# Discovering God's Voice: The Donkey That Spoke to a Prophet



Explore the powerful story of Balaam and his speaking donkey, uncovering God's voice in unexpected ways.





#### Table of contents

<u>Introduction</u>	3
<u>Day 1: 1 The Unlikely Messenger</u>	4
<u>Day 2: Seeing What Others Cannot</u>	10
<u>Day 3: Obedience Versus Resistance</u>	16
Day 4: When God Speaks Out Loud	22
<u>Day 5: Ogod's Sovereign Intervention</u>	28
Day 6: Q Lessons from Balaam's Encounter	34
Day 7: A Listening and Responding to God	40







#### Introduction

The story of Balaam and his talking donkey is one of the most remarkable narratives found in the Old Testament. It reveals how God's voice can break through human stubbornness in surprising ways. Balaam was a prophet who was called to curse Israel, but an extraordinary encounter changed everything.

The donkey, an unexpected messenger, spoke to Balaam to warn him about an angel blocking his path. This story is more than just a miraculous event; it challenges us to consider how God might speak to us today—sometimes through people, signs, or even animals.

Throughout this 7-day study plan, we'll dive deep into this narrative in Numbers 22, reflect on the lessons about obedience, spiritual sensitivity, and God's sovereignty, and learn how to discern His voice amidst life's distractions. Just as Balaam had to listen carefully to recognize God's warning, we too are encouraged to be attentive to the ways God communicates with us—whether loudly or quietly.

Get ready to be inspired by this story's relevance for our lives today and grow in understanding of how God can use the unexpected to guide us in His purposes.









## Day 1: 2 The Unlikely Messenger









Day 1: <a> The Unlikely Messenger</a>

#### Your Verse

Numbers 22:21–23 NIV – Balaam saddled his donkey and went with the Moabite officials.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 147:10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse; he takes no pleasure in human legs.
- Isaiah 1:3 The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner's manger.







Day 1: <a> The Unlikely Messenger</a>

#### Devotional: God's Voice Through Unexpected Means

On Day 1, we focus on the extraordinary role of Balaam's donkey as God's messenger. Balaam was a prophet called to curse Israel, but God was in control. When Balaam set out, his donkey saw the angel of the Lord blocking their path, something Balaam did not see. The donkey's actions prevented Balaam from continuing on a dangerous course.

This story challenges us to consider that God can speak through any of His creations, even the most unlikely. Sometimes, the message comes from places or people we least expect. This calls us to remain open and attentive to God's guidance.

**Reflecting** on Balaam's journey, we see a powerful lesson in humility and attentiveness: we must be willing to listen, even if the message comes from unexpected sources.







Day 1: 🔬 The Unlikely Messenger

## Reflect and Apply

1.	How open am I to receiving God's guidance through unexpected sources?
	What might God be trying to say to me through everyday situations or people I overlook?
	In what areas of my life do I need more spiritual sensitivity to discern God's voice?
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Day 1: 🔬 The Unlikely Messenger

## **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a time you recognized God's guidance from an unusual source.
2	Describe how you usually react when God challenges you in unexpected
	ways.
3.	Reflect on your openness to God's voice—what might you need to change?







Day 1: <a> The Unlikely Messenger</a>

#### Prayer for Today

Lord, please open my eyes and heart to hear You clearly—even if Your voice comes through unexpected messengers. *Help me to be humble and obedient* so I do not miss Your guidance. Teach me to trust Your sovereignty and wisdom in every situation. **May I be willing to listen and follow wherever You lead.** Amen.

















#### Your Verse

Numbers 22:22–24 NIV – The angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose Balaam.

#### Supporting Scriptures

- 2 Kings 6:15–17 Elisha sees the heavenly army protecting them.
- Hebrews 11:1 Faith is confidence in what we do not see.







#### Devotional: Developing Spiritual Eyesight

**Today, we focus on spiritual perception.** Balaam's donkey could see the angel of the Lord standing in the road, while Balaam was blind to this reality. This highlights a separation between physical sight and spiritual insight.

In life, many are blind to God's protection or intervention because they are focused solely on what they see with their eyes. But God calls us to faith—trusting in what we cannot see but know is real.

How often might we miss God's presence or direction because we fail to look beyond the surface? Learning to see with spiritual eyes requires prayer, humility, and a heart tuned to God.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	What obstacles prevent me from seeing God's work in my life?
2.	How can I cultivate a faith that trusts in unseen realities?
	When have I experienced God's protection even though I wasn't aware at the time?







## **Journaling Prompts**

	Describe a moment when you sensed God's presence despite not seeing physical proof.
2.	Write about spiritual 'blind spots' you want God to reveal to you.
3.	List ways you can grow in spiritual discernment.







#### Prayer for Today

**Heavenly Father, help me** to open my spiritual eyes to see Your hand at work. *Grant me faith* to believe in Your protection and guidance beyond what my natural sight can behold. May I trust Your sovereign plan and lean on Your wisdom daily. Amen.

















Day 3: Obedience Versus Resistance

#### Your Verse

Numbers 22:25-27 NIV - The donkey turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 119:60 I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.
- Isaiah 1:19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land.







Day 3: 💯 Obedience Versus Resistance

#### Devotional: Choosing Obedience Over Resistance

**Obedience is a central theme in Balaam's story.** Despite the donkey's warnings, Balaam resisted and responded with frustration rather than submission. His beating the donkey reflects a heart resistant to God's correction.

Often, we too struggle with obedience—wanting to follow but wrestling with God's timing or direction. Balaam's resistance nearly led to danger, but God's intervention prevented disaster.

This challenges us to consider how quickly and willingly we obey God's promptings. Obedience opens the door to blessing, while resistance leads to hardship.







Day 3: 👰 Obedience Versus Resistance

## Reflect and Apply

	How do I typically respond when God's directions are difficult or unexpected?
2.	What are the consequences I've faced from resisting God's voice?
3.	What practical steps can I take to grow in immediate obedience?







Day 3: Obedience Versus Resistance

## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a recent situation where you struggled to obey God promptly.
2.	List areas where God might be calling you to greater obedience.
3.	Reflect on how obedience has brought blessings in your life.







Day 3: 🐠 Obedience Versus Resistance

#### Prayer for Today

**Lord, forgive me when I resist Your will** and respond with impatience or doubt. *Help me cultivate a heart eager to obey.* May I trust in Your perfect timing and guidance. Teach me to follow Your lead with joy and surrender. Amen.

















#### Your Verse

Numbers 22:28–30 NIV – Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Exodus 3:4 God called to Moses out of the burning bush.
- John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.







#### Devotional: Recognizing God's Clear Voice

On this day, we reflect on the extraordinary moment when the donkey spoke. God opened the mouth of an animal to capture Balaam's attention. This was an unmistakable, even shocking reminder that God's voice demands to be heard.

For us, God may not open animals' mouths, but He does speak clearly through His Word, His Spirit, and sometimes through life's unmistakable circumstances. The challenge is to listen attentively and respond.

**God's voice is personal and loving.** He desires our attention, correction, and obedience, even when the message is confronting.







## Reflect and Apply

	How does God usually speak to me—through Scripture, prayer, circumstances, or others?
2.	Am I attentive enough to hear God's voice clearly when He speaks?
3.	What is my reaction when God corrects or challenges me?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Describe a time when you felt God's unmistakable guidance.
2.	Write how you can better recognize God's voice in your daily life.
3.	Reflect on a time when God's correction led to growth.







#### Prayer for Today

**Dear God, thank You for speaking to me** in ways I can understand and hear. *Help me to be attentive and responsive.* When Your voice corrects or guides, may I not ignore or resist but embrace Your loving direction. Speak clearly to my heart today. Amen.









## Day 5: Od's Sovereign Intervention









Day 5: Odd's Sovereign Intervention

#### Your Verse

Numbers 22:31-33 NIV - Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Daniel 6:22 My God sent his angel and shut the mouths of the lions.
- Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.







Day 5: OGod's Sovereign Intervention

#### Devotional: Acknowledging God's Control in Our Lives

God's control over every situation is at the heart of Balaam's story. When Balaam's eyes were opened, he saw the angel blocking his path—a powerful display of God's sovereign protection and warning.

Sometimes, we move forward with plans that conflict with God's will. This passage reminds us that God intervenes, even in subtle or surprising ways, to protect us and accomplish His purposes.

We must trust God's sovereignty—even when we don't understand His ways—and be willing to change course.







Day 5: OGod's Sovereign Intervention

## Reflect and Apply

1.	How do I respond when God interrupts my plans?
2.	What experiences have shown you God's protective intervention?
3.	How can I more fully trust God's sovereign plan?







Day 5: Odd's Sovereign Intervention

## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time God redirected your path for your good.
2.	Describe areas where you struggle to submit to God's sovereignty.
3.	Reflect on what trusting God's control looks like practically for you.







Day 5: Odd's Sovereign Intervention

#### Prayer for Today

**Sovereign Lord, I acknowledge Your control** over every aspect of my life. *Help me trust Your timing and guidance*, even if it means changing my plans. Thank You for protecting and directing me. Teach me to submit with grace and faith. Amen.

















Day 6: Q Lessons from Balaam's Encounter

#### Your Verse

Numbers 23:8 NIV - How can I curse those whom God has not cursed?

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
- Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.







Day 6: V Lessons from Balaam's Encounter

#### Devotional: Aligning Our Will with God's Plan

Day 6 invites us to reflect on the lessons Balaam learned. Despite his initial intent to curse Israel, Balaam recognized God's blessing and could not go against it. This shows the power of God's will prevailing through human plans.

This teaches us that no matter our intentions or plans, God's purposes are sovereign and victorious. We are called to align with His will rather than oppose it.

**Trust and faithfulness to God's calling bring true blessing and peace.** Balaam's story reminds us that even conflicted hearts must submit to God's greater plan.







Day 6: 🖓 Lessons from Balaam's Encounter

## Reflect and Apply

<b>1</b> .]	In what ways have you wrestled between your will and God's?
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	How can you better trust God to bring blessing through difficult circumstances?
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3. \	What is one area in your life needing surrender to God's will?
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Day 6: 🖓 Lessons from Balaam's Encounter

## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Reflect on a time when God's plan differed from yours but brought good.
2.	Write about your current struggles in surrendering to God's will.
3.	List practical steps to deepen surrender in your daily life.







Day 6: V Lessons from Balaam's Encounter

#### Prayer for Today

**Father, help me to align my heart** with Your perfect will. *Even when it challenges me, teach me to trust and embrace Your plan.* Thank You for your unfailing purposes and blessings. May my life reflect obedience and faith in You. Amen.  $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$ 

















#### Your Verse

John 10:27 NIV - My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
- Romans 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the message.







#### Devotional: Faithful Listening and Obedience

Our final day focuses on how we listen and respond to God's voice. Like sheep who recognize their shepherd's voice, we are called to listen closely and follow obediently.

Hearing God is not passive; it requires action. Balaam's story reveals dangers when we ignore God's voice but great blessings when we respond rightly.

Today's challenge is to commit to regular listening through Scripture, prayer, and reflection, and respond with faith-filled obedience. Jesus promises to lead and guide those who are willing to hear and follow.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	How consistent am I in seeking God's voice daily?
2.	What hinders my obedience to what God reveals?
3.	How will I respond this week to God's word to me?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about your current spiritual listening habits.
2.	Describe obstacles to obeying God and ways to overcome them.
3.	Commit to one change to improve listening and obedience.







#### Prayer for Today

**Jesus, Shepherd of my soul,** teach me to listen and obey Your voice faithfully. *Help me respond in faith and action.* Guide me daily as I seek to follow Your lead. May I be Your obedient sheep, trusting Your care all my days. Amen.  $\triangle$ 







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