

Numbers 22:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam.

Analysis

Balaam's response 'Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me' reveals his claim to receive revelation from Yahweh. The use of God's covenant name 'LORD' (Hebrew YHWH) is striking for a pagan diviner. This either indicates Balaam had genuine knowledge of Israel's God (perhaps from Abraham's legacy in Mesopotamia), or he cleverly used Israel's God's name to impress the elders. His willingness to inquire rather than immediately blessing or cursing shows unusual restraint for a hired diviner, suggesting God's hand was already restraining him.

Historical Context

The narrative's portrayal of a non-Israelite receiving genuine revelation from Yahweh is theologically significant. God is sovereign over all nations and can speak to anyone He chooses (Amos 9:7). However, receiving revelation does not equal salvation—Balaam later counseled Midian to seduce Israel (Numbers 31:16), showing that knowledge of God differs from saving faith. Even demons have theological knowledge (James 2:19).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How is it possible to receive genuine revelation from God without having saving faith?
2. What does Balaam's mixed character teach about the difference between knowledge and obedience?
3. How do we distinguish between those who speak about God and those who truly know Him?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלֵיהֶם	לִי יִנֹּ	פֹה	הֵלַלְתָּ	וַיִּשְׁבֹּת	
And he said	H413	unto them	Lodge	H6311	here this night	again
H559		H3885		H3915	H7725	
אֶתְכֶם	יְדַבֵּר	כְּאִשׁ	יְדַבֵּר	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	וַיִּשְׁבֹּת
H853	you word	H834	shall speak	as the LORD	H413	abode
	H1697		H1696	H3068		H3427
שָׂרֵי	מוֹאָב	עִם	בְּלָעָם:			
unto me and the princes	of Moab	H5973	with Balaam			
H8269	H4124		H1109			