

Is THAT really in the Bible???

Talking Donkeys

1. Read Numbers 22:1-8. Who is Balaak? What was he afraid of? What message did he send to Balaam? Why didn't Balaak just curse the Israelites himself? Why did he want Balaam to do it? (v.6)
2. Read Numbers 22:9-14. What was God's very clear answer to Balaam? Do you think Balaam was a true prophet of God? What do you know about Old Testament prophets? What special gift did they seem to have that set them apart from other people? (Numbers 12:6)
3. Read Numbers 22:15-18. What was King Balaak trying to bribe Balaam with? What was Balaam's answer to the King's bribes? Why do you think Balaam refused to disobey God? (Deut 18:20)
4. Reread Numbers 22:18,19. What changes between verse 18 and 19? Why do you think Balaam suddenly wants to seek the Lord more about this issue? What do you think he is hoping will happen?
5. Read Numbers 22:20-22. Why was the Lord angry, if He told Balaam it was ok to go with the Midianites? Have you ever let your kid do something they were adamant about even when you had already said, "no"? Why did you give in? Why do you think God gave in?
6. Read Numbers 22:23-28. How would you react if your pet dog or cat, suddenly spoke in clear English? Why do you think God allowed the donkey to speak?
7. What do you know about donkeys? What kind of words would you use to describe them? What does Proverbs 26:3-4 compare a donkey to? What does Ezekiel 23:20 say about donkeys? Where does Job 39:5-8 say a donkey likes to roam?
8. Read Numbers 22:29. Why do you think Balaam was so harsh with his donkey? Who do you think has the better ability at this point to see and hear God, the Prophet or the donkey? Who do you think has the purest motives?
9. Read Numbers 22:30-33. Why was the Lord opposing Balaam? What does 2 Peter 2:15,16 say Balaam loved more than obeying God?
10. In the next couple chapters Balaam pronounces 3 different oracles of blessing on the children of Israel. When King Balaak questions him in anger, asking why he would choose to turn down honor, Balaam again responds, "If Balaak should give me his house full of silver and gold, I would not be able to go beyond the word of the Lord, to do either good or bad of my own will." (Numbers 24:13). Is that comforting to you to know that man cannot go against the word of the Lord? Do you think preachers with wrong motives can still preach God's Word and see salvations? (Isaiah 55:11). What holds more power, the messenger or the message?
11. What is more surprising to you in this passage, that God allowed a dumb donkey to speak or that God allowed a messed up, greedy man to speak His Word?
12. Read Exodus 34:20. What must be redeemed according to this scripture?

Listen to my commentary on this: The only way a donkey could live was if a lamb was slain for it. I like this analogy. Because we know the lamb speaks of Jesus, it's not too

difficult to figure out who the donkey represents...A week before He would go to Calvary, Jesus said to His disciples, "Go into the village and you'll see a donkey. Untie it and bring it to Me. And if anyone asks why you are untying it, tell him the Lord has need of it" (Matthew 21:3).

"I choose a donkey," Jesus said. "Let Alexander the Great ride on the back of his mighty black stallion. Let the Romans ride their dazzling white horses. I'll use a donkey."

Jesus wants to enter your city, your workplace, your family. And He chooses to use you as a means of getting there.

"How can He use me?" you ask. "I'm nothing but a foolish, wilderness wandering, dull, sleepy and non-verbal donkey."

*That's right. **And He loves using donkeys** – the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27).*

13. How does knowing this empower you to not be intimidated by the super preachers and power prophets of our day?