

times. Behold I went out to withstand thee because thy way is preverse before me: (And here God has said, -God with the man, and now he goes with the man, and God <sup>knew</sup> says, Your way is preverse. It's very clear that Balaam/~~that~~ God hadn't told him to go with him but God had given him permission to go with them. Permission to go in response to Balaam's great desire to go and get something of these rewards. And why did God do this? Why didn't God just let Balaam go his way when he wanted to go his way? Because it was important in God's ~~purposes~~ <sup>purposes</sup> that that be spoken which God wished said, and he wanted to impress on Balaam's mind, ~~and~~ that Balaam must stand true to what he said that he would not say anything except what God wanted him to say. And so in vs. 34, Balaam said, I'll go back if you don't want me to go. But the angel of the Lord said, ~~God~~ with the man, but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went. So we have the donkey speaks. God speaks through the donkey to Balaam, but Balaam makes this resolve.

E. Balaam's Resolve to follow the Lord 22:36-38. We find his resolve in vs. 38 where he speaks to Balak, "And Balaam said unto Balak . . . (reading text). What a strong clear statement of what he intended to do. Ch. 23:12, Balak said, I took you to curse my enemies and you have blessed them, and in vs. 12 Balaam said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the Lord hath put in my mouth? ch. 23:26 - Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the Lord speaketh, that I must do? And in ch. 24:12-13 (reading text). Balaam stood true in his messages. He gave the message God wanted. He refused to do what Balak wanted him to do. So ~~Balaam~~ Balaam made a resolve to follow the Lord and he carried out his resolve. Yet he made a terrible mistake later on and he gets no credit today for being one of those who stood truly and squarely up against a great ruler and declared that he would say only God's message.

### XIII Balaam's Prophecy.

A. Preparation for the First Prophecy 22:39-23:6. They went through making altars and so on. They made preparations for the prophecies.

B. The Prophecy. He took up his parable and said, (reading text of 23:7-9).