

Numbers 22:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Analysis

The angel releases Balaam to continue: 'Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak.' This mirrors God's earlier permission (v.20), emphasizing severe restriction on Balaam's speech. He could physically travel but couldn't deviate from God's words. This foreshadows Jesus' teaching 'The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do' (John 5:19)—submitted servants speak only God's words.

Historical Context

Despite this clear restriction, Balaam later counseled Moab to seduce Israel into sexual immorality and idolatry (25:1-3, 31:16, Revelation 2:14), finding indirect ways to accomplish the curse he couldn't speak. This demonstrates how evil hearts find loopholes when they can't openly disobey.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you seek loopholes around God's clear restrictions when you want different outcomes?
2. What does it mean to speak only what God gives you to say, neither more nor less?

Interlinear Text

עִם לְבָלָע מִלְאָה יִאָמֶר
said And the angel of the LORD H413 So Balaam H1980 H5973
H559 H4397 H3068 H1109

אֵל יְבָלָע תֹּדַבְּר אֲשֶׁר פָּדַבְּרָא אֶת וְאֶפְסֶבְּרָא אֲנָשׁ יְמָמָן
H376 but only H853 the word H834 that I shall speak H413
H657 H1697 H1696

בְּלָק: שָׁרֵי תֹּדַבְּר אֲתָה וְיִלְגֵּן עִם בְּלָע מִלְאָה
H853 that I shall speak H1980 So Balaam H5973 with the princes H8269 H1111
H1696 H1109

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