

## March 7 Answers

- 1) Balak, the king of **Moab**, asked Balaam, a famous **seer**, to curse the Israelites. Balak sent a delegation of leaders to convey the seriousness of his request, and Balaam invited them to stay until he learned your will. You told him plainly, “You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed” (Num 22:12). Balaam refused to go with them, but Balak didn’t take Balaam’s ‘No’ for an answer. He sent back more important nobles and offered him a blank check for services rendered. At first, it seemed as though Balaam was loyal and obedient to God, but there was **greed** in his heart: “So you, too, please stay here tonight, that I may know what **more** the LORD will say to me” (Num 22:19). Balaam wanted Balak’s **money**, and he was hoping God would change His mind! God permitted Balaam to go in order to **test** him, but when Balaam went, God was angry, for Balaam knew God hadn’t changed His mind (Num 22:20). Balaam’s desire for money was greater than his desire to obey God. God could have killed Balaam, but instead had mercy on him and allowed his female donkey to save his life. Even then, Balaam still wanted to go (Num 22:34b)! God let him continue, but used him to bless Israel and teach Balak about the one, true God.