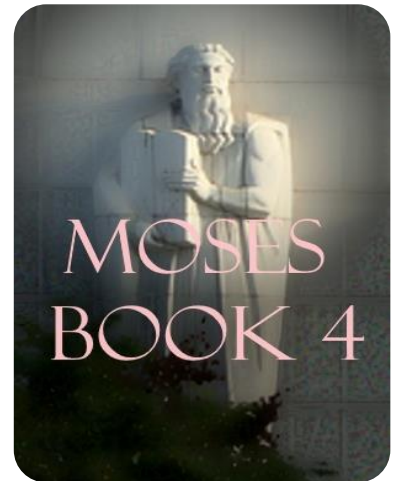


NUMBERS 22 vs 1

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The titles of the five books of Moses, which we use in our Bibles, are all borrowed from the Greek translation of the Seventy, the most ancient version of the Old Testament what we know of. But the title of this book we only turn into English; in all the rest we retain the Greek word, for which difference I know no reason, but that the Latin translators have done the same. Otherwise this book might as well have been called: **Arithmoi**. Where we get our word: **arithmetic**. The Greek title = the numbering; as it shows the promise of God to Abraham that his children would be as the stars of heaven. In this book are two numberings: one at Mount Sinai in Arabia – chapter 1; and the other on the plains of Moab 39 years later. -- Matthew Henry.



The prophet Balaam and his talking ass

¹ And the children of Israel moved forward, and camped in the plains of Moab beyond Jordan opposite Jericho.

² And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

³ And Moab was extremely fearful of the people, because they were many: and Moab dreaded the children of Israel.

⁴ And Moab said to the elders of Midian, Now will this assembly lick up all that are around us, as the ox chews up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time.

⁵ So he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor / who posed as a prophet, but led people into idolatrous Baal worship, who is near the River, in the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, a people came from Egypt: behold, they cover the surface of the earth, and they are living opposite me.

⁶ Now therefore, please come, curse this people for me; for they are too mighty for me: perhaps I will prevail, and may hit them, and drive them from the land: for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.

⁷ So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with their fees for divination in their hand; and they came to Balaam, and repeated to him the words of Balak.

⁸ And he said to them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD speaks to me: and the leaders of Moab stayed with Balaam.

⁹ Then God came to Balaam, and said, Who are these men with you?

NUMBERS 22 vs 1

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¹⁰ And Balaam said to God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, he sent word to me, saying,

¹¹ Behold, there is a people who came from Egypt, who cover the surface of the earth: come now, curse them for me; perhaps I will be able to overcome them, and drive them out.

¹² **And God said to Balaam, Do not go with them; you will not curse the people: for they are blessed** / who posed as a prophet, but led people into idolatrous Baal worship.

¹³ And Balaam arose in the morning, and said to the leaders of Balak, Go back to your land: for the LORD refuses to let me go with you.

¹⁴ And the leaders of Moab arose, and they went to Balak, and said, Balaam refused to come with us.

¹⁵ And Balak sent yet again leaders, more numerous, and more distinguished than them.

¹⁶ And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus says Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I beg you, hinder you from coming to me:

¹⁷ for I will honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me: please come, curse this people for me.

¹⁸ And Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

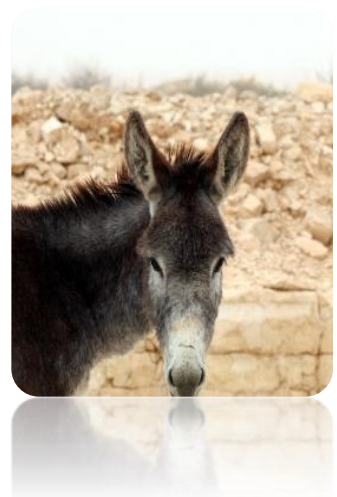
¹⁹ So now, please, you stay here the night also, that I may know what more the LORD will say to me.

²⁰ And God came to Balaam at night, and said to him, If the men come to call you, arise, and go with them; but only the word which I say to you, will you do.

²¹ And Balaam arose in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the leaders of Moab.

²² But God was angry because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding on his ass, and his two servants were with him.

²³ When the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand: then the ass turned off the way, and went into the field: and Balaam struck the ass, to turn



NUMBERS 22 vs 1

her back into the way;

²⁴ but the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path of the vineyard, with a wall on this side, and a wall on that side.

²⁵ And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself into the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he struck her again.

²⁶ And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right or to the left.

²⁷ And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the ass with his stick.

²⁸ **And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass,** and she said to Balaam, What have I done to you, that You struck me these three times?

²⁹ And Balaam said to the ass, Because You have mocked me: if there was a sword in my hand, by now I would have killed you.

³⁰ And the ass said to Balaam, am I not your ass, on which you have ridden all your life to this day? Did I ever desire to do so to you? and he said, No.

³¹ Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down with his face to the ground.

³² And the angel of the LORD asked him, Why have you struck your ass these three times? Behold, I went out to resist you, because your way is twisted / it is perverse to me:

³³ and your ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely by now, I would have also killed you, and saved her alive.

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: so now, if it displease you, I will turn back again.

³⁵ And the angel of the LORD said to Balaam, Go with the men: but you will only speak the word that I will speak to you. So Balaam went with the leaders of Balak.

³⁶ And when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the border of Arnon, at the furthest point.

³⁷ Then Balak said to Balaam, Did I not earnestly send to you to call you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor?

NUMBERS 22 vs 1

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³⁸ So Balaam said to Balak, Lo, I came to you: am I able to say anything at all? the word that God puts in my mouth, that I will speak.

³⁹ And Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kirjath-huzoth.

⁴⁰ And Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and sent some to Balaam, and to the leaders who were with him.

⁴¹ And it happened on the next day, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up to the high places of Baal, and he saw from there just a portion of the people.

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