

# TALKING DONKEYS?

STRANGE  
THINGS

Part 4

June 10, 2018

Pastor Brian



## Numbers 22:21–35 (NLT)

<sup>21</sup> So the next morning Balaam got up, saddled his donkey, and started off with the Moabite officials. <sup>22</sup> But God was angry that Balaam was going, so he sent the angel of the LORD to stand in the road to block his way. As Balaam and two servants were riding along, <sup>23</sup> Balaam's donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand. The donkey bolted off the road into a field, but Balaam beat it and turned it back onto the road. <sup>24</sup> Then the angel of the LORD stood at a place where the road narrowed between two vineyard walls. <sup>25</sup> When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it tried to squeeze by and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. So Balaam beat the donkey again. <sup>26</sup> Then the angel of the LORD moved farther down the road and stood in a place too narrow for the donkey to get by at all. <sup>27</sup> This time when the donkey saw the angel, it lay down under Balaam. In a fit of rage Balaam beat the animal again with his staff.

<sup>28</sup> Then the LORD gave the donkey the ability to speak. "What have I done to you that deserves your beating me three times?" it asked Balaam.

<sup>29</sup> "You have made me look like a fool!" Balaam shouted. "If I had a sword with me, I would kill you!"

<sup>30</sup> "But I am the same donkey you have ridden all your life," the donkey answered. "Have I ever done anything like this before?"

"No," Balaam admitted.

<sup>31</sup> Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the roadway with a drawn sword in his hand. Balaam bowed his head and fell face down on the ground before him.

<sup>32</sup> "Why did you beat your donkey those three times?" the angel of the LORD demanded. "Look, I have come to block your way because you are stubbornly resisting me. <sup>33</sup> Three times the donkey saw me and shied away; otherwise, I would certainly have killed you by now and spared the donkey."

<sup>34</sup> Then Balaam confessed to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned. I didn't realize you were standing in the road to block my way. I will return home if you are against my going."

<sup>35</sup> But the angel of the LORD told Balaam, "Go with these men, but say only what I tell you to say." So Balaam went on with Balak's officials.

## CENTRAL TRUTH:

**GOD IS ALWAYS SPEAKING AND GUIDING.**

*"For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it." (Job 33:14, NLT)*

*"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, you will hear a voice saying, 'This is the road! Now follow it.'" (Isaiah 30:21, CEV)*

*"I will instruct you (says the Lord) and guide you along the best pathway for your life..." (Psalm 32:8, The Living Bible)*

*"The LORD guides people in the way they should go and protects those who please him." (Psalm 37:23, GNB)*

# **HOW GOD GUIDES US**

## **1. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES.**

*"Then the LORD gave the donkey the ability to speak." (Numbers 22:28a, NLT)*

*"But the LORD hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart." (Jonah 1:4, NLT)*

*"The LORD sent a big fish to swallow Jonah..." (Jonah 1:17, CEV)*

*"Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach." (Jonah 2:10, NLT)*

## **2. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH IMPRESSIONS.**

*"He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth...you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you." (John 14:17, NLT)*

*"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." (Romans 8:16, NIV)*

*"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death." (Proverbs 14:12, NLT)*

## **3. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH GODLY PEOPLE.**

*"The godly give good advice to their friends;" (Proverbs 12:26a, NLT)*

*"A stubborn fool considers his own way the right one, but a person who listens to advice is wise." (Proverbs 12:15, GW)*

## **4. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH PAIN.**

*"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." (Proverbs 20:30, GNB)*

*"I used to wander off until you disciplined me...My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees." (Psalm 119:67,71, NLT)*

## **5. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH GIFTED PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.**

*"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11–12, NLT)*

*"...when we preached to you, you didn't think of the words we spoke as being just our own, but you accepted what we said as the very Word of God—which, of course, it was—and it changed your lives when you believed it." (1 Thessalonians 2:13, The Living Bible)*

*“God in his kindness gave each of us different gifts. If your gift is speaking God’s word, make sure what you say agrees with the Christian faith.” (Romans 12:6, GW)*

**6. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE BIBLE.**

*“In the past, God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us through his Son...” (Hebrews 1:1–2a, GNB)*

*“Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.” (John 17:17, NLT)*

*“Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.” (Psalm 119:35, NIV)*

*“By your words I can see where I’m going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path.” (Psalm 119:105, The Message)*

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16–17, NLT)*

**ACTION STEPS:**

**CLASS 201**