

NUMBERS + DEUTERONOMY

WILDERNESS

FAITH

God's Plan: God Can Use Any Means
He Chooses to Accomplish His Will

Numbers 22:22-35



**God is shaping you
in the wilderness
for the life He's
calling you to.**

Numbers 22:22-35

²² 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. ²³ And the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road. ²⁴ Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. ²⁵ And when the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pushed against the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall. So he struck her again. ²⁶ Then the angel of the Lord went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. ²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. 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 made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you." ³⁰ 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."

³¹ 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. 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 oppose you because your way is perverse^[a] before me. ³³ 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." ³⁴ 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." ³⁵ 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.

Scripture Memory

Numbers 14:18a (ESV)

The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
forgiving iniquity and transgression...

Write it out:

[illegible]

Understand the Context

Numbers 22 is part of the story of Balaam and Balak. Balak, the king of Moab, saw Israel camping nearby and grew terrified. He hired Balaam, a pagan prophet known for blessings and curses, to curse Israel. Balaam wanted to go, but God warned him not to. Eventually, God allowed Balaam to go but commanded him to only speak His words.

In verses 22–35, God uses something unexpected, a donkey and even an angel to get Balaam's attention. Balaam's donkey sees the angel blocking the way three times, but Balaam doesn't. When Balaam strikes the donkey, God does the miraculous, He opens the donkey's mouth to speak. God then opens Balaam's eyes to see the angel standing with a drawn sword. The message is clear: God is in control, and He can use any means, even a donkey, to accomplish His will.

Explore the Text

- “Opposed” (v.22): God’s anger was against Balaam because his heart was wrong, even though he was obeying in part.
- “Angel of the Lord” (v.23, 31): A visible messenger of God, often representing God’s authority and power.
- “Opened” (v.28, 31): God “opened” both the donkey’s mouth and Balaam’s eyes. God has power to reveal truth however He chooses.
- “Way” (v.32): The angel tells Balaam, “Your way is perverse before me.” Balaam’s direction was wrong because his motives weren’t aligned with God.

Day 1 – God Gets in the Way

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Devotional Reading:

Balaam thought he was on the right path, but God sent His angel to stand in the road. Balaam couldn't see it, but his donkey could. The donkey turned aside three times to avoid the angel, but Balaam just got angry.

This is a picture of how we sometimes charge ahead with our own plans. We think we know best, but God may step in and block the way to protect us. Sometimes He uses closed doors, disappointments, or even people who challenge us to keep us from going down a destructive path.

Application:

When things don't go your way, ask: "Is God protecting me or redirecting me?" What looks like a setback might actually be God's hand of protection.

Challenge:

Think of a time when something didn't go your way (sports, school, relationships). Write it down and ask God to show you if He was using it to protect or redirect you.

Day 2 – God Uses the Unexpected

Passage: Numbers 22:26–27

Devotional Reading:

The angel blocks the path again, and the donkey lies down under Balaam. Balaam is furious. To him, the donkey seems stubborn and useless. But in reality, the donkey is saving his life.

God often works through unexpected means. It could be a friend calling you out, a parent's advice, or even a failure that humbles you. Just like Balaam couldn't recognize the donkey's role, we often miss how God uses ordinary or unexpected things to steer us back to Him.

Application:

Don't overlook the small or strange ways God may be speaking to you. He can use anyone or anything to get your attention.

Challenge:

Pay attention today. Write down one ordinary moment (conversation, challenge, random event) where you think God might be speaking or teaching you something.

Day 3 – When God Opens Eyes

Passage: Numbers 22:28–31

Devotional Reading:

This is where things get wild. God opens the donkey's mouth to speak, and then He opens Balaam's eyes to finally see the angel. Imagine Balaam's shock! What he missed spiritually, the donkey saw clearly.

This shows us that sometimes we're spiritually blind. We miss what God is doing around us until He "opens our eyes." Prayer, scripture, and the Holy Spirit help us see life from God's perspective.

Application:

You may think you see the whole picture, but God sees more. Ask Him daily to open your eyes so you don't miss His work around you.

Challenge:

Pray Psalm 119:18 today: "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law." Then spend 10 minutes reading scripture and ask God to show you something new.

Day 4 – Wrong Motives, Right God

Passage: Numbers 22:32–33

Devotional Reading:

The angel tells Balaam, “Your way is perverse before me.” Balaam was technically obeying, he went when God said he could, but his motives were messed up. He was more interested in money, fame, and pleasing Balak than fully pleasing God.

God sees past our actions and looks at our hearts. You can go to church, read your Bible, or post verses on social media, but if your motives are selfish, God knows. True obedience flows from love for God, not just outward appearance.

Application:

Check your motives. Are you following God because you love Him, or because you want something from Him?

Challenge:

Be honest with God in prayer today. Tell Him if there are areas where your heart isn’t right, and ask Him to give you pure motives in following Him.

Day 5 – Speaking Only God’s Word

Passage: Numbers 22:34–35

Devotional Reading:

Balaam finally realizes his sin and offers to turn back. But God says, “Go with the men, but speak only the word that I tell you.” God reminds Balaam that His plan will happen, and Balaam doesn’t get to change it.

This is a huge reminder that God’s will always stands. We can’t twist His plans. Our job is to obey Him and speak His truth. For teens, this means not being afraid to stand for God’s Word, even when culture says something different.

Application:

God calls you to live and speak His truth. Your influence on friends, family, and classmates can be powerful when you reflect His Word.

Challenge:

Share one verse with a friend this week (through text, conversation, or social media). Let God’s Word, not your opinions, be the message.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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