

Balaam Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

Can we learn from the “bad guys” of Scripture?

Why do we often skip them?

Does it seem incredible to ask God’s permission for something He has clearly forbidden?

Have we ever at least thought about doing that?

This account clearly affirms the existence of good angels. How does it imply the existence of bad angels?

Does Scripture elsewhere indicate that demons and Satan are real?

Numbers 23:23 indicates that what was attempted by Balaam was sorcery. “There is no sorcery against Jacob, no divination against Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘See what God has done!’”

How would a prophet of the LORD be tempted to get involved in sorcery?

Why did God let this play out the way it did?

What was the effect on Balaam?

What was the effect on God’s enemies?

Many people today believe that there are forces or energies that are available for the use of those who know the secrets. Does the Scripture allow for the existence of benign spiritual powers?

Are evil spiritual entities going to show themselves as evil?

What might be the benefit for an evil spirit to be mistaken for something good?

Has anyone ever been taken in but the “games of skill” at the Midway of the State Fair? How were you deceived?

What are some of the “benefits” that spirits seem to offer people?

How can that lead to a bad outcome for the person?

Do people involved in spiritual deception welcome godly advice?

What did it take to get Balaam to stop what he was doing?