

*Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate.*

Dr. Albert Schweitzer

Prayer Study # 303

**A CLOSER LOOK AT PROPHECY**

First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia

**WHY NOT STONE FALSE PROPHETS TODAY?**

The Old and New Testament Israelites practiced stoning as a means of executing criminals. Stoning was the punishment inflicted for sacrificing children (Leviticus 20:2 & 5), divination (Leviticus 20:27), blasphemy (Leviticus 24:15-23), Sabbath breaking (Numbers 15:32-36), apostasy (Deuteronomy 13:1-10), idolatry (Deuteronomy 17:2-7), juvenile rebellion (Deuteronomy 21:18-21), and adultery (Deuteronomy 22:22). Examples of those stoned were Achan (Joshua 7:20-26); Adoram (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 12:18); Naboth (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 21:13); Zechariah (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 24:20-21); Stephen (Acts 14:19); and unnamed prophets of the Hall of Fame of Faith (Hebrews 11:37). The tragedy in this list is that many apparently were stoned who were not false prophets at all nor had violated any of the other categories that allowed for stoning.

Surprisingly the Bible does not say that Old Testament false prophets were to be stoned, but *put to death* without specifying the type of capital punishment: *But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die* (Deuteronomy 18:20).

This entire passages from Deuteronomy 18:15-22 reads as follows: 15. *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet (Prophet) from the midst of your brethren like me [Moses]; to Him you shall listen.* 16. *This is what you desired [and asked] of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.* 17. *And the Lord said to me, They have well said all that they have spoken.* 18. *I will raise up for them a prophet (Prophet) from among their brethren like you, and will put My words in His mouth; and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.* 19. *And whoever will not hearken to My words which He shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.* 20. *But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.* 21. *And if you say in your [minds and] hearts, How shall we know which words the*

*Lord has not spoken? 22. When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or prove true, that is a word which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. AMP*

From this passage of scripture, Jack Deere, an excellent Bible teacher, takes the controversial position that even Old Testament prophets missed it, and they were not put to death. Why? Because, to Deere, this passage is speaking about a special type of prophet, i.e. one like Moses who actually stood face-to-face with the Lord. The implication is that no other prophet ever reached this status but one, the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why the Amplified and the New King James translators capitalized the word *Prophet*.

As I say, this is a very controversial position, but seemingly supported by Rick Joyner, Bob Jones (who says he gets his prophecies right about 75% of the time); Mike Bickle; and many other modern day prophets. We have seen that most of the modern prophets have greatly missed the Lord at time, and we should be very cautious with their prophecies. Most of them, however, have brought some good teachings to the Body of Christ and should not be written off.

Others believe that this passage in Deuteronomy, especially in verses 20-22 of chapter 18, applies to all Old Testament prophets who missed it, and that they should have been stoned. They excuse the New Testament (and beyond) prophets because, after Pentecost, they prophesied before a Church that had the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Each spirit-baptized believer, therefore, could discern with the gift of discernment whether these prophecies were true or false when they were given. Thus false prophecies would not deceive and mislead the whole church because the Church could discern whether the prophecy was from the flesh, the devil, or the Lord. In fact, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:29 (*Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge*), seems to indicate that the prophet's words could be challenged and that the prophet could at times be wrong, and yet he was not apparently branded a false prophet, even if he missed it. Furthermore, these New Testament prophets were not speaking on the same divine authority that the Old Testament Prophets spoke or even on the authority of the New Testament Apostle Paul: *If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.*

Outstanding teacher John S. Torell says that there is definitely a difference between the prophets of the Old Testament times and prophets in the New Testament times. *The prophets prior to the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem were used by God to exhort, teach, rebuke and foretell the future*

*and what they spoke was written down and was counted for Scripture. Prophets after the day of Pentecost will exhort, teach, rebuke, and foretell the future, but it is not considered Scripture. After the Book of Revelation was given to the apostle John, there were no more revelations or prophecies from God that He wants added to the Bible (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:14-21; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:14-17; and Revelation 22:18-19). Torell points out that a New Covenant prophet can be a man or woman (Acts 21:8-9); can convey a message from God (Acts 9:10-19); can foretell the future (Acts 21:10-11); will expose sin (Acts 5:1-11); and will be used to set apart Christian workers (Acts 13:1-4). Any believer in Christ can be used to prophesy when there is a need (Acts 27:18-26).*

In summary, we turn to 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:1: *BELOVED, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God: because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* Like John Torell, I do not believe that modern day prophets hold the same spiritual authority or standard of truth that Old Testament prophets held. One of the primary reasons, I believe, is that the Lord does not want us following men and has given us the Holy Spirit to be our guide, rather than Prophet Jones or Prophet Joyner, etc. We must be very careful not to follow prophets. The translators of the New King James warn us in a footnote: *Do not be gullible. Test the moral and spiritual implications of any new ideas. Does it agree with Scripture? Will it make me more like Christ? By this you know: Sometimes one can recognize the work of Satan at a glance. Any idea is false if it denies the deity, humanity, or saving work of Jesus Christ. Anything less than full acceptance of, and obedience to, the divine-human Christ is following the Antichrist.* A second reason is that the Old Testament prophets, but no modern day prophets, would be speaking words that would become canonized scripture written by these prophets as the Holy Spirit gave utterance. The Lord insisted that His Word be inerrant and infallible so that we could have a guide for righteous living, a guide that would be relevant and necessary all the way up until He comes again.

### **PROPHETIC PITFALLS**

**(from Kingdom Watch)**

*God is more concerned about the purity of his Prophets, than the accuracy of their prophecies. He values the men and women themselves and their motives as much as their message and ministry.*

Dr. Bill Hamon in *Prophets, Pitfalls and Principles*

1. **A Critical and Harsh Spirit:** Prophets have high standards. They see things in black and white. This can sometimes result in the prophet being critical, which makes their words seem harsh, even if they are true. If we enjoy giving hard words, we may have a critical spirit.
2. **Frustration and Bitterness:** All prophets experience rejection, if their words are not always accepted and obeyed. If this happens frequently, the prophet can become frustrated, and frustration can lead to bitterness. Words spoken out of frustration and bitterness will be contaminated by these things and will not come out pure. This is one of the most serious problems faced by prophets. They must learn to deal with rejection without going into frustration and bitterness. **Stephen L. Mansfield:** *Given the path that most prophets have had to walk, both as Christians and before, there is usually an exceptional need for attending to issues of wounding and bitterness. If these aren't addressed, the prophet will likely gravitate to an isolated, critical, and hardened condition of heart that can quench the prophetic fire. If these issues are addressed successfully, however, there can be a greater love and wholeness and thus a clearer prophetic flow than ever.* **Janet Chambers** in *Cave Dweller or Tower Dweller:* *A cave seems to be a safe place, but it is not a dwelling place. The Body of Christ is full of wounded prophets who went into a cave and dwelt there.*
3. **Anger:** Prophet people often get angry with those who do not receive their words, when the real problem is that the message was not spoken clearly. The prophetic person may have been given a truth to share, but if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, no one will respond. The hard truth for prophetic people to swallow is that an unclear word is a dead word. Praise from friends and people who have already received the word does not mean much. We are all receptive to words that confirm our own views. The real test of a word is whether it is clear to those challenged by it. Taking rejection as a sign that a word was true is dangerous, because this is not always the case. Rejection often occurs because the word was not clear, and sometimes because it was not true. Prophets must be constantly looking at the way they presented their message. They should hone their words, so they can present a clearer warning.

4. **Pride:** Prophets usually lead lives that are extremely righteous. They can easily take on the spirit of the Pharisees, who felt good, because they could see the sins of other people. Pride is very destructive of prophetic ministry. **Jack Deere** in *Surprised by the Voice of God* (p. 207): *Another trap into which I commonly see prophetic people fall is the desire to be awesome in ministry, to be “a prophet to the nations.” This is the exact opposite of the true Spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10). Prophecy is meant to testify to the awesomeness of Jesus, not to the prophetic ministry.* Cindy Jacobs in *The Voice of God* (p. 59): *Why does God have to deal so strongly with those who are prophetic? For one thing, they are so stubborn! For another, they are more prone to pride.*
5. **Prophetic Pushiness:** Prophets must avoid the trap of pushing their name forward. This pushiness often comes from frequent rejection, but must be rejected. Prophets must be servants of God’s word. Their only concern should be that God’s word is heard. If the word is heard, it does not matter if the prophet is forgotten. Prophets are human, so this is easier to say than to live.
6. **Rebellion:** Pride often leads to rebellion. Rebellion is terribly crippling for a prophet. It is the moral equivalent of witchcraft (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 15:23). **Andrew Strom:** *I believe that many prophetic people (like myself) do have problems with “rebellion.” They seem to rub leaders the wrong way almost by design sometimes. And then they develop a “persecution complex” or slink off wallowing in self-pity. I have done all of this and more. In times past I have found myself sitting in the “gate” like rebellious Absalom, subtly speaking words against the leadership and growing my own reputation thereby. Rebellion is the most insidious sin, and when you begin to see how much it dominates our world, and how ingrained it is in us, it is a real eye-opener. I have found that it is only when you have dealt with Rebellion that you can trust yourself to speak only God’s word to a leader. Rebellion can greatly affect the words we bring to leaders, and yet many prophets seem to hardly know they have a problem in this area. I can look back now and I wince at the influence of Rebellion over my words and actions in the past. But God does cleanse and heal. Often now I see the Pastor’s point of view—that of a leader and responsible shepherd, when unwise prophets arrive looking for something or someone to ‘target.’ So-called*

*“prophets” like this are a curse, not a blessing. God is dealing with Rebellion now. If you can’t sit under authority today, you will be a pain in the neck to tomorrow’s leaders too. Deal with your rebellion now or miss out. It’s that simple. I believe a lot of problems could be caused by roaming “lone ranger prophets” in the coming move of God—even worse than today. Tell me friend, do you have the makings of being just such a “lone ranger”??*

- 7. Control and Manipulation:** The Jezebel spirit uses manipulation and control to achieve results. It is the opposite and the enemy of the prophetic ministry. Prophets must avoid all temptation to “help” the fulfillment of their words by manipulating people. **African prophecy:** *Steer clear of the “Three C’s”- Condemnation, Control, and Criticism. These have to stay out of our prophecy. We need to root out the three C’s ruthlessly in our words, in our thought life, in our actions. Don’t give them place. Don’t pray them, don’t think them, and don’t speak them. Then they won’t get into the prophecy.* John Paul Jackson: *Every church that embraces a prophetic ministry will have to contend with the Jezebel spirit because it mimics the prophetic gifts and callings of God. This spirit comes to destroy the prophetic gift. Consequently, since it works covertly, its activities are extremely treacherous.*
- 8. Misuse of Power:** God’s gifts are irrevocable (Romans 11:29). This means that prophets can misuse their gift. Elisha and the rude children is an example. The scriptures do not say that Elisha’s behavior was correct. They just record the incident. Elisha was not perfect. He just did his best with the knowledge that he had. With knowledge of Jesus and his teaching, it is clear that Elisha misused his gifting. The boys who mocked him were irrelevant. He should have just turned the other cheek and ignored them. James and John acted in the same way when they wanted to call down fire from heaven on those who opposed them. Jesus warned that they were acting in the wrong spirit. I think he would have said the same to Elisha. Prophets must not use their gifting to protect their role or their reputation.
- 9. Jealousy:** Prophets can often become jealous of other ministries that seem to receive much more honor and acceptance. Jealousy can prevent us from hearing clearly. **Elijah List (12-02-01):** *Men who have not mastered glory get easily offended at others. We get “this stinging bitterness” inside of us when we have not*

died to glory. We will only have menial success in life and ministry with this hindering spirit still raging on the inside. It will cause a jealousy to build on the inside of you. It will make you feel good when others' "ministry does not work." It will make you feel that "I am the one who can do this." "I am the one!" "I am the one!" Dying to glory is the hardest death to die.

**10. Sexual Immorality: John Paul Jackson:** Any ministry can fall prey to any sin, but prophetic people seem to be especially prone to sexual sin. Perhaps one reason is because of the heightened sensitivity that comes with the prophetic gift. While prophetic individuals can "feel" the movement of the Holy Spirit, but they can also feel the torment of demonic spirits that attack them through others. Sometimes a prophetic person will begin to discern and feel what someone is tormented with. If the prophetic individual is lax in their time spent with the Lord, it will become increasingly difficult to differentiate between their own feelings and those coming from other people. The second reason stems from various roots of rejection. In many cases, prophetic individuals have experienced rejection so often that they harbor deep feelings of insecurity. Subsequently, they also can harbor pride at doing something others may never have had the opportunity to experience. This pride becomes a driving force that opens the door to deception. Furthermore, they are prone to receive the acceptance of others with open arms, without maintaining an attitude of vigilance. Thus, a prophetic person who has not developed the characteristic of restraint becomes "open prey" for demonic torment and attraction.

**11. Rationalizing Mistakes:** Some prophets are so worried about their mistakes that they refuse to admit them. No one is right 100 percent of the time. **Jack Deere:** Sometimes a prophetic person has a hard time admitting a mistake because he or she thinks it would ruin their credibility. Usually just the opposite happens. Rationalizing or failing to admit our mistakes is what usually ruins credibility. People trust people who say they were wrong.

**12. Calling Out Sins Publicly:** Prophets should not publicly accuse individuals of sin. The gospel provides guidelines for dealing with Christians who sin. They should first be spoken to in private. **Matthew 18:15-17:** *If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen,*

*take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*

- 13. Money:** Money can be a cause of blindness. Prophets should be careful about giving favorable words to those who provide them with financial support. Generally, it is better if prophets can be financially independent of the church and the community. **Jack Deere** in *Surprised by the Voice of God* p. 209: *Materialism and money have always been a problem in prophetic ministry. Micah complained in his day, “This is what the Lord says: ‘As for the prophets who lead my people astray, if one feeds them, they proclaim peace; if he does not, they prepare to wage war against him” (Micah 3:5). When prophets succumb to the temptation to give good prophecies to those who treat them well and bad prophecies to those who don’t show them special deference, then the Lord may cease speaking to any of the prophetic people.*
- 14. People Pleasing:** People pleasing is a killer for all ministry, and especially prophetic ministry. Prophetic people who tell people what they want to hear will lose touch with God (Galatians 1:10 & Ezekiel 13:2). A true prophet should not expect the praise of men (Luke 6:26). They will seek only the approval of God. **Cindy Jacobs** in the *Voice of God: Human love can taint a word. Sometimes love blinds the prophet causing him or her to give a good prophetic word when the Lord wanted to give a word of correction.* **Ivan Poulter:** *Few self-proclaimed ‘prophets’ are anything more than teachers. I see too much of the man pleasing spirit everywhere. I have just preached a little on Samuel. Now there was a prophet. Are there any so-called prophets operating in the realm of Samuel? If any, I don’t know of them, and have never heard of them. Are there self-proclaimed prophets around the world? They are more abundant than cent pieces, and yet just about every single one of them are more travelling teachers who couldn’t prophesy themselves out of a paper bag.* **Rick Joyner** in *The Prophetic Ministry: Regardless of which ministry we are called to, we must not copy or emulate other people, but rather the One whose image we are called to bear. Schools for prophets may be helpful, but they will be*



*counterproductive if they just bring forth “parrot,” who all prophesy the same things.*

- 15. Confusing Wisdom and Prophecy:** Most prophetic people have studied the scriptures for most of their lives. They usually have a passion for God’s Kingdom and are keen observers of all that is going on in the world. This puts them in a good place to comment on what is happening in current events or to develop sound applications of the scriptures. Their wisdom is often really insightful and worth sharing, but it is not the word of the Lord, so it is misleading to label it prophetic. A prophet must be able to distinguish between what they receive from the Lord and what comes from their own wisdom.
- 16. Blindness to Our Culture:** The hardest thing for a prophet is to see the weakness and sins of their own society, culture or denomination. If we are attached to something, we can be blinded by it. A true prophet stands apart from his culture. **Chris Anderson** in *Little Flock-Culture Prophets: If we attempt to execute the prophetic burden upon earth’s affairs without first losing our love for and identity in our culture, our spiritual gift and office becomes overpowered and subverted by our culture to reaffirm its own ways. The prophetic becomes a mouthpiece for the very powers behind culture which is has been dispensed to challenge and oppose. We become unable to discern between the loves of John 3:16 and 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15, deceived into believing that God’s love for men and out love of culture are the same thing—our nations and our denominations, our government policies and our society’s passing fancies, our civic customs and our religious holidays-believing we are indeed prophesying the true mind of the Lord and the true love of the Father to the world. We think we are executing God’s will to transform the earthly into the image of the heavenly, but are only debasing heaven, lowering God to the image of the earthly.*

## **FUNCTION OF PROPHETS BESIDES GIVING PERSONAL PROPHECY**

**By Jonas Clark**

1. Are forerunners who make a way for “greater things” to come (Matthew 3:3)
2. Deal with spiritual climates (Jeremiah 1:10)

3. Turn people from sin to holiness (Jeremiah 23:21-22)
  4. Are front line intercessors (Jeremiah 27:18)
  5. Turn the hearts of the fathers and sons (Malachi 4:5-6)
  6. Challenge dead traditions of men and dangerous spirits of religion (Matthew 3:9-10)
  7. Are stewards of the mysteries of God (Ephesians 3:5)
  8. Carry lamentations, mourning and woe (intercession burdens) (Ezekiel 2:10)
  9. Are fore-tellers of things to come (Amos 3:7)
  10. Contend with false prophets of divination including Jezebel and Baal (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 18:19)
  11. Challenge demonic territorial guards (Acts 13:7)
  12. Speak to the nations and kingdoms (Jeremiah 1:5)
- Prophetic ministry is a wonderful gift from God. Moses said, "Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them" (Numbers 1:29).

### **PROPER RESPONSE TO PERSONAL PROPHECY**

(Reprinted from Life Center Ministries, Atlanta, GA)

1. RECORD (write it out and read every month)-1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:14-15-*Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.*
2. WITNESS TO AND THEN WAR A GOOD WARFARE WITH PROPHECY-Romans 8:16-*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.* 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:18-*This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.*
3. DO NOTHING DIFFERENT (unless definitely directed)-1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:13-Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. (David did nothing except wait for the Lord's timing after he was anointed by Samuel.)
4. REMOVE HINDRANCES of mind set, soul blockage, self-image, pride, blame-shifting, self-justification, self-preservation, people pleasing, carnal reasoning, and procrastination. Hebrews 12:1-2-THEREFORE we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud

of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

5. WAIT PATIENTLY-Isaiah 40:31-*But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*
6. MAN MUST BE MADE BEFORE MIGHTY MINISTRY (Jesus spent 30 years in preparation for 3 years of ministry.) –Hebrews 2:9-10-*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*
7. RESULTS OF NOT WAITING LONG ENOUGH-*Abraham and Sarah; Ishmael; Saul; etc.*
8. RECEIVE WITH FAITH, HUMILITY, MEEKNESS AND VISION-Hebrews 4:2-*For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.* (Also, Deuteronomy 29:29; James 1:21; James 3:17; James 4:17; Matthew 21:21; Psalm 34:2)

### **HAVING AN IDOL IN YOUR HEART**

Sometimes when we go to the Lord in prayer or inquire of a prophet for a personal word, we get a wrong answer because we have an idol in our hearts. Ezekiel 14:4-5 addresses this issue: *Therefore, speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: “Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes the prophet, I the LORD will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.*

First of all, let’s look at what an idol is. An idol is anything or anybody that you want or enjoy more than you want the Lord. In the Old Testament we do not find the children of Israel ascending from idol worship to pure worship of God, rather we find believers falling, often at the influence of a religious leader, to idol worship. Those believers who worship idols, whether idols made by hands or idols of the heart, are practicing spiritual

adultery. Examples of idols in our day are the human body, money, sports, pleasure, houses, cars, etc. Idols certainly do not have to be materialistic. They can be dreams and ambitions, goals and plans that do not take in the Lord's will for our lives, and they can possess a demonic presence whether they are materialistic or not.

When we go to the Lord in prayer or to a prophet for a personal word-and in general I don't recommend going to a prophet but letting him come to you-we have to lay down our own wills and be a living sacrifice, trusting Jesus so much that we seek and ask for His will alone for our lives. If you don't have that attitude of self-denial and really seeking His will, you need to pray that God first change your attitude, and when you allow Him to change your heart, then you can go to prayer or be prophesied over. If you, on the other hand, have a definite direction in your mind as to how the Lord should answer this prayer, that becomes an idol of your own will and causes you to think that God is answering the way you want whether He actually is or not. If your will is His alone whatever it is, then the answer from the Lord will be pure revelation, not contaminated by your own desires. A true word from the Lord comes when you are fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Where we often see people seeking prophetic ministry with an idol in their hearts is when people have decided without any witness from the Lord of whom they are going to marry. So often these marriages are not of the Lord. He did not join the two together, and the marriage ends prematurely. That is not to say that you should not really want to marry the person whom you are in love with, nor that this is not God's will. But you must be careful to seek His will and not only your own.

The best example, perhaps in scripture is the story of Balaam, the prophet. He was a true prophet. In Numbers 22 Balak wanted Balaam to come to him and curse the enemies of Balak. The only problem was that his enemies were the Israelites, who were God's chosen people. The Lord specifically told Balaam not to go and not to curse the Israelites. Then Balak sent messengers with the promise from Balak to Balaam of honor riches and gold, if Balaam would come and curse the Israelites. Balaam wanted these things more than he wanted God's will. He prayed with an idol in his heart, and so he interpreted the word from the Lord as, "Sure! Go ahead!" God was very angry with Balaam and sent an angel with a sword to block his path. This is when Balaam's donkey spoke and Balaam's eyes were open to the angel of the Lord telling Balaam to go to Balak but to speak only the word the angel of the Lord spoke.