

# Numbers 22:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.

## Analysis

The angel explained the donkey 'turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.' The animal's disobedience saved Balaam's life, while his insistence on his own way nearly killed him. This inversion of expected values—faithful animal preserving obstinate prophet—demonstrates how God's protection sometimes comes through what we perceive as obstacles and frustrations.

## Historical Context

The three turnings corresponded to three increasing intensities of the angel's opposition, with the final incident cornering Balaam against a wall. God's escalating warnings paralleled Balaam's escalating stubbornness, showing divine patience even with rebellious servants.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How might current frustrations and obstacles actually be God's merciful protection from worse danger?
2. What does it mean when even your means of transportation seems to resist your chosen direction?

## Interlinear Text

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רָגַל יָמִים	שֶׁל שָׁ	בְּ	הַ	מִפְנֵן	נִטְעָת הַ	בְּאַת וְ	וְתַרְאָה בְּ	בָּאַת בְּ	וְתַרְאָה בְּ
<b>saw</b>	<b>And the ass</b>	<b>me and turned</b>	<b>from me</b>	<b>these three</b>	<b>times</b>				
H7200	H860	H5186	H6440	H2088	H7969				
אָוֶלֶן	אָתְּךָ הַ	גַם עַת הַ	כִּי מִפְנֵן	נִטְעָת הַ	אָתְּךָ הַ	גַם עַת הַ	כִּי מִפְנֵן	נִטְעָת הַ	אָוֶלֶן
<b>unless</b>	<b>me and turned</b>	<b>from me</b>	<b>H3588</b>	<b>H6258</b>	<b>H1571</b>				
H194	H5186	H6440							
רָב גָּתָן	וְאַתְּךָ הַ	הַחֲנִיתִין							
<b>surely now also I had slain</b>	<b>H853</b>	<b>thee and saved her alive</b>							
H2026		H2421							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 14:37** (Parallel theme): Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.

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