

The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. It features a range of mountains with patches of snow or light-colored rock, silhouetted against a twilight sky with a gradient of dark blue and purple. The foreground is a dark, textured field, possibly covered in low-lying vegetation or rocks.

Do I really want
what I ask for?

JP Archer

Num 22:7-14 (ESV)

⁷ So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the fees for divination in their hand. And they came to Balaam and gave him Balak's message. ⁸ And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the Lord speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.

Num 22:7-14 (ESV)

⁹ And God came to Balaam and said, “Who are these men with you?” ¹⁰ And Balaam said to God, “Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, ¹¹ ‘Behold, a people has come out of Egypt, and it covers the face of the earth. Now come, curse them for me. Perhaps I shall be able to fight against them and drive them out.’”

Num 22:7-14 (ESV)

¹² God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.” ¹³ So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, “Go to your own land, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you.” ¹⁴ So the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak and said, “Balaam refuses to come with us.”

Num 22:27-36 (ESV)

²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. ²⁸ Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

Num 22:27-36 (ESV)

²⁹ And Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you.” ³⁰ And the donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?” And he said, “No.”

Num 22:27-36 (ESV)

³¹ Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face. ³² And the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me.

Num 22:27-36 (ESV)

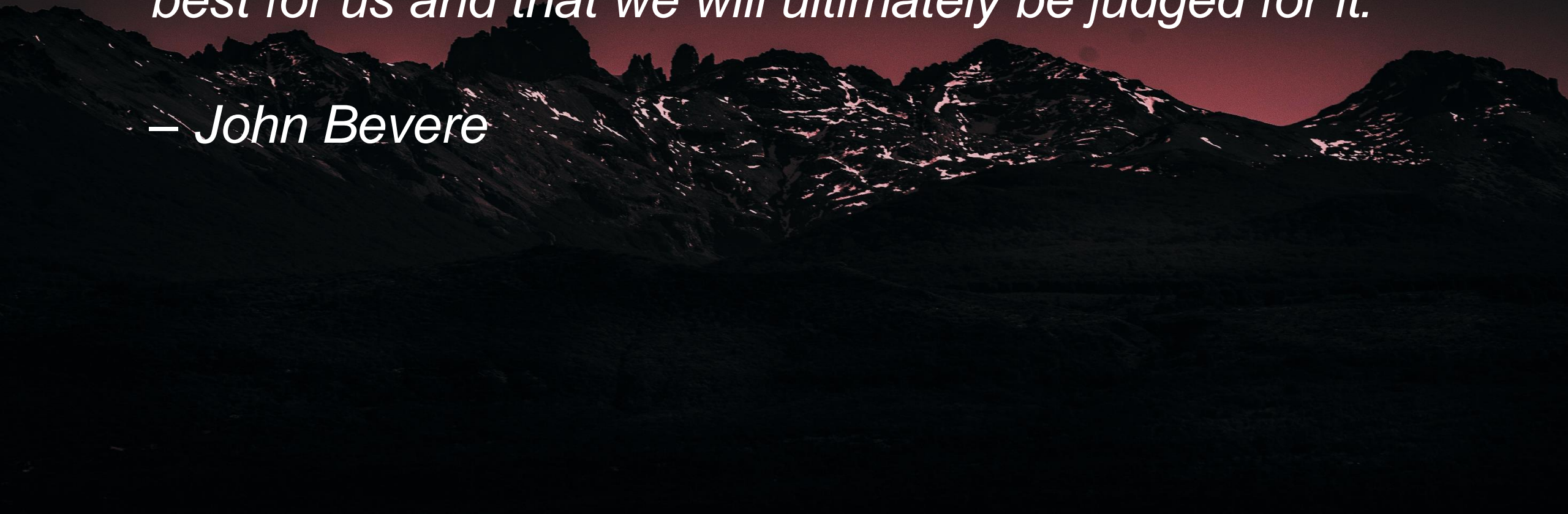
³³ The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live.” ³⁴ Then Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, “I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood in the road against me. Now therefore, if it is evil in your sight, I will turn back.” ³⁵ And the angel of the Lord said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but speak only the word that I tell you.” So Balaam went on with the princes of Balak.

- God will not curse his own people (God has your back covered)
- Persistence for the wrong thing
- God's saving Grace, Jesus Christ



“If we really desire (covet) something, and God has communicated His will on the matter (whether through His Word or in prayer) yet we still desire it, God will often give it to us, even if He knows it is not best for us and that we will ultimately be judged for it.”

— John Bevere



Do I really want what I ask for?

1. You choose if you are a fan or follower.

1. What do you think the mind-set of the fan will ask for in prayer?

2. What do you think the mind-set of the follower will ask for in prayer?

2. Share in the group how you could relate to Balaam in your own life and had to repent of it?

Small group discussion