

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

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 **נֵץ** (ṣar, "narrow") describes extreme constriction—a place with no **מִקָּומָה** (māqōm, "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 (ṣar) shares root with **שָׁرָא** ("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

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

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

אָרֶן בְּמִקְלָה וּמִתְּמִימָד עַבְרֹר יְהִי הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהִי וְלֹא
further And the angel of the LORD went and stood place in a narrow
H3254 H4397 H3068 H5674 H5975 H4725 H6862

רֹאשׁ אֵין אֵין לְמִתְּמִימָד יְמִינָה וּשְׂמִינָה
H834 H369 where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left
H1870 H5186 H3225 H8040

Additional Cross-References

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.