

which stands alone in the Bible.

There is no reason to think that these verses represent a mere dream, or parable, or vision. They are recorded in God's Word as having occurred in this way and there is no choice for the Bible believer but to understand that they actually did happen. The Bible is not a book like Aesop's Fables in which animals can talk like human beings. Such occurrences are extremely rare in Scripture. One instance is found in Gen.iii, where the serpent talked with Eve. It is clear that Satan spoke through the serpent on that occasion. If Satan could enable a serpent to speak, certainly God could make a donkey talk, if He chose to do so. It is not stated how God did this, but it is clear that Balaam heard an audible voice, coming from the animal.

The experience with the talking donkey and the strong words of the angel of the Lord must have established so powerful an impression on the mind of Balaam as to make it virtually impossible for him to depart from his determination to speak only what God would order, even though it meant losing all the rewards that Balak had promised. It was a divine interference in a situation of great importance for God's plan of redemption. Christians today have no right to expect similar miracles to keep them from lending themselves as agents to wickedness and unbelief. They should learn to live so constantly in the light of God's will, as revealed in His Word, that they are always conscious of His presence, without the necessity of seeing Him with physical eyes.

e. Balaam meets Balak (xxii.36-40)

When Balak met Balaam he spoke like a man of the world: Am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour? (37). Balaam answered from an entirely different standpoint: The word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak (38). Doubtless Balak considered Balaam's words as mere hypocrisy since they were sharply contradicted by the fact that he had come at all. Balak offered oxen and sheep,