

Balaam

— and the —

Talking Donkey



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In this book we use the word **Adonai** in the text to indicate the name of the all mighty. We do this so we do not offend those who do not say the commonly used name.

The Story of Balaam comes from Numbers chapter 22



Long ago, in a land called Moab, there lived a man named Balaam.

He was known far and wide because he listened to Adonai.

One morning, Balaam was getting ready for a trip.



The king of Moab asked Balaam to come and curse the people of Israel.

Balaam asked Adonai what to do. Adonai said, “Do not curse these people, for they are blessed.”

So Balaam said no to the king’s men. But the king kept sending more messengers—more important, more persuasive, and with shiny gifts!



That night, Adonai told Balaam, “If the men come for you, go with them, but only say what I tell you to say.”

So Balaam got up early, saddled his donkey, and began his journey.

But Balaam’s heart wasn’t quite right. He was thinking about all that gold!



Suddenly, as they walked along the narrow path, the Angel of the Lord stood in front of them! The angel's sword gleamed bright, but only the donkey could see him.



**The donkey turned off the road
into a field.**

**“Hey! What are you doing?”
shouted Balaam, hitting her to
get back on the path.**

**The angel moved again—this
time between two vineyard
walls.**



**The angel moved once more—
this time into a narrow place
where there was no room to
turn!**

**The donkey lay down right
under Balaam.**

**“Why are you being so
stubborn?” Balaam shouted,
hitting her again.**



Then something amazing
happened.
Adonai opened the donkey's
mouth.

“What have I done to you,” she
said, **“to make you beat me
three times?”**



“You’ve made me look foolish!”
Balaam shouted.
“If I had a sword, I’d hurt you!”

The donkey replied softly,
**“Am I not your donkey that
you’ve ridden all your life?
Have I ever done this before?”**

Balaam paused. **“No... you
haven’t.”**



Then Adonai opened Balaam's eyes.

He saw the Angel of the Lord standing right there with a shining sword!

Balaam fell flat on his face.



The angel said, “Why did you beat your donkey? I came to stop you because your way is wrong. If she had not turned aside, I would have killed you but spared her.”

Balaam bowed low. “I have sinned,” he said. “I will go back if you want.”



The angel told him, “Go on, but only speak the words that I tell you.”

So Balaam and his faithful donkey continued their journey. This time, Balaam’s heart was humble, and he listened carefully to what Adonai said.

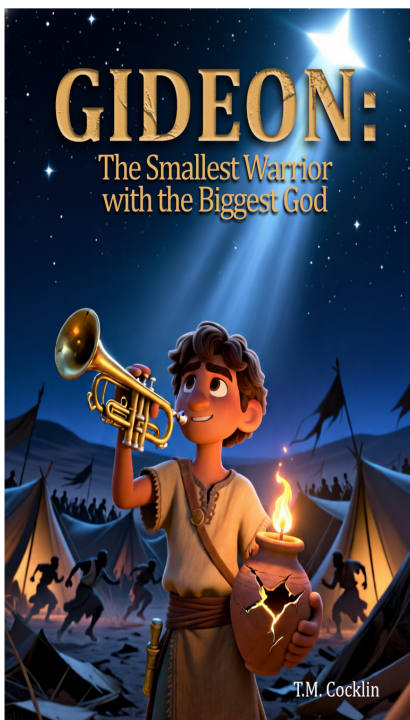
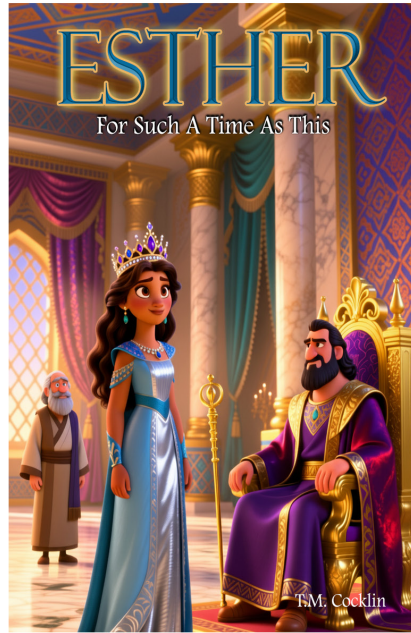
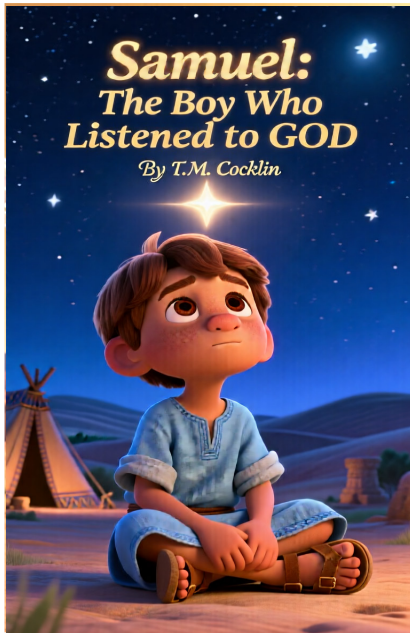


Moral of the Story

Even when we think we know what's best, we must listen to Adonai.

And sometimes, Adonai can use a donkey to help us see the right thing to do!

Other Bible Stories



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