

Ancient Words—God In Control: A Donkey, A Star (and Love)

What in the world does a donkey and a star have in common? The Ancient Words give a simple answer in one word—Balaam. Balaam is the not so good prophet from Beor who is used by God to deliver a very good oracle and prophecy for the ages. Balaam is employed by Balak, King of Moab (Jordan), to bring down curses against the menacing army of Israel who is in the middle of their conquest of Canaan. Balaam, a diviner by trade, agrees but must consult with God before issuing the curses. King Balak is beside himself as Balaam issues five decrees and finds the decrees are blessings and not curses upon Israel. In Num 23.11, Balak said to Balaam, “What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but you have done nothing but bless them!” Balaam responds in the next verse, “Must I not speak what the Lord puts in my mouth?”

Balaam’s experience with the talking donkey is recorded earlier in Numbers 22. Balaam is beside himself as he responds to this beast of burden, which speaks only what the Lord has put in the donkey’s mouth. In Num 22.29, Balaam shouts: “You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.” As a result of his experience with the talking donkey and later the angel of God, Balaam tells Balak in Num 22.38 that he will speak the oracles to Israel but that he can only “speak what God puts in his mouth”. The saying “It takes a fool to know one” could never be more true than with Balaam and now Balaam becomes the “donkey” for God. Balaam, as God’s donkey, will state 5 oracles, exactly stipulated by God, which not only will be blessings for Israel but will contain the most amazing prophecy of Messiah’s first appearance through the Star of Jacob, prophesied in the 4th oracle. In Num 24.17: I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth (KJV-BRG).” These words written in 1452 BC, will be studied by Ancient Words astrologers from the school of Daniel so that, in keeping with Daniel’s account in Dan 9.25 from the angel Gabriel in 538 BC, kings from Tarshish, Sheba, and Seba will begin their journey toward that Star of Jacob in 2 BC. Literally and metaphorically, the prophecy was spoken by a “donkey” Balaam, with his own donkey serving as a premonition of what is to come.

Balaam serves his purpose for God but later serves his own purpose for Balak in accepting payment for revealing Israel’s weakness. He tells Balak that Israel can be harnessed by introducing sexual immorality and idol worship into Israel’s people. Consequently, God destroys 24,000 Israelites as a result of their fall into sin and Joshua records that Balaam is killed with the sword when the tribe of Reuben fights against Moab. No wonder Peter, Jude, and Jesus, all three, speak with such disdain toward Balaam in their written accounts. God controlled the voice of the donkey & Balaam, and the Star. God remains in control today.....and

every Christmas season should be a reminder that God is in control of the Star of love for God is love!

The introduction of the Star of Love came thru words of a “donkey”. Over 2500 years later the conclusion of the Star of Love was introduced thru a short ride on the back of a donkey. Jesus was and is the bright and Morning Star (Rev 22.16). His first appearance to the world came thru God’s brilliant creation of stars and constellations with wonder and beauty beyond our comprehension. He left this world thru exposing himself to all of mankind’s sin with all of its dark, deep, and deplorable consequences. The motivation of love beyond measure was expressed to all of mankind thru a Father’s love for His Son; and thru a Son’s willing obedient sacrifice for his Father’s will. This Christmas, “I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Eph 3.17-19).” May we all “shine like stars in the universe as we hold on to the word of life”--- for--- “It is God who works in you to will and act according to his good purpose” (Phil 2.12-16).

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