

Because actually I only know of two places in the whole Scripture where an animal speaks, and they are Gen. 3 and this. The only places I know where an animal speaks. And in Gen. 3 Satan used the serpent, and in this case God spoke through the donkey. Now in the discussion I gave of this for the New Bible Com. quite a number of yrs. ago, I said, I don't know whether God changed the throat of the donkey in some way so it could pronounce words and present these ideas, or whether ~~by~~ God's caused the sound to be formed in some other way there, but a sound reached Balaam's ears which impressed him as coming from the donkey. And the editors of it felt that it sounded rather unbelieving and asked me to leave that out which I did. And I certainly believe whatever the Lord wanted to do he could do, but I don't believe the donkey ever talked again. I don't believe he changed the donkey into an animal that could think like human beings or could talk like human beings, but I do believe that Balaam heard certain words and they were words that expressed the thought might have in this situation and they are words that expressed what God wanted him to hear. That's as far as we can go. But that and Gen. 3 are the only cases in Script. we know of where an animal speaks. I have no ^{doubt} ~~no~~ that in one case Satan, and in the other case God worked it that way, and it occurs as described, but I don't think it means that a donkey became a human being. But in this case we find that Balaam --- the angel of the Lord stood in the way and the donkey started to go out of the way and Balaam kicked it ^{then} and/again the angel stood in the way and Balaam kicked the donkey to keep it from turning out of the way, and then the Lord opened the mouth of the ass and she said unto Balaam, What have I done ~~by~~ unto thee that thou hast smitten me these three times? And Balaam said, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. And the ass said to Balaam, Am not I think ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was think unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay. 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 his head, and fell falt on his face. And the angel of the Lord said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three