

# Numbers 22:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again.

## Analysis

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**The ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall**—The donkey's second evasion brought pain to Balaam—his foot (לָרֶגֶל, regel) crushed between animal and stone. God's warnings intensified: first inconvenience (v. 23), now pain. Yet **he smote her again**, responding to God's escalating discipline with escalating stubbornness.

Balaam's hardness despite mounting evidence and pain mirrors Pharaoh's response to the plagues—each plague hardened rather than softened his heart. When financial motive is strong enough, people interpret even painful providential warnings as obstacles to overcome rather than signs to obey. The crushed foot was mercy—far better than the drawn sword awaiting him.

## Historical Context

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Ancient travelers rode donkeys for long journeys because they were sure-footed on rough terrain and required less water than horses. A crushed foot would be extremely painful and could permanently injure a traveler, making the donkey's action costly but still merciful compared to the alternative.

## Related Passages

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

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. When obeying God would cost you financially, how many painful "crushed foot" warnings will you ignore before recognizing His protective discipline?
2. How does responding to God's escalating warnings with escalating stubbornness reveal that your heart is hardening like Pharaoh's?
3. What pain is God allowing in your life to prevent the far greater destruction your current path leads toward?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֵּרָא	וְכַאֲשֶׁר	אֶת	מַלְאָךְ	יְהוָה	וַיִּדְבֹּק	אֶל
saw	And when the ass	H853	the angel	of the LORD	and crushed	H413
H7200	H860		H4397	H3068	H3905	
הַקֵּץ	וַיִּדְבֹּק	אֶת	רַגְלָא	בְּלַעַם	אֶל	הַקֵּץ
against the wall	and crushed	H853	foot	Balaam's	H413	against the wall
H7023	H3905		H7272	H1109		H7023
וַיִּסֶּף	לְהַכֹּתָהּ:					
her again	and he smote					
H3254	H5221					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 47:12** (Parallel theme): Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.

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