with the princes of Balak.

1. **The Visions Balaam Saw**

**Numbers 22:37 (ESV)**And Balak said to Balaam, “Did I not send to you to call you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?”

**Numbers 22:38 (ESV)**Balaam said to Balak, “Behold, I have come to you! Have I now any power of my own to speak anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that must I speak.”

**Numbers 23:8 (ESV)**How can I curse whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?

**Numbers 23:11 (ESV)**And Balak said to Balaam, “What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have done nothing but bless them.”

**Numbers 23:20 (ESV)**Behold, I received a command to bless: He has blessed, and I cannot revoke it.

**Numbers 23:25 (ESV)**And Balak said to Balaam, “Do not curse them at all, and do not bless them at all.”

**Numbers 23:26 (ESV)**But Balaam answered Balak, “Did I not tell you, ‘All that the Lord says, that I must do’?”

**Numbers 24:1 (ESV)**When Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not go, as at other times, to look for omens, but set his face toward the wilderness.

**Numbers 24:8 (ESV)**God brings him out of Egypt and is for him like the horns of the wild ox; he shall eat up the nations, his adversaries, and shall break their bones in pieces and pierce them through with his arrows.

**Numbers 24:9 (ESV)**He crouched, he lay down like a lion and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you.”

**Numbers 24:10 (ESV)**And Balak’s anger was kindled against Balaam, and he struck his hands together. And Balak said to Balaam, “I called you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have blessed them these three times.

**Numbers 24:11 (ESV)**Therefore now flee to your own place. I said, ‘I will certainly honor you,’ but the Lord has held you back from honor.”

**Numbers 24:17 (ESV)**I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near: a Star shall come out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

**Deuteronomy 23:5 (ESV)**But the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam; instead the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loved you.

1. **The Choice Balaam Made**

**Numbers 24:25 (ESV)**Then Balaam rose and went back to his place. And Balak also went his way.

**Numbers 25:1 (ESV)**While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab.

**Numbers 25:2 (ESV)**These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

**Numbers 25:3 (ESV)**So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.

**Numbers 31:16 (ESV)**Behold, these, on Balaam’s advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord.

**Revelation 2:14 (ESV)**But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.

1. **The Price Balaam Paid**

**Joshua 13:22 (ESV)**Balaam also, the son of Beor, the one who practiced divination, was killed with the sword by the people of Israel among the rest of their slain.

1. **The Heart Balaam Revealed**

**2 Peter 2:15 (ESV)**Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing …

**Jude 11 (ESV)**Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam’s error and perished in Korah’s rebellion.

**Matthew 7:22 (ESV)**On that day many will say to Me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and cast out demons in Your name, and do many mighty works in Your name?’

**Matthew 7:23 (ESV)**And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.”