

Timeline of Truth: God Sends a Prophet to Balak (Numbers 22:1-35)

I. Israel at Mount Sinai (1-10:10)

II. Israel in the Wilderness (10:11-36:13)

1. The Israelites Move (10:11-36)
2. Israel Complains (11:1-35)
3. Aaron and Miriam Complain (12:1-16)
4. The Spies and their Reports (13:1-33)
5. The Nation is Punished (14:1-45)
6. Laws Concerning Offerings in the Land of Israel (15:1-31)
7. A Man Works on the Sabbath and Tassels on Garments (15:32-41)
8. Men Challenge Moses (16:1-43)
9. Aaron's Rod Buds (17:1-13)
10. Responsibilities and Provisions for the Priests and Levites (18:1-32)
11. Uncleaness and Cleansing (19:1-22)
12. Moses Strikes the Rock (20:1-13)
13. Edom Refuses Israel and Aaron Dies (20:14-29)
14. Israel's Battles and the Fiery Serpents (21:1-35)

<p>Numbers 22:1-4 Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan <i>across from</i> Jericho. ² Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. ³ And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they <i>were</i> many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel. ⁴ So Moab said to the elders of Midian, "Now this company will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." And Balak the son of Zippor <i>was</i> king of the Moabites at that time.</p>	<p>1. The Moabites _____ Israel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Israel camps near Moab b. Moab fears Israel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They saw what Israel had done • They were more numerous than the Moabites c. The Moabites express their fear to their leaders (Balak has the meaning "destroyer")
<p>⁵ Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which <i>is</i> near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! ⁶ "Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they <i>are</i> too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless <i>is</i> blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed." ⁷ So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner's fee in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak.</p>	<p>2. The King of Moab _____ for a Prophet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The king sends for Balaam b. The king explains the situation c. The king asks for Balaam to curse Israel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He knows he can't defeat Israel • He wants supernatural help • Balaam has a reputation d. The messengers went with the message. Diviner - קִסְמָן - <i>qesem</i> – divination, soothsaying, sorcery.
<p>⁸ And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the LORD speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam. ⁹ Then God came to Balaam and said, "Who <i>are</i> these men with you?" ¹⁰ So Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, <i>saying</i>, ¹¹ 'Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out.' "</p>	<p>3. God _____ to Balaam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Balaam seems to have some knowledge of who God is. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He addresses Him as YHVH - Jehovah b. God comes to Balaam in a dream <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balaam answers honestly • Balaam does not seem to know a lot about Israel
<p>¹² And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they <i>are</i> blessed." ¹³ So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land, for the LORD has refused to give me permission to go with you."</p>	<p>4. God _____ Balaam Not to Go</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God said that Balaam may not curse Israel because they are blessed b. Balaam refused to go because God did not give him permission.
<p>¹³ So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land, for the LORD has refused to give me permission to go with you." ¹⁴ And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refuses to come with us." ¹⁵ Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they. ¹⁶ And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: 'Please let nothing hinder you from coming</p>	<p>5. The King _____ a Second Time</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. After Balaam's refusal, the king sends more and more important messengers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince – chieftain, ruler b. The king offers a great reward for Balaam's services

<p>to me; ¹⁷ for I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me. Therefore please come, curse this people for me.' "</p>	
<p>¹⁸ Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more. ¹⁹ "Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD will say to me." ²⁰ And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men come to call you, rise <i>and</i> go with them; but only the word which I speak to you -- that you shall do." ²¹ So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.</p>	<p>6. God _____ Balaam to Go</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Balaam insisted he would do only what the Lord told him to do. God again speaks to Balaam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God gives conditions to Balaam's going God gives conditions to Balaam's message Balaam went with the men
<p>²² Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants <i>were</i> with him.</p>	<p>7. God Becomes _____ at Balaam 2 possible reasons for God's anger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balaam went with the wrong heart Balaam did not meet both of God's conditions
<p>²³ Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. ²⁴ Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, <i>with</i> a wall on this side and a wall on that side. ²⁵ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again. ²⁶ Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there <i>was</i> no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. ²⁷ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.</p>	<p>8. The Donkey _____ Balaam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 times Balaam was in danger 3 times the donkey moved to avoid the Angel of the Lord 3 times Balaam grew angry with the donkey (Balaam's anger was aroused is the same phrase as in verse 22)
<p>²⁸ Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" ²⁹ And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!" ³⁰ So the donkey said to Balaam, "<i>Am</i> I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since <i>I became</i> yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."</p>	<p>9. The Donkey _____ to Balaam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Balaam did not seem surprised that the donkey was talking. Balaam states he wished the donkey was killed The donkey argues that she had never done this before
<p>³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. ³² And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because <i>your</i> way is perverse before Me. ³³ "The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live."</p>	<p>10. The Angel of the Lord _____ to Balaam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Balaam finally sees the Angel of the Lord The Angel of the Lord argues for the donkey, that the donkey saved Balaam's life 3 times
<p>³⁴ And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back." ³⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.</p>	<p>11. Balaam _____ His Sin</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Balaam confesses that he had sinned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sin – God stood in his way and he continued on Balaam's offer – to turn back God reiterates that Balaam should go, but only speak what God wants him to say.