

# Numbers 22:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

## Analysis

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Balaam responds to Balak's messengers: 'If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.' This statement appears noble—claiming inability to violate God's word regardless of payment. Yet Balaam's heart proved divided, ultimately finding a way to harm Israel (31:16), showing how apparent submission to God's word can mask underlying greed (2 Peter 2:15-16, Jude 11).

## Historical Context

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Balaam was a non-Israelite diviner who had genuine contact with Yahweh, demonstrating God can speak through unexpected sources. However, his love of money led him to find indirect ways to curse Israel by causing them to sin, showing that hearing God's word doesn't guarantee obedient heart.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How can you claim to honor God's word while secretly seeking ways around its restrictions?
2. What does Balaam's divided heart teach about the danger of loving money while claiming to serve God?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּעַן	בָּלָעַם	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵל	עַבְדֵי י	בָּלָק	אִם	
answered	And Balaam	and said	H413	unto the servants	If Balak	H518	
H6030	H1109	H559		H5650	H1111		
יִתֵּן	לִי	בָּלָק	מִלֵּא	בֵּיתוֹ	כֶּסֶף	וְזָהָב	לֵא
would give	H0	If Balak	full	me his house	of silver	and gold	H3808
H5414		H1111	H4393	H1004	H3701	H2091	
אֲנִי לֹא	לְעֵבֶר	אֶת	פִּי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי	לַעֲשׂוֹת	קִטְנָה
I cannot	go beyond	H853	the word	of the LORD	my God	to do	less
H3201	H5674		H6310	H3068	H430	H6213	H6996
אֲנִי	גְדוֹלָה:						
H176	or more						
	H1419						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 24:13** (Word): If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak?

**1 Kings 22:14** (References Lord): And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.

**2 Chronicles 18:13** (References God): And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak.

**Numbers 23:26** (References Lord): But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?

**Numbers 22:38** (Word): And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.

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