

BALAAAM AND THE DONKEY

Numbers 22:1-35

Numbers 22

¹Then the Israelites traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.

²Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites, ³and Moab was terrified because there were so many people. Indeed, Moab was filled with dread because of the Israelites.

⁴The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, “This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.”

So Balak son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, ⁵sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor, who was at Pethor, near the River, in his native land. Balak said:

“A people has come out of Egypt; they cover the face of the land and have settled next to me. ⁶Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the country. For I know that those you bless are blessed, and those you curse are cursed.”

⁷The elders of Moab and Midian left, taking with them the fee for divination. When they came to Balaam, they told him what Balak had said.

⁸“Spend the night here,” Balaam said to them, “and I will bring you back the answer the LORD gives me.” So the Moabite princes stayed with him.

⁹God came to Balaam and asked, “Who are these men with you?”

¹⁰Balaam said to God, “Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent me this message: ¹¹‘A people that has come out of Egypt covers the face of the land. Now come and put a curse on them for me. Perhaps then I will be able to fight them and drive them away.’”

¹²But God said to Balaam, “Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed.”

¹³The next morning Balaam got up and said to Balak’s princes, “Go back to your own country, for the LORD has refused to let me go with you.”

¹⁴So the Moabite princes returned to Balak and said, “Balaam refused to come with us.”

¹⁵Then Balak sent other princes, more numerous and more distinguished than the first. ¹⁶They came to Balaam and said:

“This is what Balak son of Zippor says: Do not let anything keep you from coming to me, ¹⁷because I will reward you handsomely and do whatever you say. Come and put a curse on these people for me.”

¹⁸But Balaam answered them, “Even if Balak gave me his palace filled with silver and gold, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the LORD my God. ¹⁹Now stay here tonight as the others did, and I will find out what else the LORD will tell me.”

²⁰That night God came to Balaam and said, “Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you.”

²¹Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. ²²But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road.

²⁴Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with walls on both sides. ²⁵When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam’s foot against it. So he beat her again.

²⁶Then the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. ²⁷When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat her with his staff. ²⁸Then the LORD opened the donkey’s mouth, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?”

²⁹Balaam answered the donkey, “You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.”

³⁰The donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?”

“No,” he said.

³¹Then the LORD opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.

³²The angel of the LORD asked him, “Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. ³³The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her.”

³⁴Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, “I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back.”

³⁵The angel of the LORD said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) Why did the king of Moab want to talk to Balaam?
5		2.) What happened while Balaam was on the donkey?
5		3.) What did the donkey say to Balaam?
5		4.) Why do you think God sent an angel to Balaam?

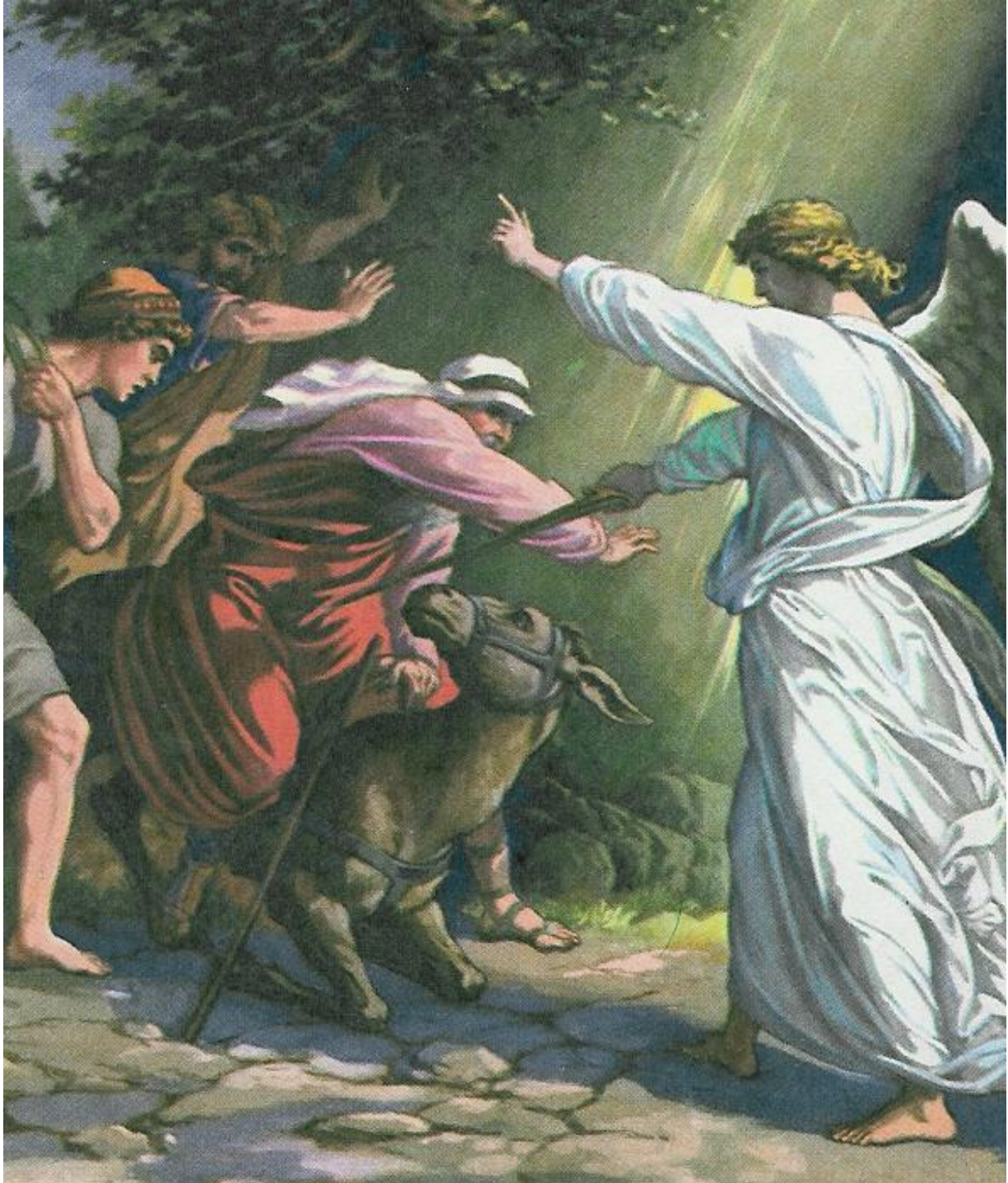
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Proverbs 15:3</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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Numbers 22:1-35



Picture from *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes* by Kenneth N. Taylor. Moody Press: Copyright © 1956.

BALAAM AND THE DONKEY

Numbers 22:1-35



Balaam rides his donkey to visit Balak, king of Moab

BALAAAM AND THE DONKEY

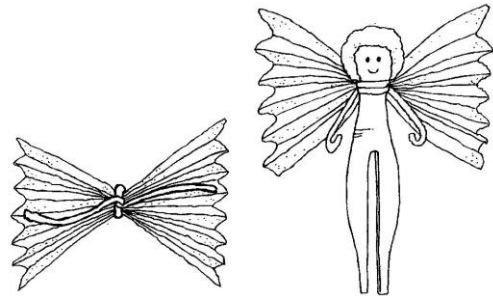
Numbers 22:1-35

CRAFT/ACTIVITY: CLOTHESPIN ANGELS

Students will make a Clothespin Angel to remind them that God sent an angel to oppose Balaam because he was going to put a curse on God's people, the Israelites.

MATERIALS

1. Wooden clothespins (non-spring type)
2. Pipe Cleaners (Chenille Wire)
3. Tissue Paper (cut in 3 X 6 inch pieces)
4. Cotton Balls
5. Glue
6. Black Markers



DIRECTIONS

1. Pass out a clothespin, 3 X 6 inch piece of tissue paper, cotton ball, and half of pipe cleaner to each student.
2. Have students pinch the tissue paper together in the center to make the wings. Help students by twisting the pipe cleaner around the center of the tissue paper (see sketch above).
3. Have students place the wings against the back of the clothespin while you wrap the pipe cleaner around the neck of the clothespin twice.
4. Instruct students to bend the extra pipe cleaner into the shape of hands.
5. Pull the cotton ball apart to make it flat and then glue it to the top of the clothespin for hair.
6. Use markers to draw a face.

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are working on their angels, remind them that the angel appeared three times, but was unseen by Balaam. His donkey saw the angel all three times, but it was not until Balaam's eyes were opened by God that Balaam finally saw the angel. Remind students that sometimes we are like Balaam. We do not pay attention to what God wants us to do. Encourage students to pray daily and ask God to help them do what please Him.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 10 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good." Proverbs 15:3

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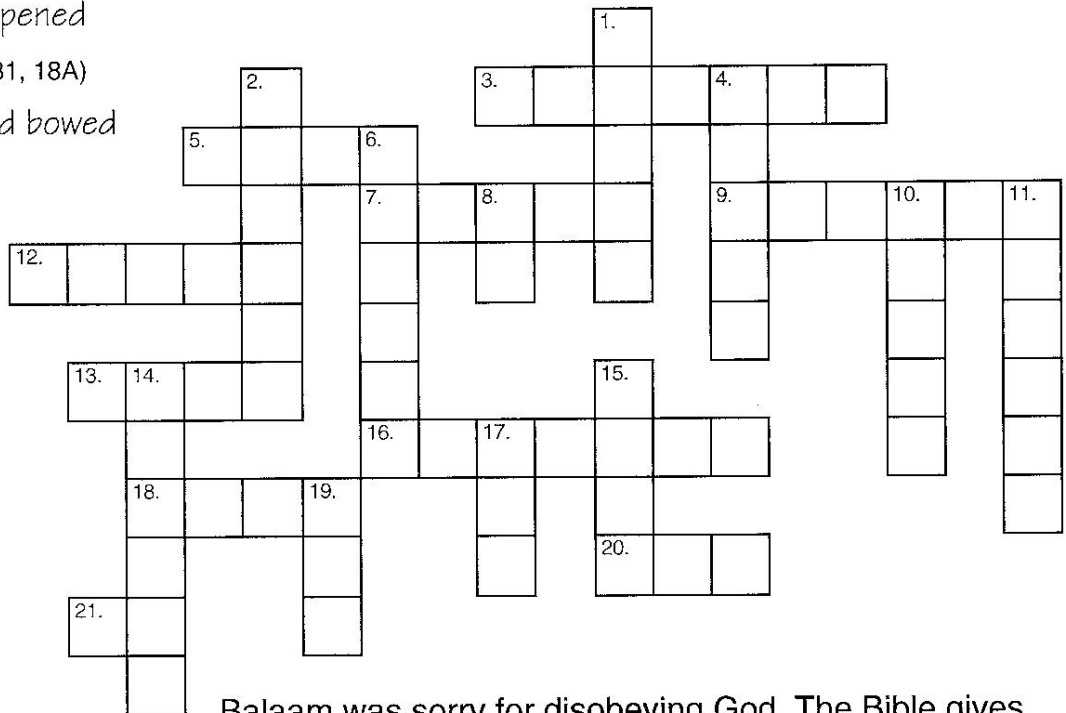
Numbers 22:1-35

Fill in the blanks in the story below about Balaam. Use the Bible verses (Numbers 22) to help you. Then fill in the crossword puzzle with these same words. (A = across; D = down)

The Israelites had come to the _____ (v. 1, 2D) River. The nearby people of _____ (v. 3, 5A) were afraid of them. The king of Moab sent men to _____. (v. 5, 6D) He wanted Balaam to _____ (v. 6, 4D) the Israelites. Balaam asked the men to _____ (v. 8, 12A) the night. That night, God asked Balaam who the men were. Balaam said, "They brought me a _____ (v. 10, 16A) from the king." God told Balaam, "Do not _____ (v. 12, 8D) with the men." Then the king sent more _____ (v. 15, 3A) to Balaam. They said, "The king will _____ (v. 17, 9A) you." Balaam got on his _____ (v. 21, 11D) and started out. God was _____ (v. 22, 10D) with Balaam for going. The _____ (v. 22, 7A) of the Lord stood in the road. The donkey _____ (v. 23, 17D) the angel. The donkey turned off the road into a _____, (v. 23, 1D) and Balaam beat her. The angel stood in the road again, and the donkey crushed Balaam's foot against the _____. (v. 25, 15D) Next, the angel stood in a narrow place in the road. The donkey _____ (v. 27, 20A) down. Balaam beat his donkey with his staff. The Lord _____ (v. 28, 14D) the donkey's mouth. She asked, "Why did you beat _____?"

(v. 28, 21A) The Lord opened Balaam's _____. (v. 31, 18A) He saw the angel and bowed _____ (v. 31, 13A)

Then Balaam confessed his _____ (v. 34, 19D) to the Lord.



Balaam was sorry for disobeying God. The Bible gives us God's rules for our lives. Will you try to obey them?

THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON NUMBERS 22:1-35

BALAAAM AND THE DONKEY



The Israelites traveled to the plains of Moab near the Jordan river. Balak, the king of Moab, was scared of the Israelites because they had already taken the land of the Amorites and the land of Bashan. Balak was afraid that the land of Moab would be attacked too.

Balak sent messengers to a man named Balaam to have him come and put a curse on the Israelites. God spoke to Balaam and told him not to put a curse on the Israelites because they were blessed.

Balak sent even more messengers to Balaam to convince him to put a curse on the Israelites.

The next morning, Balaam got on his donkey to go see the king. God was angry with Balaam. He sent an angel with a sword to keep Balaam from speaking to the king. Balaam, however, did not see the angel, but his donkey did. His donkey would not go forward. Balaam began to beat his donkey.

The Lord opened the donkey's mouth and she said, "What have I done to you to make you beat me three times?"

Balaam answered, "You have made a fool of me."

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road. Balaam bowed low and fell facedown. Balaam realized that he had sinned.

The Lord was trying to keep Balaam from doing something foolish on his own.

Balaam was going to turn around and go home but the Lord allowed Balaam to go to the king after all. The Lord told Balaam, "Speak only what I tell you." The Lord would give Balaam the words to speak.

To find out more, read Numbers 22:1-35 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the king want to talk to Balaam?
2. What happened while Balaam was on the donkey?
3. What did the donkey say to Balaam?
4. Why do you think God sent an angel to Balaam?

MEMORY VERSE

"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good."
Proverbs 15:3

BREAK THE CODE

2 5 4 6 7 11 8 4 12

13 4 9 1 11

2 7 3 10 4 1 8 .

1=A	2=T	3=S	4=E
5=H	6=D	7=O	8=K
9=G	10=P	11=N	12=Y
13=B			