



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 22:2-25:9
- II Timothy 3:1-7
- Acts 9:1-9
- James 1:17

## WHAT DID THE DONKEY SAY TO THE JACKASS?

- A Form of Godliness
- A Jackass and His Donkey
- No Shadow of Turning

*It's actually hilarious when you think about it. Let me set the scene. You are so obstinate, so out of touch with reality, so absolutely wrong—and yet you are totally clueless! You have not even reached the starting line of “getting a clue!” I can think of so many idioms that describe this mental condition...*

*“You couldn't be more wrong.”*

*“It's like the blind leading the blind.”*

*“We're not even on the same page.”*

*“It's like you're dead from the neck up.”*

*“You're as dumb as a post.”*

*“You're not playing with a full deck.”*

*“You're one sandwich short of a picnic.”*

*And after you have demonstrated the befuddling capacity to be consistently wrong and clueless at the same time, it can only get worse if you verbally insist that it's not you, but others who drown in delusion. "Well, isn't that the pot calling the kettle black?" to frame yet another idiom. In the end, there is a way to know who is right and we can use one final idiom as evidence. "The proof is in the pudding." Yes, the truth of a thing is obvious from the results of the thing! Now, let's witness this cluelessness in action in the Scriptures. Get ready to laugh—or cry, if unfortunately this describes you.*

*Did you ever read the story in the Bible where the prophet of God becomes the wannabe-relevant-prophet-to-the-stars? This defector becomes so out of touch with God that the donkey he is riding has to: first turn off the path; then resort to crushing his foot against a retaining wall to get his attention; only to follow by simply laying down, as to not move forward one more inch. You'd think this pseudo-man-of-god would get the message. Nope! He just beats the messenger to carry on.*

*Finally, he discovers that his dumb ass is not so dumb after all, as she blurts out a few choice words. Okay, lets really consider what's going on here. How would you react? First, you would be in utter shock and amazement that the mute beast suddenly spoke, no? I think we can universally agree on this. Certainly you wouldn't*

*just start conversing with the animal, as if this is totally normal. Would you engage in a conversation? Would you carry on as if this was typical? More so, would you try to reason, or better yet, argue with the four legged creature?*

*It's stunning as you read the narrative. But maybe if we take another perspective it will seem a bit less distressing. Maybe the talking female donkey is not speaking human at all. Maybe the man upon her back has instead descended into thinking like a jackass (a male donkey) and it's the female donkey who should be shocked that her once human passenger has become nothing more than a stupid beast.*

*Here is the takeaway and Moses said it best; "Don't bless yourself and say, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.'" Don't descend into such a place of blindness and depravity that you begin to think like an animal! In other words, don't become a jackass who is forced to converse with donkeys.*

#### **THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

**"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 22:28 NKJV

“So he answered and said, **“Must I not take heed to speak what the Lord has put in my mouth?”**” Numbers 23:12 NKJV

“So Balaam answered and said to Balak, **“Did I not tell you, saying, ‘All that the Lord speaks, that I must do’?”**” Numbers 23:26 NKJV

### **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: **For men will be lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, **without self-control**, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**” II Timothy 3:1-5 NKJV

## Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This week's Torah reading tells the story of how Balak hires the occult prophet Balaam to lay a curse on Israel. Balaam meets resistance from God, has a conversation with his donkey and ends up blessing Israel instead of cursing them.

### **Numbers 22**

2. **Balak Sends for Balaam:** The entire narrative begins in Numbers 22 when Balak, the king of the Moabites offers to hire a “prophet” to pronounce curses over Israel because he was sick with dread over how powerful they had become. He was certain they would consume all the resources of his land, if they were not somehow stopped.
3. **First Contact:** Balak sends elders from Moab and Midian with the “**diviner’s fee**” to pay Balaam to come to him and to curse Israel, as he is certain that whomever he blesses is blessed, and whomever he curses is cursed.
4. **God tells Balaam:** “You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.”
5. He tells the elders that Yahweh has not given him permission to go back with them.
6. **Second Contact:** The next day Balak sends “princes” more numerous and more honorable than his previous messengers and tells them to tell Balaam to let nothing hinder him from coming and cursing Israel. He promises Balaam great riches if he would do so!
7. Balaam tells Balak’s entourage that no matter how many riches Balak could offer him, he “could not go beyond the word of Yahweh, to do or say anything outside of Yahweh’s will.” But in surprising fashion he then tells the “more honorable princes” to

hang out over night and that he will **go check if Yahweh** has anything different to say.

8. Yahweh must not have been too happy that Balaam has even given this a second thought, so He gives him very specific instructions that, through a series of supernatural events, will ultimately end with Balaam learning a critical lesson; NEVER second-guess God!
9. Yahweh instructs Balaam to go with the men if they come call on him again, but to include this stipulation; he will deliver ONLY the word which Yahweh speaks.
10. As we witness what happens on Balaam's journey, it would seem that Yahweh needed to teach him a lesson, very likely because he told these men he would go in and inquire of the Lord, again, about Balak's request, even though Yahweh had ALREADY SPOKEN. He should have known that there was no need to ask again.
11. **A Talking Donkey and an Angry Angel:** Yahweh is not happy with Balaam, so he sends an angel to oppose his going. And to reiterate, Yahweh told him to go, apparently as an accommodation for his second-guessing, and as a means to teach him a lesson! The donkey can see the angel with a drawn sword ready to hack Balaam to death. First the donkey turns to go around the angel, then she crushes his foot against the wall

on the side of the path, both diversions prompting Balaam to beat the donkey to go forward. The third time the donkey just lays down in response to the angel completely blocking the path forward and Balaam strikes the donkey with his staff.

12. Then the LORD opens the mouth of the donkey, and she asks Balaam, *“What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”*

13. Balaam answers the donkey, *“Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!”*

14. The donkey talks back again 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?”* Balaam responds again; *“No.”* This is hysterical. Instead of being awed that a donkey is actually talking in the first place, Balaam engages in an argument and threatens her. He literally is trying to reason with a donkey. So, who is the real jack ass here?

15. It takes a supernatural change in vision for Balaam to see what is going on, so **the LORD opens Balaam’s eyes (like Saul/Paul after his road to Damascus take down)**. Now he sees the Angel (probably the pre-incarnate Messiah) with His drawn sword in hand; and the angel explains how the donkey likely saved him from being killed.

16. Balaam now realizes that this is all because he should have never second-guessed God's answer in the first place. *"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."* 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."*
17. Balaam goes back to Balak and reports that he can only declare what Yahweh puts in his mouth. And Balak tries to pay him off again.

### **Numbers 22 into 23**

18. **Balaam's First Prophecy:** Balak takes Balaam up to the high places of Baal so he can see the extent of Israel.
19. Balaam goes off to seek Yahweh's word and comes back with this. Balak is begging him to curse Jacob and denounce Israel! But instead this is his proclamation; *"How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?"*
20. Balaam declares a blessing over the multitude and magnitude of Israel and Balak is irate. Balaam affirms, *"Must I not take heed to speak what the LORD has put in my mouth?"*
21. **Balaam's Second Prophecy:** Balak seeks another perspective and asks Balaam to come to a different high place, a vantage point that will not allow him to view the entire extent of Israel's



encampment! Maybe if he only sees part of them he will prophesy something negative over them.

22. Yahweh meets with Balaam and does give him another word, but Balak will not like it! He is told that unlike man, God does not lie. What he has declared is true and He will make good on His word. He will NOT reverse the blessings. Israel will devour anyone who gets in the way!
23. Balak is distraught and tries to compromise. "Okay, let's do this instead. Neither curse them, nor bless them!" But Balaam will not relent; he is steadfast and will only speak what Yahweh says.

### **Numbers 23 into 24**

24. **Balaam's Third Prophecy:** "Let's try yet another spot for another perspective so you can curse them for me!" Balak begs. In that moment Balaam realizes that the truth is actually quite simple; *"It pleased Yahweh to bless Israel."* So, he will not seek anymore words to the contrary. He looks out over Israel and **the Spirit of God comes upon him.** And he declares the ultimate blessing. He blesses Israel's dwellings, abundance, and seed of the future. He acknowledges their strength and their certain conquest over nations and their enemies. In the end he says, **"Blessed is he who blesses you, and cursed is he who curses you."**
25. Balak is furious. He was willing to pay Balaam a king's ransom to do his bidding and instead he did the EXACT OPPOSITE. Get

out he demands! And Balaam simply reminds him that he told Balak's people right from the start that he would not go beyond what Yahweh tells him!

26. And worse yet, now Balaam tells Balak all that Yahweh has in store for his people and the surrounding area.

27. **Balaam's Forth Prophecy:** *"A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel..."* and batter the brow of Moab; Edom and Seir shall be a possession; Out of Jacob One shall have dominion; Amalek shall perish; and Kain shall be burned.

## **Numbers 25**

28. **Israel's Harlotry in Moab:** Even with all the blessings, the portion finishes with Israel committing **harlotry with the women of Moab;** making sacrifices and bowing down to their gods, and eating their unclean foods.

29. The LORD tells Moses to hang the leaders of the people out in the sun to quench His fierce anger. Righteous **judges are told to kill the men who were joined to Baal, and the slaughter begins.**

30. One harlot comes with her Israelite benefactor and is found weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. And Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, rises up and thrusts a javelin through both of them. This righteous action ends the carnage of Yahweh's judgment.

31. If you'd like to see the last two year's teaching on this Torah Portion, you can see them here: [Flexible Prophets for Hire](#) & [The Insidious Prophet](#)

## A FORM OF GODLINESS

### 1. Pseudo-Spirituality

#### A. Run Away!

##### (1) False Godliness

(a) What is a form of godliness? It when you try real hard to look all spiritual and godly on the outside, but really it's just all pretense. It's the person who appears to be seeking God, when really they are only after what pleases themselves and those whom they wish to impress. They have zero ability to see the truth!

1. "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: **For men will be lovers of themselves,** lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!** For of this sort are those who

creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, **always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**" II Timothy 3:1-7 NKJV

(2) Another Gospel

(a) This may be the crux of the matter—a desire, maybe even an addiction, to please men! This is fuels gospel perversion. *“Preach what others want to hear and they will want to hear what you have to preach!”* It won't be good for the hears, but it will be way worse for the preachers!

1. “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, **to a different gospel**, which is not another; but **there are some who** trouble you and **want to pervert the gospel** of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed**. As we have said before, so now I say again, **if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed**. For do I now persuade men, or God? **Or do I seek to please men?**

For if I still pleased men, I would not be a  
bondservant of Christ.” Galatians 1:6-10 NKJV

(b) Hypocrites! These “form of godliness” imposters don’t  
have a clue to what the are attesting!

1. “desiring to be teachers of the law, **understanding  
neither what they say nor the things which they  
affirm.**” I Timothy 1:7 NKJV

(c) Words of warning! To the preacher: Preach the truth. To  
the hearer: desire the truth and don’t give these teachers  
a platform to spread their poison!

1. “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of  
season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all  
longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come  
**when they will not endure sound doctrine, but  
according to their own desires, because they have  
itching ears, they will heap up for themselves  
teachers;** and they will turn their ears away from the  
truth, and be turned aside to fables.” II Timothy 4:2-4  
NKJV

## **B. Demon-Class**

(1) Pretense: Saying the right thing to look good...

(a) Faith without works is dead!

1. **“You believe** that there is one God. You do well. Even **the demons believe**—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, **that faith without works is dead?**” James 2:19-20 NKJV
  1. Even though faith is all that’s required to have an authentic born-again experience, it can’t stop there. Demons also believe there is one true God. And this is where it gets very sketchy. Believing in God is one thing; living as if what you believe is true is altogether different. Faith alone will bump you up from **atheist-class** (there is no God) to **demon-class** (there is one God, but I am not going to do anything about it!) It’s never good to be placed in the demon-class!
    2. See: [The Coin Has Two Sides](#)
  - (b) To bump up to the save-by-grace-through-faith-class, their must be proof! And that proof is in the works! *“By their fruits you will know them.”* Matthew 7:20
    1. **“Beware of false prophets,** who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad

tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**" Matthew 7:15-20 NKJV

(2) False Prophets and Others...

(a) A Form of Godliness—looking good on the outside even though what is on the inside is nasty, putrid and decaying.

1. "“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.** Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but **inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.**” Matthew 23:27-28 NKJV

2. AGAIN! “desiring to be teachers of the law, **understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.**” I Timothy 1:7 NKJV

(b) What causes this “form of godliness” and how can you spot its purveyors? It’s easy to figure out if you know what you are looking for! Follow the trail; look for those who violate God Word, teach what is contrary to

Scripture, and claim both you and they will be blessed anyway, and nothing bad could possibly happen to you! This is the worst case of idolatry as it creates a god in their own image. And if you attempt to reason with this person, it would be like trying to convince a man, who is inebriated to the point of near unconsciousness, to walk a straight line.

1. **False Teachers:** “so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart **turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods** of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; and so it may not happen, when he **hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’**—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.” Deuteronomy 29:18-19 NKJV
2. **False Prophets:** “They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The Lord has said, “You shall have peace” ’; **And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you.’** ”” Jeremiah 23:17 NKJV



1. **Note:** see Jeremiah 23:1-40 for a full discourse on bad pastors and false prophets!

### C. Saying all the right things

#### (1) A “form” of Godliness

- (a) Hey, listen...I am so godly that I can only do what Yahweh tells me to do. So, don't ask me to do anything that will contradict God. It's like a person who begins a sentence with, “To tell you the truth...” Trust me, if a person must say that, it's likely they are not accustomed to doing so.

1. “So he answered and said, “**Must I not take heed to speak what the Lord has put in my mouth?**””

Numbers 23:12 NKJV

2. “So Balaam answered and said to Balak, “Did I not tell you, saying, ‘**All that the Lord speaks, that I must do?**’”” Numbers 23:26 NKJV

#### (2) The Backstory—Numbers 22

- (a) So, why are you asking in the first place?

1. Balak, the king of the Moabites sends for Balaam and offers to hire a “prophet” to pronounce curses over Israel because he was sick with dread over how powerful Israel had become. He was certain they

would consume all the resources of his land, if they were not somehow stopped.

2. Balak sends elders with the “**diviner’s fee**” to pay Balaam to come to him and to curse Israel. “...*for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.*” Numbers 22:6 NKJV
3. This reminds me of the “pastors-to-the-stars” who are more enamored with rubbing elbows than exposing immorality!
4. God tells Balaam: “*You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.*” Numbers 22:12 NKJV
5. He tells the elders that Yahweh has not given him permission to go back with them.
6. The next day Balak sends “princes” more numerous and more honorable than his previous messengers and tells them to tell Balaam to let nothing hinder him from coming and cursing Israel. He promises Balaam great riches if he would do so!
7. Balaam tells Balak’s entourage... “*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 NKJV

8. That was a great answer on paper, but in practice Balaam seems to be hoping he can take the job! He does tell the “more honorable princes” to hang out over night and that he will **go check if Yahweh** has anything different to say. This is where “his form of godliness” begins to rear it’s ugly head!
9. I can see it in my head. The impressive man of God with his deep baritone voice declaring loudly in all his holiness, *“I could not possibly go beyond the word of the Lord my God.”* And then following that he caves like a star-struck wimp, with a weak breathy vocal instrument, *“But, let me go check again with God to see if I can give what you want sir.”* I want to vomit!
10. Yahweh must not have been too happy that Balaam has even given this a second thought, so He gives him very specific instructions that, through a series of supernatural events, will ultimately end with Balaam learning a critical lesson; NEVER second-guess God!
11. **Side Note:** we know in the end that Balaam is a false prophet because the harlotry committed by Israel at the end of the this narrative in Numbers 25 is actually

inspired by Balaam, and it eventually cost him his life.

- a) “Look, **these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam**, to trespass against the Lord in the incident of Peor [in Numbers 25], and **there was a plague** among the congregation of the Lord.” Numbers 31:16 NKJV
- b) “The children of Israel also **killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the soothsayer [fortune-teller]**, among those who were killed by them.” Joshua 13:22 NKJV [**Downgraded from prophet to soothsayer—is this not exactly what Balak was looking to hire?**]

12. **Back to our narrative:** Yahweh instructs Balaam to go with the men if they come call on him again, but to include this stipulation; he will deliver ONLY the word which Yahweh speaks. ...*“If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do.”*” Numbers 22:20 NKJV

- (b) As we witness what happens on Balaam’s journey, it would seem that Yahweh needed to teach him a lesson, **very likely because he told these men he would go in**

**and inquire of the Lord, again,** about Balak's request, even though Yahweh had ALREADY SPOKEN. He should have known that there was no need to ask again.

1. "So Balaam rose in the morning, **saddled his donkey,** and went with the princes of Moab." Numbers 22:21  
NKJV

## **Summary: A FORM OF GODLINESS**

### **1. Pseudo-Spirituality**

#### **A. Run Away!**

##### (1) False Godliness

- (a) What is a form of godliness? It when you try real hard to look all spiritual and godly on the outside, but really it's just all pretense. It's the person who appears to be seeking God, when really they are only after what pleases themselves and those whom they wish to impress. They have zero ability to see the truth!

##### (2) Another Gospel

- (a) This may be the crux of the matter—a desire, maybe even an addiction, to please men! This is fuels gospel perversion. *"Preach what others want to hear and they will want to hear what you have to preach!"* It won't be

good for the hears, but it will be way worse for the preachers!

- (b) Hypocrites! These “form of godliness” imposters don’t have a clue to what the are attesting!
- (c) Words of warning! To the preacher: Preach the truth. To the hearer: desire the truth and don’t give these teachers a platform to spread their poison!

## **B. Demon-Class**

- (1) Pretense: Saying the right thing to look good...
  - (a) Faith without works is dead! Even though faith is all that’s required to have an authentic born-again experience, it can’t stop there. Demons also believe there is one true God. And this is where it gets very sketchy. Believing in God is one thing; living as if what you believe is true is altogether different. Faith alone will bump you up from **atheist-class** (there is no God) to **demon-class** (there is one God, but I am not going to do anything about it!) It’s never good to be placed in the demon-class!
  - (b) To bump up to the save-by-grace-through-faith-class, their must be proof! And that proof is in the works! “*By their fruits you will know them.*” Matthew 7:20
- (2) False Prophets and Others...

- (a) A Form of Godliness—looking good on the outside even though what is on the inside is nasty, putrid and decaying.
- (b) What causes this “form of godliness” and how can you spot its purveyors? It’s easy to figure out if you know what you are looking for! Follow the trail; look for those who violate God Word, teach what is contrary to Scripture, and claim both you and they will be blessed anyway, and nothing bad could possibly happen to you! This is the worst case of idolatry as it creates a god in their own image. And if you attempt to reason with this person, it would be like trying to convince a man, who is inebriated to the point of near unconsciousness, to walk a straight line.

**C. Saying all the right things**

- (1) A “form” of Godliness
  - (a) Hey, listen...I am so godly that I can only do what Yahweh tells me to do. So, don’t ask me to do anything that will contradict God. It’s like a person who begins a sentence with, “To tell you the truth...” Trust me, if a person must say that, it’s likely they are not accustomed to doing so.
- (2) The Backstory—Numbers 22

(a) So, why are you asking in the first place?

1. Balak, the king of the Moabites sends for Balaam and offers to hire a “prophet” to pronounce curses over Israel because he was sick with dread over how powerful Israel had become. He was certain they would consume all the resources of his land, if they were not somehow stopped.
2. Balak sends elders with the “**diviner’s fee**” to pay Balaam to come to him and to curse Israel.
3. This reminds me of the “pastors-to-the-stars” who are more enamored with rubbing elbows than exposing immorality!
4. God tells Balaam: “You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.”
5. He tells the elders that Yahweh has not given him permission to go back with them.
6. The next day Balak sends “princes” more numerous and more honorable than his previous messengers and tells them to tell Balaam to let nothing hinder him from coming and cursing Israel. He promises Balaam great riches if he would do so!
7. Balaam tells Balak’s entourage...No amount of cash can make me go beyond the word of God.



8. That was a great answer on paper, but in practice Balaam seems to be hoping he can take the job! He then tells the “more honorable princes” to hang out over night and that he will **go check if Yahweh** has anything different to say. This is where “his form of godliness” begins to rear it’s ugly head!
9. I can see it in my head. The impressive man of God with his deep baritone voice declaring loudly in all his holiness, *“I could not possibly go beyond the word of the Lord my God.”* And then following that he caves like a star-struck wimp, with a weak breathy vocal instrument, *“But, let me go check again with God to see if I can give what you want sir.”* I want to vomit!
10. Yahweh must not have been too happy that Balaam has even given this a second thought, so He gives him very specific instructions that, through a series of supernatural events, will ultimately end with Balaam learning a critical lesson; NEVER second-guess God!
11. **Side Note:** we know in the end that Balaam is a false prophet because the harlotry committed by Israel at the end of the this narrative in Numbers 25 is actually

inspired by Balaam, and it eventually cost him his life.

12. **Back to our narrative:** Yahweh instructs Balaam to go with the men if they come call on him again, but to include this stipulation; he will deliver ONLY the word which Yahweh speaks.

(b) As we witness what happens on Balaam's journey, it would seem that Yahweh needed to teach him a lesson, **very likely because he told these men he would go in and inquire of the Lord, again,** about Balak's request, even though Yahweh had ALREADY SPOKEN. He should have known that there was no need to ask again.

## A JACKASS AND HIS DONKEY

### 2. An Eye-Opening Experience

#### A. A Blind Balaam

(1) Keywords

(a) Jackass: (Comic relief!) a word that feels like what it means when it comes out of your mouth!

1. **Definition:** a male donkey

(b) She-ass: the word used in our Balak-Balaam narrative...

1. [Strong's Hebrew 860](#): she-ass, she-donkey

a) Original Word: **יָתוֹן**

- b) Part of Speech: Noun Feminine
- c) Transliteration: athon
- d) Phonetic Spelling: (aw-thone')
- e) **Definition:** a female donkey

(2) A Conversation between a Donkey and a Jackass

- (a) Balaam's conflict with his female donkey (She-ass!).

Notice that the donkey encounters an Angel that Balaam cannot see and does whatever she can to keep Balaam (the blind prophet) from walking dead ahead into his demise!

1. "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 [she-ass], and his two servants were with him. Now the donkey [she-ass] saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey [she-ass] **turned aside** out of the way and went into the field. **So Balaam struck the donkey [she-ass] to turn her back onto the road.** 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. And when the donkey [she-ass] 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. 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. And when the donkey [she-ass] saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; **so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey [she-ass] with his staff.** Numbers 22:22-27 NKJV

(3) The Dialogue

(a) The donkey speaks...why do you keep hitting me?

1. "Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey [she-ass], and she said to Balaam, "**What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?**"

Numbers 22:28 NKJV

(b) The Jackass talks back...Like a jackass, Balaam begins to argue with his donkey! He is so angry that he would slaughter the beast if he had a weapon!

1. "And Balaam said to the donkey [she-ass], "**Because you have abused me.** I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"
- Numbers 22:29 NKJV

- (c) Reasoning between two beasts: The clearly more intelligent creature questions the imbecilic beast about her faithful history!
1. **“So the donkey [she-ass] said** to Balaam, “Am I not your donkey [she-ass] 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 22:30 NKJV
    - a) Who is speaking whose language? It’s clear they are both brute beasts!
- (d) Brute Beasts: they speak evil, have no understanding, are accursed, don’t understand anything. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam (who essentially became beast-like)! Remember these types; they preach another gospel to please men (Galatians 1:6-10) and have no real knowledge about what they espouse (I Timothy 1:7).
1. “But these, **like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand**, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes,

carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, **and are accursed children. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam** the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; **but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet."** II Peter 2:12-16 NKJV

(4) Angels and Intercessors

(a) The Lord opens Balaam's eyes to the Messenger, just like Paul would have his eyes opened. I would have killed you because of your perversity had your donkey not saved you. It is perverse that you needed to inquire of me AGAIN after I told you "No!" already!

1. **"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. And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey [she-ass] these three times? Behold, **I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse**

**before Me. The donkey [she-ass] 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 NKJV

(b) Balaam repents, or does he? Certainly we know in the end this is just lip service, as he ultimately perishes as a soothsaying harlotry-promoting fraud. And think about it. He is under the impression that he sinned by not recognizing the Angel right away. He remained blind even after his eyes are opened, blind to the fact that his real sin was going in the first place.

1. “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.**” 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 NKJV

(5) Who’s the real jackass?

(a) Any advice from Balaam can be considered the blind leading the blind. Again, it’s all lip service with a heart

that would rather please men. The only place you will wind up if you follow a blind soothsayer is in a ditch!

1. “And He spoke a parable to them: **“Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?”**

Luke 6:39 NKJV

2. “Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: **‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.** And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as **doctrines the commandments of men.’** ”  
When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “Hear and understand: Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.” Then His disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. **They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.**”” Matthew 15:7-14 NKJV

(6) Animal Instincts: and it’s not a compliment...



(a) Nebuchadnezzar is told he will take his place alongside the beasts in the field for his rebellion and pride. Think about reasoning with a Jackass!

1. “this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my Lord the king: They shall drive you from men, **your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen.** They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. “And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules. Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; **break off your sins by being righteous,** and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.”” Daniel 4:24-27  
NKJV

(b) Nebuchadnezzar was humbled by God for boasting about his achievements, lost his sanity and lived like an animal for seven years. His sanity and kingdom were

later restored when he repented and honored God, unlike Balaam whose repentance was inauthentic (Think Brute Beast: II Peter 2:12-16)!

1. “All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” While the word was still in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! **And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field.** They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.” That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning **Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.** And at the end of the time I, **Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven,**

**and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:** For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, **“What have You done?”** **At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me.** My counselors and nobles resorted to me, **I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.** **Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven,** all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.” Daniel 4:28-37 NKJV

## **B. A Blind Paul**

### (1) Blindness

- (a) Paul was following the dictates of his own heart and it took a violent encounter (like Balaam’s) to open his eyes. Ironically, first he had to realize he was blind, only to have his eyes opened again later on (Acts 9:18)! Paul

was instantly authentically repentant as evidenced by...

*“Lord, what do You want me to do?”*

1. “Then Saul, still **breathing threats and murder against the disciples** of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and **suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground**, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, **“Who are You, Lord?”** **Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus**, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” So he, trembling and astonished, said, **“Lord, what do You want me to do?”** Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. **Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one.** But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he

was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.” Acts 9:1-9 NKJV

## **Summary: A JACKASS AND HIS DONKEY**

### **2. An Eye-Opening Experience**

#### **A. A Blind Balaam**

##### (1) Keywords

(a) Jackass: (Comic relief!) a word that feels like what it means when it comes out of your mouth!

1. **Definition:** a male donkey

(b) She-ass: the word used in our Balak-Balaam narrative...

##### (2) A Conversation between a Donkey and a Jackass

(a) Balaam’s conflict with his female donkey (She-ass!).

Notice that the donkey encounters an Angel that Balaam cannot see and does whatever she can to keep Balaam (the blind prophet) from walking dead ahead into his demise!

##### (3) The Dialogue

(a) The donkey speaks...why do you keep hitting me?

(b) The Jackass talks back...Like a jackass, Balaam begins to argue with his donkey! He is so angry that he would slaughter the beast if he had a weapon!

- (c) Reasoning between two beasts: The clearly more intelligent creature questions the imbecilic beast about her faithful history!
  - (d) Who is speaking whose language? It's clear they are both brute beasts!
  - (e) Brute Beasts: they speak evil, have no understanding, are accursed, don't understand anything. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam (who essentially became beast-like)! Remember these types; they preach another gospel to please men (Galatians 1:6-10) and have no real knowledge about what they espouse (I Timothy 1:7).
- (4) Angels and Intercessors
- (a) The Lord opens Balaam's eyes to the Messenger, just like Paul would have his eyes opened. I would have killed you because of your perversity had your donkey not saved you. It is perverse that you needed to inquire of me AGAIN after I told you "No!" already!
  - (b) Balaam repents, or does he? Certainly we know in the end this is just lip service, as he ultimately perishes as a soothsaying harlotry-promoting fraud. And think about it. He is under the impression that he sinned by not recognizing the Angel right away. He remained blind

even after his eyes are opened, blind to the fact that his real sin was going in the first place.

(5) Who's the real jackass?

(a) Any advice from Balaam can be considered the blind leading the blind. Again, it's all lip service with a heart that would rather please men. The only place you will wind up if you follow a blind soothsayer is in a ditch!

(6) Animal Instincts: and it's not a compliment...

(a) Nebuchadnezzar is told he will take his place alongside the beasts in the field for his rebellion and pride. Think about reasoning with a Jackass!

(b) Nebuchadnezzar was humbled by God for boasting about his achievements, lost his sanity and lived like an animal for seven years. His sanity and kingdom were later restored when he repented and honored God, unlike Balaam whose repentance was inauthentic (Think Brute Beast: II Peter 2:12-16)!

## **B. A Blind Paul**

(1) Blindness

(a) Paul was following the dictates of his own heart and it took a violent encounter (like Balaam's) to open his eyes. Ironically, first he had to realize he was blind, only to have his eyes opened again later on (Acts 9:18)! Paul

was instantly authentically repentant as evidenced by...  
*“Lord, what do You want me to do?”*

## NO SHADOW OF TURNING

### 3. You should take God at His word!

#### A. Even if you keep asking, Yahweh will NOT change His answer!

(1) Balak's asks over and over again!

(a) Balak takes Balaam up to the high places of Baal so he can see the extent of Israel. Balaam goes off to seek Yahweh's word. Balak is begging him to curse Jacob and denounce Israel! But instead this is his proclamation...

1. “How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?” Numbers 23:8 NKJV

(b) Balak is clearly dissatisfied that he did not get what he's “paying for!”

1. “Then Balak said to Balaam, **“What have you done** to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and look, you have blessed them bountifully!”” Numbers 23:11 NKJV

(c) Balaam declares a blessing over the multitude and magnitude of Israel and Balak is irate. Balaam affirms



God's word as if should have been obvious. Nothing is obvious with Balaam.

1. "**Must I not take heed** to speak what the LORD has put in my mouth?" Numbers 23:12 NKJV

(d) Balak seeks another perspective and asks Balaam to come to a different high place, a vantage point that will not allow him to view the entire extent of Israel's encampment! Maybe if he only sees part of them he will prophesy something negative over them.

1. "Then Balak said to him, "**Please come with me to another place** from which you may see them; you shall see only the outer part of them, **and shall not see them all;** curse them for me from there.""

Numbers 23:13 NKJV

(2) Yahweh does what Yahweh says!

(a) Yahweh meets with Balaam and does give him another word, but Balak will not like it! He is told that unlike man, **God does not lie**. What he has declared is true and **He will make good on His word**. He will NOT reverse the blessings. Israel will devour anyone who gets in the way!

1. ""**God is not a man, that He should lie**, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will

He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? **Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.**" Numbers 23:19-20 NKJV

2. **““For there is no sorcery against Jacob,** Nor any divination against Israel. It now must be said of Jacob And of Israel, ‘Oh, what God has done!’” Numbers 23:23 NKJV

(b) Balak is distraught and tries to compromise. “Okay, let’s do this instead. Neither curse them, nor bless them!” But Balaam will not relent; he is temporarily steadfast and will only speak what Yahweh says.

1. “So he answered and said, **“Must I not take heed** to speak what the Lord has put in my mouth?”” Numbers 23:12 NKJV

2. “So Balaam answered and said to Balak, **“Did I not tell you,** saying, ‘All that the Lord speaks, that I must do’?”” Numbers 23:26 NKJV

(3) Try yet another perspective—surely this will change God’s mind!

(a) “Let’s try yet another spot for another perspective so you can curse them for me!” Balak begs. In that

moment Balaam realizes that the truth is actually quite simple...

1. "It pleased Yahweh to bless Israel." Numbers 24:1

NKJV

(b) Finally—he will not seek anymore words to the contrary. He looks out over Israel and **the Spirit of God comes upon him**. And he declares the ultimate blessing. He blesses Israel's dwellings, abundance, and seed of the future. He acknowledges their strength and their certain conquest over nations and their enemies. In the end he says...

1. "Blessed is he who blesses you, and cursed is he who curses you." Numbers 24:9 NKJV

(c) Balak is furious. He was willing to pay Balaam a king's ransom to do his bidding and instead he did the EXACT OPPOSITE. Get out he demands! And Balaam simply reminds him that he told Balak's people right from the start that he would not go beyond what Yahweh tells him! (Wow, Balaam fancies himself quite the obedient servant, however, he would not even been in this spot if you was truly obedient.) And worse yet, now Balaam tells Balak all that Yahweh has in store for his people and the surrounding area.

1. "A Star shall come out of Jacob; **A Scepter shall rise out of Israel...**" and **batter the brow...** shall be a possession; Out of Jacob One shall have dominion... Amalek shall perish; and Kain shall be burned.  
Numbers 24:17-22 NKJV

(4) God is always the same!

- (a) "He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?" **"Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you."** Numbers 24:9  
NKJV

1. **To Abram:** "I will **bless those who bless you**, And I will **curse him who curses you**; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:3  
NKJV
2. **To Israel:** "Also the Lord your God will put all these **curse on your enemies and on those who hate you**, who persecuted you." Deuteronomy 30:7 NKJV
3. **To Israel and Judah:** "Their children also shall be as before, And their congregation shall be established before Me; And **I will punish all who oppress them.**"  
Jeremiah 30:20 NKJV

## **B. God does not change!**

- (1) God is not a man, that He should lie...

(a) He makes good in what He says...

1. **““God is not a man, that He should lie,** Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” Numbers 23:19 NKJV

(b) He never strays off course...

1. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom **there is no variation or shadow of turning.**” James 1:17 NKJV

(c) He never changes...

1. **““For I am the Lord, I do not change;** Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” Says the Lord of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’” Malachi 3:6-7 NKJV

(d) He is the same forever...

1. **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today,** and forever.” Hebrews 13:8 NKJV

(e) His words stands forever...

1. "The grass withers, the flower fades, **But the word of our God stands forever.**" Isaiah 40:8 NKJV

(f) He cannot deny himself...

1. "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; **He cannot deny Himself.**" II Timothy 2:13 NKJV

(g) His counsel stands forever...

1. "**The counsel of the Lord stands forever**, The plans of His heart to all generations." Psalms 33:11 NKJV

(h) He finishes what He starts...

1. "looking unto Jesus, **the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."  
Hebrews 12:2 NKJV

(2) Object Lesson!

(a) Ananias and Sapphira (Lying to the Holy Spirit). Don't test God. You may not get warnings like Balaam and Paul did.

1. "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "**Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart**

**to lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**" Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." Then Peter said to her, "**How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?** Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things." Acts 5:1-11 NKJV

- (3) Right Thinking—protection against Jackassitis (On what you ought to be investing your time thinking.)
- (a) Meditate on these things...These do!
1. “Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy**—**meditate on these things**. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, **these do**, and the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:8-9 NKJV
- (b) What are the “These” things we should meditate upon?
1. Truth—reality, worth the time attention, and energy
    - a) **The Word is Truth!** “The entirety of Your **word is truth**, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.” Psalms 119:160 NKJV
    - b) “Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth.**” John 17:17 NKJV
    - c) “Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life**. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6 NKJV
  2. Noble—royal, golden, highness



- a) **Search the Word!** “These were more **fair-minded [noble]** than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures** daily to find out whether these things were so.” Acts 17:11 NKJV
3. Just—justice, fairness, equity
  - a) **Do Justice!** “It is a joy for the just to **do justice**, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.” Proverbs 21:15 NKJV
  - b) **Seek Justice!** “Learn to do good; **Seek justice**, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.” Isaiah 1:17 NKJV
  - c) **Follow Justice!** “You shall **follow what is altogether just**, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.” Deuteronomy 16:20 NKJV
4. Purity—undefiled, unmixed, whole, with integrity
  - a) **Pure in Heart!** “Blessed are the **pure in heart**, For they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8 NKJV
  - b) **Cleanse Your Way!** “How can a young man **cleanse his way [be pure]**? By taking heed according to Your word.” Psalms 119:9 NKJV

- c) **Seek Holiness!** “For God did not call us to **uncleanness [impurity]**, but in **holiness.**” 1 Thessalonians 4:7 NKJV
- d) **Pure Eyes!** “You are of **purser eyes** than to behold evil, And **cannot look on wickedness.** Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?” Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV
5. Lovely—Things which are beautiful in God’s eyes
- a) **Those who bring good news!** “How **beautiful** upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings **good news**, Who proclaims **peace**, Who brings **glad tidings** of good things, Who proclaims **salvation**, Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”” Isaiah 52:7 NKJV
- b) **His Name is Lovely!** “Praise the LORD! **Praise the name** of the LORD; Praise Him, O you servants of the LORD! You who stand in the house of the LORD, In the courts of the house of our God, Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises to **His name**, for it is pleasant [lovely].” Psalms 135:1-3 NKJV

- c) **Praise is Lovely!** “Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful [lovely].” Psalms 147:1 NKJV
6. Good Report—uplifting conversation
- a) Let God be true and every man a liar. **Whose report shall you believe? I shall believe the report of the Lord**
  - b) **No Corrupt Talking!** “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29 NKJV
  - c) **Health to the Core!** “The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, And **a good report makes the bones healthy.**” Proverbs 15:30 NKJV
7. Virtue—what is right in God’s eyes
- a) **Do Good!** “Therefore, to him who knows to **do good** and does not do it, to him it is sin.” James 4:17 NKJV
  - b) **A Man after God’s Heart!** “But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself **a man after His own heart**, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His

people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.” I Samuel 13:14 NKJV

c) **Walk in Integrity!** “He who walks with **integrity** walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.” Proverbs 10:9 NKJV

8. Praiseworthy—things Yahweh would be proud of

a) “Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 NKJV

b) **His Wonderful Works!** “We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.”  
Psalms 78:4

c) **For Mighty Acts!** “Who can utter the **mighty acts** of the LORD? Who can declare all His praise?”  
Psalms 106:2 NKJV

d) **For His Holy Name!** “Save us, O LORD our God, And gather us from among the Gentiles, To give thanks to **Your holy name**, To triumph in Your praise.” Psalms 106:47 NKJV

## Summary: NO SHADOW OF TURNING

### 3. You should take God at His word!

#### A. Even if you keep asking, Yahweh will NOT change His answer!

(1) Balak's asks over and over again!

- (a) Balak takes Balaam up to the high places of Baal so he can see the extent of Israel. Balaam goes off to seek Yahweh's word. Balak is begging him to curse Jacob and denounce Israel! But instead this is his proclamation...
- (b) Balak is clearly dissatisfied that he did not get what he's "paying for!"
- (c) Balaam declares a blessing over the multitude and magnitude of Israel and Balak is irate. Balaam affirms God's word as if should have been obvious. Nothing is obvious with Balaam.
- (d) Balak seeks another perspective and asks Balaam to come to a different high place, a vantage point that will not allow him to view the entire extent of Israel's encampment! Maybe if he only sees part of them he will prophesy something negative over them.

(2) Yahweh does what Yahweh says!

- (a) Yahweh meets with Balaam and does give him another word, but Balak will not like it! He is told that unlike

man, **God does not lie.** What he has declared is true and **He will make good on His word.** He will NOT reverse the blessings. Israel will devour anyone who gets in the way!

- (b) Balak is distraught and tries to compromise. “Okay, let’s do this instead. Neither curse them, nor bless them!” But Balaam will not relent; he is temporarily steadfast and will only speak what Yahweh says.
- (3) Try yet another perspective—surely this will change God’s mind! “Let’s try yet another spot for another perspective so you can curse them for me!” Balak begs. In that moment Balaam realizes that the truth is actually quite simple...
- (4) Finally—he will not seek anymore words to the contrary. He looks out over Israel and **the Spirit of God comes upon him.** And he declares the ultimate blessing. He blesses Israel’s dwellings, abundance, and seed of the future. He acknowledges their strength and their certain conquest over nations and their enemies. In the end he says...
- (5) Balak is furious. He was willing to pay Balaam a king’s ransom to do his bidding and instead he did the EXACT OPPOSITE. Get out he demands! And Balaam simply reminds him that he told Balak’s people right from the start that he would not go beyond what Yahweh tells him!

(Wow, Balaam fancies himself quite the obedient servant, however, he would not even been in this spot if you was truly obedient.) And worse yet, now Balaam tells Balak all that Yahweh has in store for his people and the surrounding area.

(6) God is always the same!

**B. God does not change!**

(1) God is not a man, that He should lie...

- (a) He makes good in what He says...
- (b) He never strays off course...
- (c) He never changes...
- (d) He is the same forever...
- (e) His words stands forever...
- (f) He cannot deny himself...
- (g) His counsel stands forever...
- (h) He finishes what He starts...

(2) Object Lesson!

- (a) Ananias and Sapphira (Lying to the Holy Spirit). Don't test God. You may not get warnings like Balaam and Paul did.

(3) Right Thinking—protection against Jackassitis (On what you ought to be investing your time thinking.)

- (a) Meditate on these things...These do!

(b) What are the “These” things we should meditate upon?

1. Truth—reality, worth the time attention, and energy
2. Noble—royal, golden, highness
3. Just—justice, fairness, equity
4. Purity—undefiled, unmixed, whole, with integrity
5. Lovely—Things which are beautiful in God’s eyes
6. Good Report—uplifting conversation
7. Virtue—what is right in God’s eyes
8. Praiseworthy—things Yahweh would be proud of

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### 1. **Scripture warns about those engaged in a “form of Godliness”:**

- A. Use II Timothy 3:1-7, Galatians 1:6-10 and I Timothy 1:7 to describe what they look like, what they do, what will happen to them, and what you should do when you encounter them.
- B. II Timothy 4:2-4 paints a gloomy picture of a future church that seems to invite these types of teachers. Please explain.
- C. Use James 2:19-20 to describe a level of faith that puts you in the same category as demons.
- D. How does Y’shua describe those practicing a “form of godliness” in Matthew 23:27-28?
- E. What causes this “form of godliness” and how can you spot its purveyors? (See: Deuteronomy 29:18-19; Jeremiah 23:17)



- F. Bonus: read Jeremiah 23 and catalogue the character traits of bad pastors and false prophets.

**2. Read Numbers 22:1-20**

- A. What is Balaam being asked to do?
- B. What is he offered?
- C. What is Balaam's response?
- D. What is Balaam's greatest error?

**3. Balaam's donkey encounter begins in Numbers 22:21...**

- A. In Numbers 22:22-27, why does Balaam want to kill his female donkey?
- B. What are the three things the donkey does?
- C. What conversation does Balaam have with his donkey in Numbers 22:28-30.

**4. Who is the real jackass in this story and why?**

- A. Read II Peter 2:12-16 and Daniel 4:24-37 to get a better understanding about brute beasts.
- B. Balaam is consider a prophet in Numbers; what does Joshua consider him in Joshua 13:22? What is the difference?
- C. What character defects in Nebuchadnezzar made him a brute beast in and Daniel 4:24-37?

**5. Both Balaam and Paul needed there eyes to be opened:**

- A. Relate their stories with one another from Numbers 22:31-33 and Acts 9:1-18.

- B. How are they similar? How are they the same?
  - C. Relate their blindness to Luke 6:39 and Matthew 15:7-14.
  - D. How might Y'shua words relate to Balaam? *"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me."*
  - E. What does the Angel tell Balaam to do? (See: Numbers 22:34-35)
- 6. No matter how many times Balak asks or Balaam inquires, God's answer remains the same (See Numbers 23:19-20):**
- A. Read all of Numbers 23 and 24 and write a short narrative describing the events. (Please pay special attention to Balak's insistence on changing vantage points as to influence Balaam's perspective.)
  - B. What is the ultimate outcome? (Hint: Numbers 23:12, 26)
- 7. We can be sure Yahweh will not change His mind as we see in Numbers 23:19:**
- A. Use the following scriptures to support this truth by writing one paragraph that summarizes all of them together. (See: Malachi 3:6-7; Hebrews 13:8; Isaiah 40:8; II Timothy 2:13; Psalms 33:11; Hebrews 12:2; Acts 5:1-11)
- 8. Instead of trying to change God, what might be a better approach?**
- A. Use Philippians 4:8-9 to support your answer.