

# Numbers 22:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

## Analysis

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**The angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left**—The Hebrew שָׂר (šar, "narrow") describes extreme constriction—a place with no מִקוֹם (māqôm, "space/room") for evasion. God eliminated all options. First, wide field with escape routes; second, walled path with limited maneuver; finally, absolute constriction allowing no movement except forward into the sword or backward in retreat.

This progression pictures God's complete sovereignty over our circumstances. He can arrange situations where only two options remain: repentance or destruction. The narrow place (šar) shares root with šārâ ("trouble/distress")—when God brings you to extremity, the trouble itself is mercy, forcing acknowledgment of His opposition before it's too late.

## Historical Context

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The geography of the Trans-Jordan region included many narrow defiles and passes between rock walls, especially in approach to Moab. These natural bottlenecks were often used militarily to trap enemies. God used familiar geography to illustrate spiritual reality—Balaam was trapped.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. When God removes all options except repentance or judgment, will you recognize the narrow place as mercy or resent it as limitation?
2. How does God's sovereignty over your circumstances demonstrate His commitment to stop you before you destroy yourself?
3. What narrow places has God led you into where forward means destruction and only turning back offers life?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּוְסַף	מִלְאַךְ	יְהוָה ה	עָבַד ור	וַיַּעֲמֵד	בְּמָקוֹם	צָר
further	And the angel	of the LORD	went	and stood	place	in a narrow
H3254	H4397	H3068	H5674	H5975	H4725	H6862
אֶשׁ ר	אֵין	דִּכְרָה	לָנֹת וְת	יָמֵי י	וּשְׂמֵאל:	
H834	H369	where was no way	to turn	either to the right hand	or to the left	
		H1870	H5186	H3225	H8040	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 26:11** (References Lord): LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.

**Hosea 2:6** (Parallel theme): Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths.