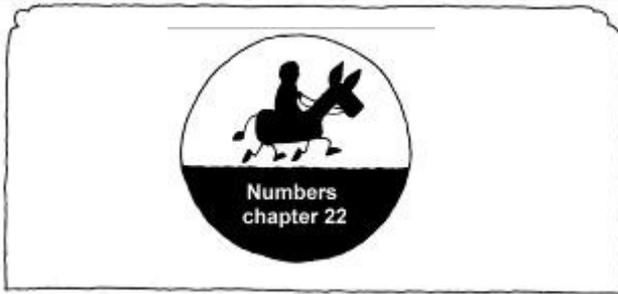


BALAAM and his donkey

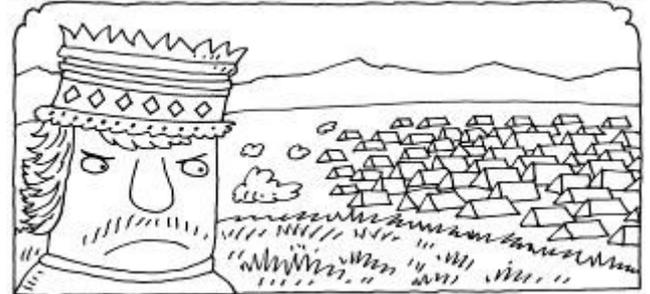
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By Jill Kemp

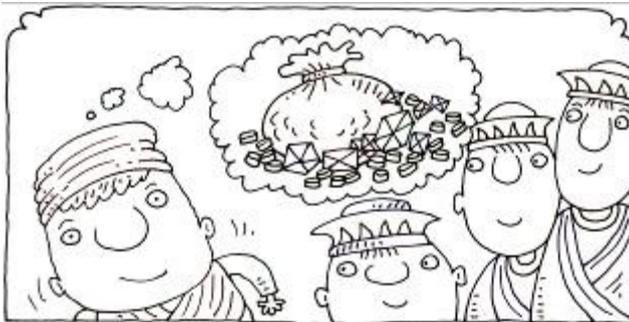
Illustrated by Richard Gunther



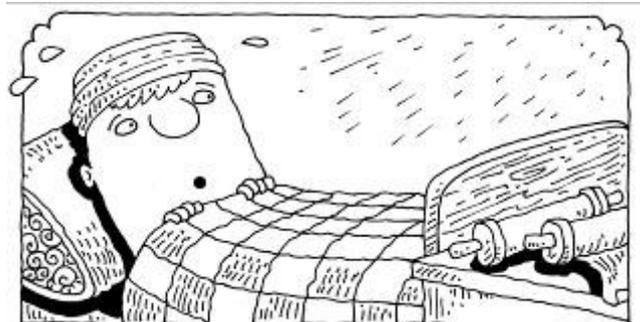
Balaam was a prophet of God and people would pay him to pray for them because God answered his prayers.



The King of Moab saw the Israelites' camp and was scared. He knew the people of Israel were strong and that God blessed them in everything they did. He sent for the help of Balaam the Prophet.



The king's princes offered Balaam money to pray against the children of Israel and ask for God's blessing on the people of Moab instead. "When you pray God listens," they said.



In the night God told Balaam not to join the king of Moab, or pray against Israel's descendants, because He had made a promise to their ancestor Israel, to bless them.



But Balaam got on his donkey and went to Moab. As they trotted along the path suddenly donkey got a fright and wouldn't move. God had sent an angel to stop Balaam joining the Moabite King, against the Israelites.



Balaam couldn't see the angel, which blocked the road twice more. His foot got crushed against the wall as the donkey tried to avoid him. Balaam was angry and gave the donkey a whack.



Then God gave the donkey a voice and he said, "Why are you doing this to me? In all the years you have ridden me I have never refused to move before."



Suddenly God opened Balaam's eyes and he saw the angel with his sword, blocking the way. God always keeps His promises and He used a donkey once. God can use you too!