



Balaam and the Talking Donkey

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

- 7 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")
<http://amzn.com/B006P1EQIA>
- 7 3 mil Laminating Film
<http://amazon.com/dp/B009SOVRYM>

DIRECTIONS

- Print pages 2- two-sided and laminate, if desired.
- Use these pictures to tell the story of Balaam and the Talking Donkey.

NOTE

I have placed Mount Sinai in Arabia, not the traditional placement in the Sinai peninsula because I believe there is enough Biblical and archaeological evidence to do so. However, please do your own research. I highly recommend Steve Rudd's website:
<http://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-route.htm>



The Israelites have been wandering through the wilderness for almost 40 years. During this time, they have made a name for themselves. News of their great defeat of the Amorites has traveled and reached all of the kings in nearby areas.



Israel's Exodus from Egypt

MOAB

One of these kings was Balak, king of Moab. When the Israelites moved their camp and were close to Moab, the people of Moab were in great fear of the Israelites and their great God because of all they had heard about them.



So King Balak sent messengers for Balaam, who was a prophet.

What's a Prophet? (Someone who speaks for God)

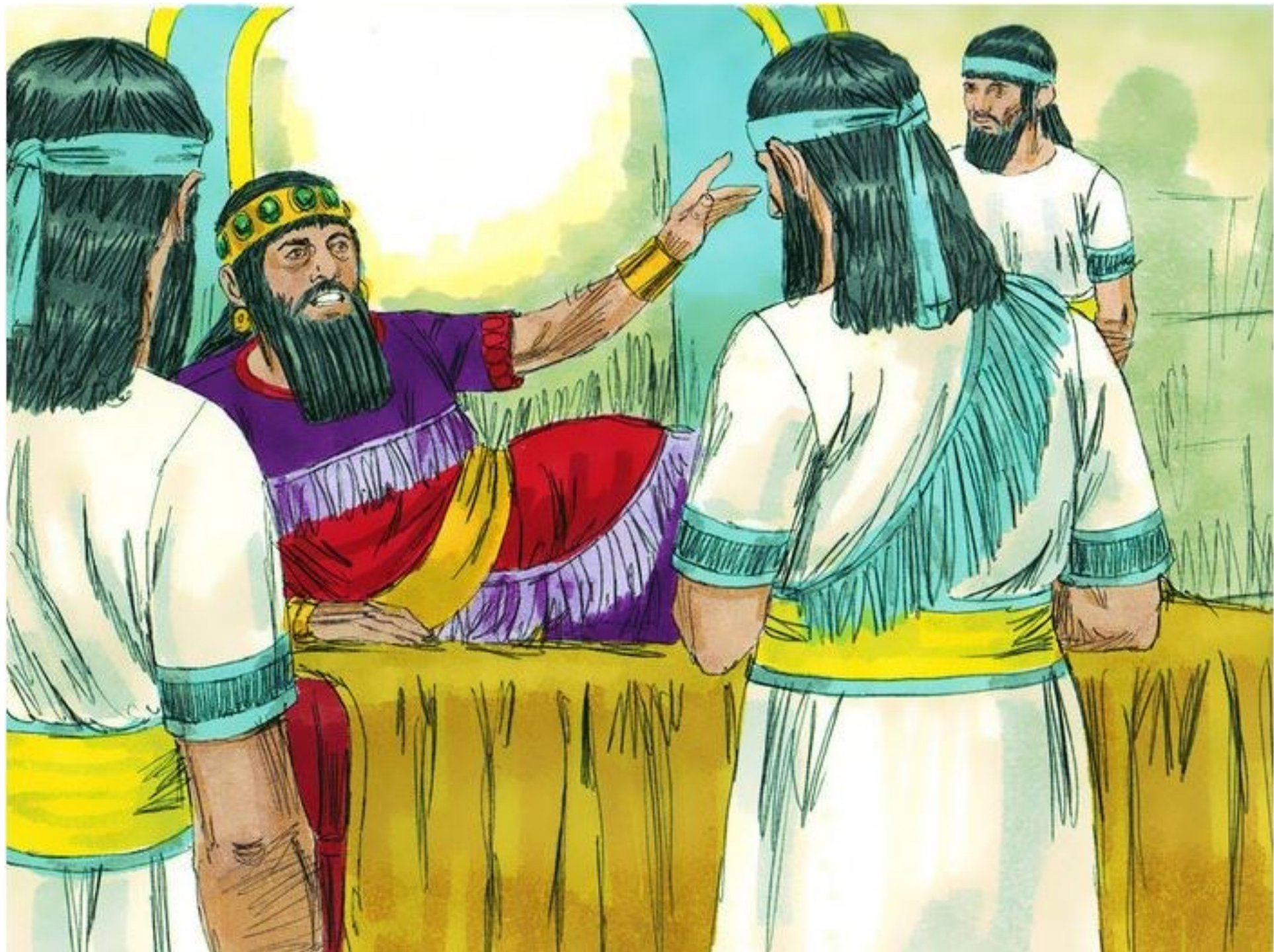
So King Balak sent messengers for Balaam, who was a prophet, asking Balaam to come and curse the Israelites so that King Balak might defeat them.

What does curse mean? (To wish harm or evil upon someone)

Balaam prayed to God and asked God what he should do. God told Balaam, "Do not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."

What does blessed mean? (To wish good or happiness on someone...God's chosen people)

So Balaam got up the next morning and told the messengers that he would not go with them and they went back to Balak the King of Moab.



But the King wouldn't give up! He sent more important men and the men asked Balaam again to come with them and they promised him honor and riches if he would curse the Israelites. Balaam again asks them to spend the night while he asks God what he should do. God tells him to go ahead with them, but to only speak the words He tells him to. The next morning Balaam got on his donkey to go with the men to see the king.



But God was angry that Balaam was going, and the Angel of the Lord took His stand on the path to oppose him. When the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing on the path with a drawn sword in His hand, she turned off the path and went into the field. So Balaam hit her to return her to the path.

Then the Angel of the Lord stood in a narrow passage between the vineyards, with a stone wall on either side. The donkey saw the Angel of the Lord and pressed herself against the wall, squeezing Balaam's foot against it. So he hit her once again. The Angel of the Lord went ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn to the right or the left. When the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam. So he became furious and beat the donkey with his stick.

Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and she asked Balaam, "What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?"

Balaam answered the donkey, "You made me look like a fool. If I had a sword in my hand, I'd kill you now!"

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the path with a drawn sword in His hand. Balaam knelt and bowed with his face to the ground. The Angel of the Lord asked him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? Look, I came out to oppose you, because what you are doing is evil in My sight. The donkey saw Me and turned away from Me these three times. If she had not turned away from Me, I would have killed you by now and let her live."

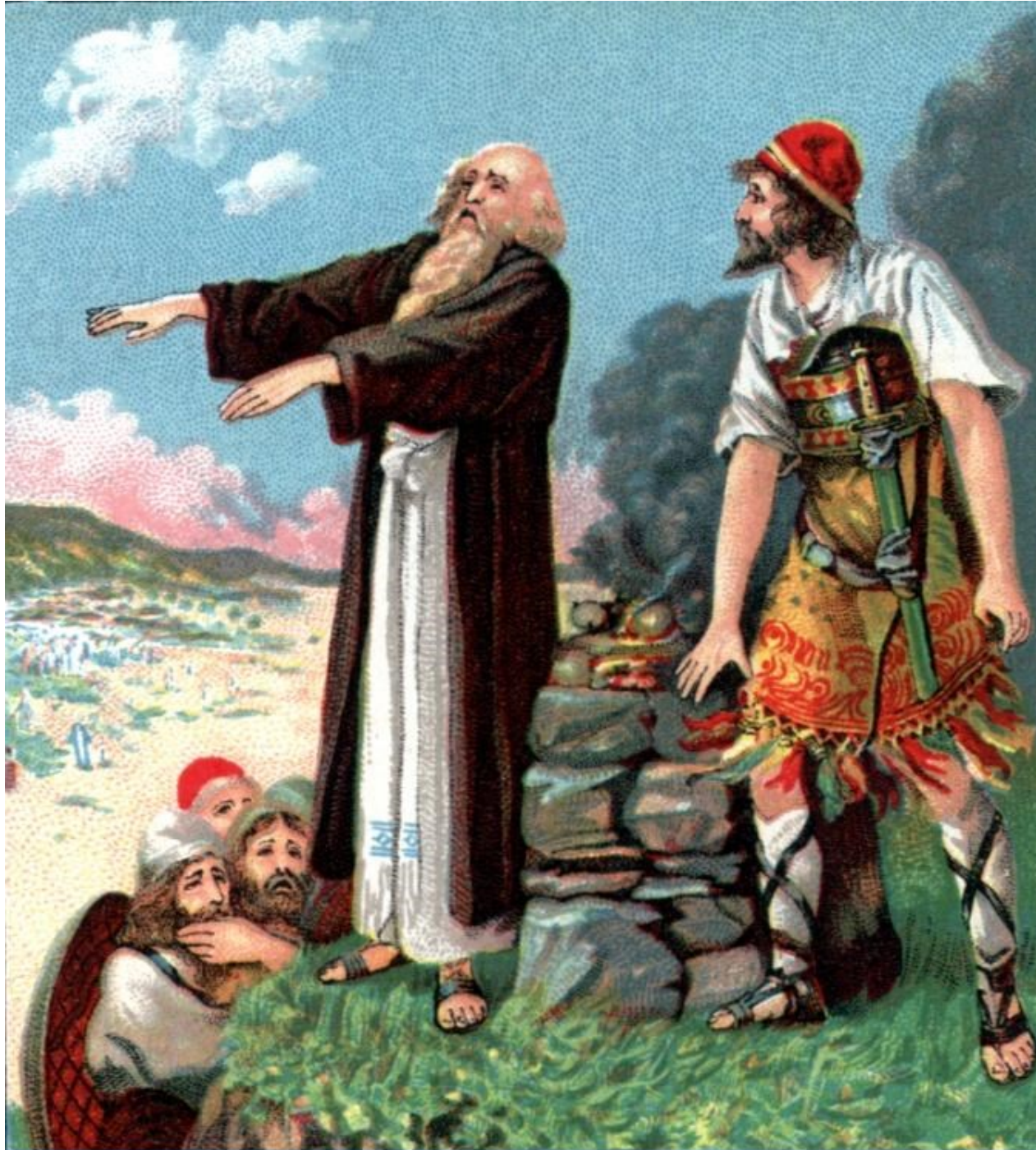
Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know that You were standing in the path to confront me. And now, if it is evil in Your sight, I will go back."

Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but you are to say only what I tell you." So Balaam went with Balak's officials.



When King Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he rushed out to meet him. King Balak asked Balaam, "Why didn't you come sooner?" Balaam answered, "I cannot promise to help you even though I have come. I can only speak the words that God gives me."

King Balak took Balaam to the top of a mountain where they could look down and see the Israelites' camp. Balaam told King Balak to build seven altars on this mountain and offer to the Lord an ox and a sheep on each of the altars. Balaam then asked God what he should say and the Lord only spoke words of blessings for the Israelites.



When King Balak heard Balaam blessing Israel, he was very displeased. Balaam reminded the King of Moab that he could only speak the words that God gave him. Balak thought he would try again. So he took Balaam to another place where they could see part of the Israelites camp. Again, he built seven altars to the Lord. Still God only gave words of blessing to Balaam to speak about the Israelites.

When Balak tried a third time, Balaam still did not curse Israel but blessed them. King Balak became very angry. Balak told Balaam to go back to his own country. So Balaam returned to his home and Balak went on his way.