

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

Psalm 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

וְשָׁבָת יְלִיה פֶּה כֹּל לְיְלָה אַמְרָה מִלְּאֵלִים וְיָמָר
And he said unto them Lodge here this night again
H559 H413 H3885 H6311 H3915 H7725

וְשָׁבָת אֶל יְהִי הָדָבָר כַּאֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר רְבָבָר אֶתְכֶם
you word shall speak as the LORD abode
H853 H1697 H834 H1696 H3068 H413 H3427

בְּלִיעָם מִזְאָב עִם שְׂרִי
unto me and the princes of Moab with Balaam
H8269 H4124 H5973 H1109

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