



[Numbers 22:26-27](#)

(26) Then the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. (27) When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat her with his staff.

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Again, the donkey proves herself wiser than Balaam.

[God](#) frequently does this: First, He gets us in a wide place and allows us to make our decisions. It soon becomes apparent which direction we are going, which path we are taking. Then God begins to narrow the way, especially if He sees us going in the wrong direction. He catches us in a place where we can turn around and gives us an opportunity to make a right decision. If we do not do what He wants us to do, He will go a little further down the path—a little bit later in our life—to catch us in a place where the answer is obvious, and we can do nothing except stop, and say, "God help me! I've gone the wrong way, and I need You to open the path for me."

He does this to Balaam. He gets him to the point where there is only plunging on to destruction on one hand, and on the other, stopping and retracing his steps to where he can head in the right direction.

This is the point where Balaam is in these two verses. The donkey simply lies down, as that is all she can do. [Proverbs 22:3](#) says, "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished." The donkey is the "prudent man" here, and blind Balaam is "the simple." He is so without any spiritual acumen that he is just like a foolish simpleton. He cannot see [wisdom](#); he cannot make a wise choice. However, the dumb donkey can!

As a last resort, God takes matters one more step. He is always full of [mercy](#), willing to give us that one more chance to make the right choice. But now He has to do something

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Numbers 22:26-27 (<http://www.theberean.org>)
drastic!

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Balaam and the End-Time Church \(Part 2\)](#)



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