

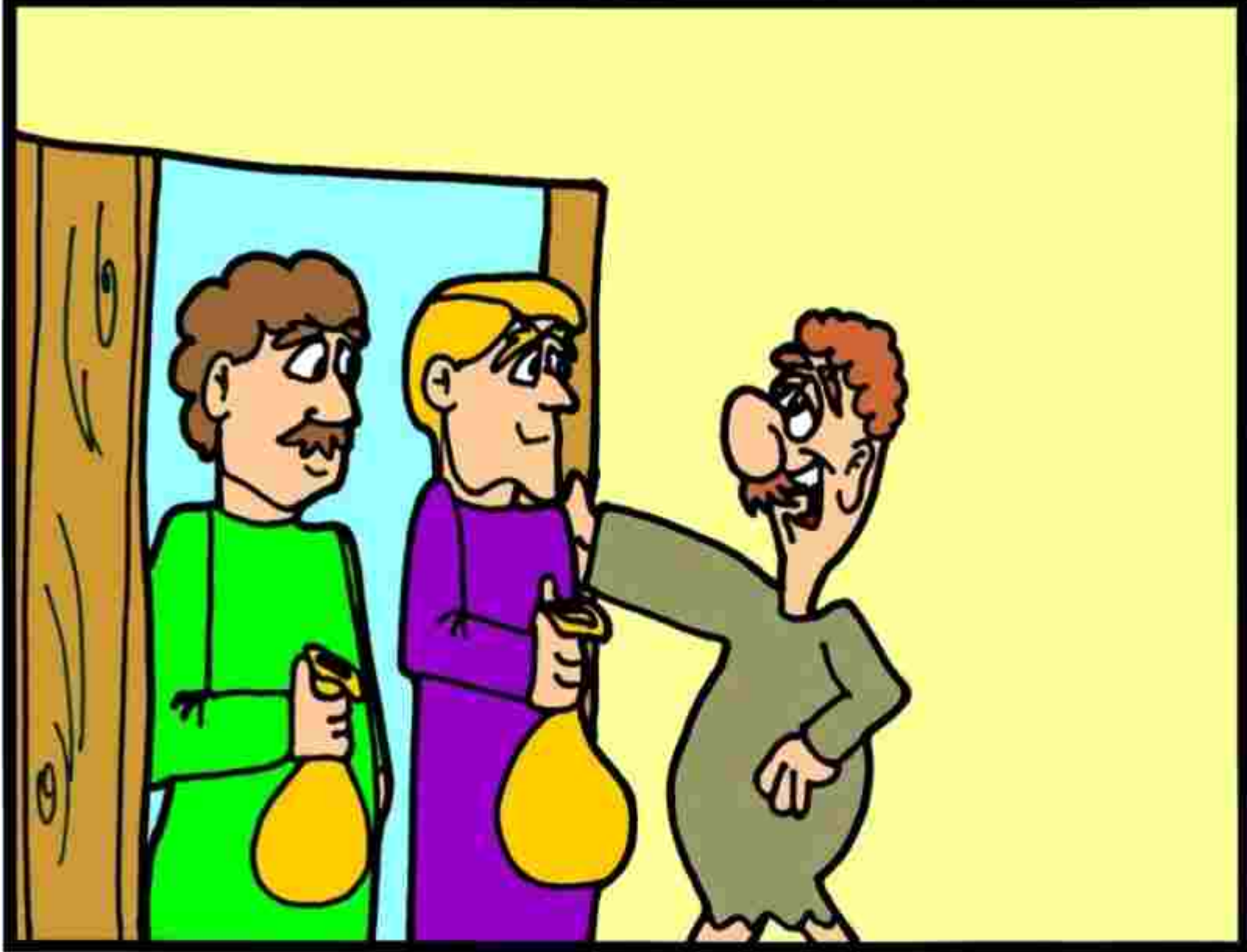
# Balaam's Talking Donkey

*(Based on Numbers 22-25, Numbers 31:16,  
Joshua 13:22)*

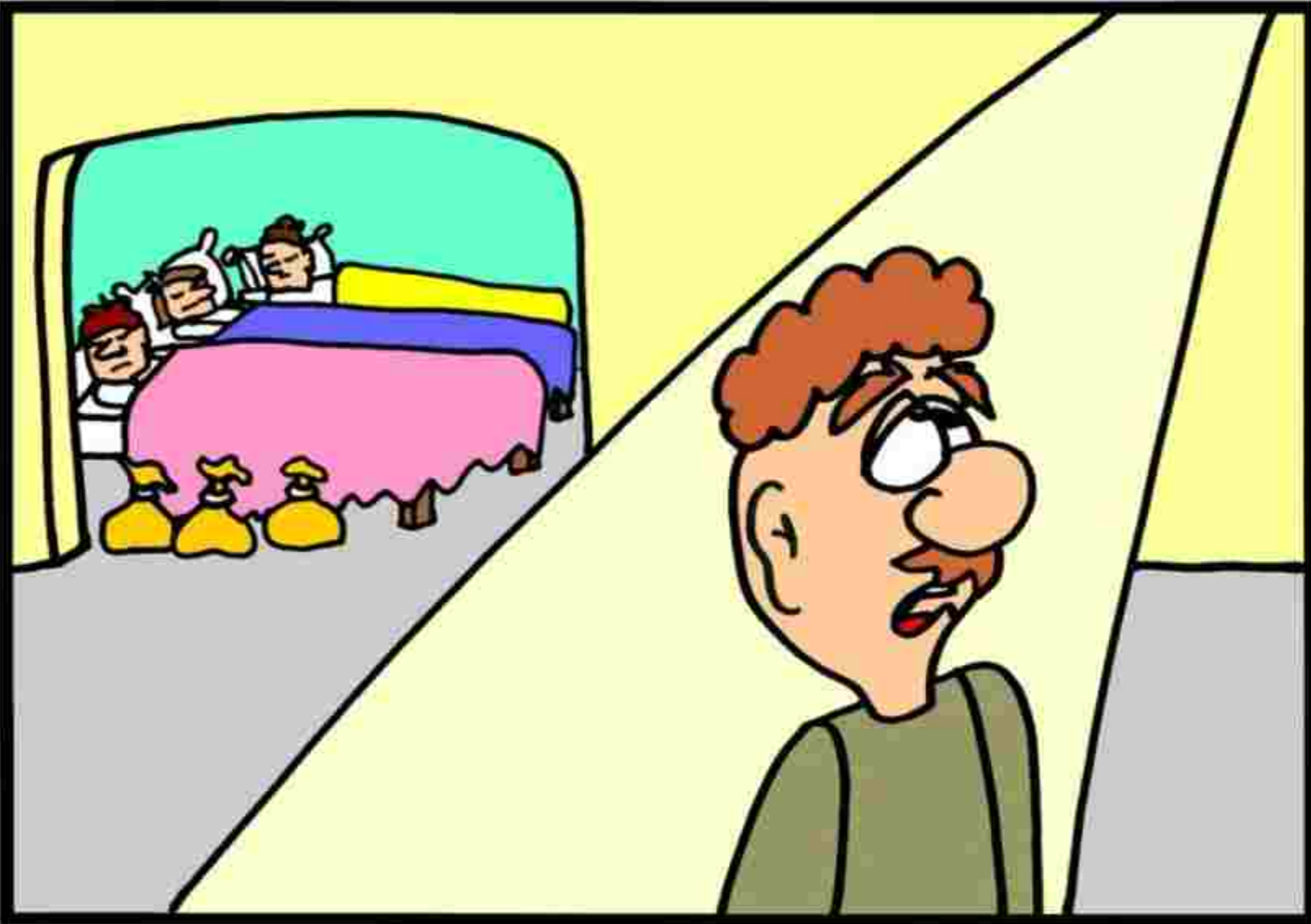
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The people of Israel set up camp in the plains of Moab. The King of Moab was very afraid so he sent his princes to a man named Balaam saying, “Come and put a curse on these people who have come into my land then I will defeat them.”



Balaam invited the princes to stay the night. That night God spoke to Balaam and told him not to go with the princes and not to put a curse on the people of Israel because they are blessed people.



The King sent more princes with more money. He promised to make Balaam somebody special in his kingdom. The princes stayed overnight. That night God said that, if the princes called for him, he could go with them, but he must only do what God says.



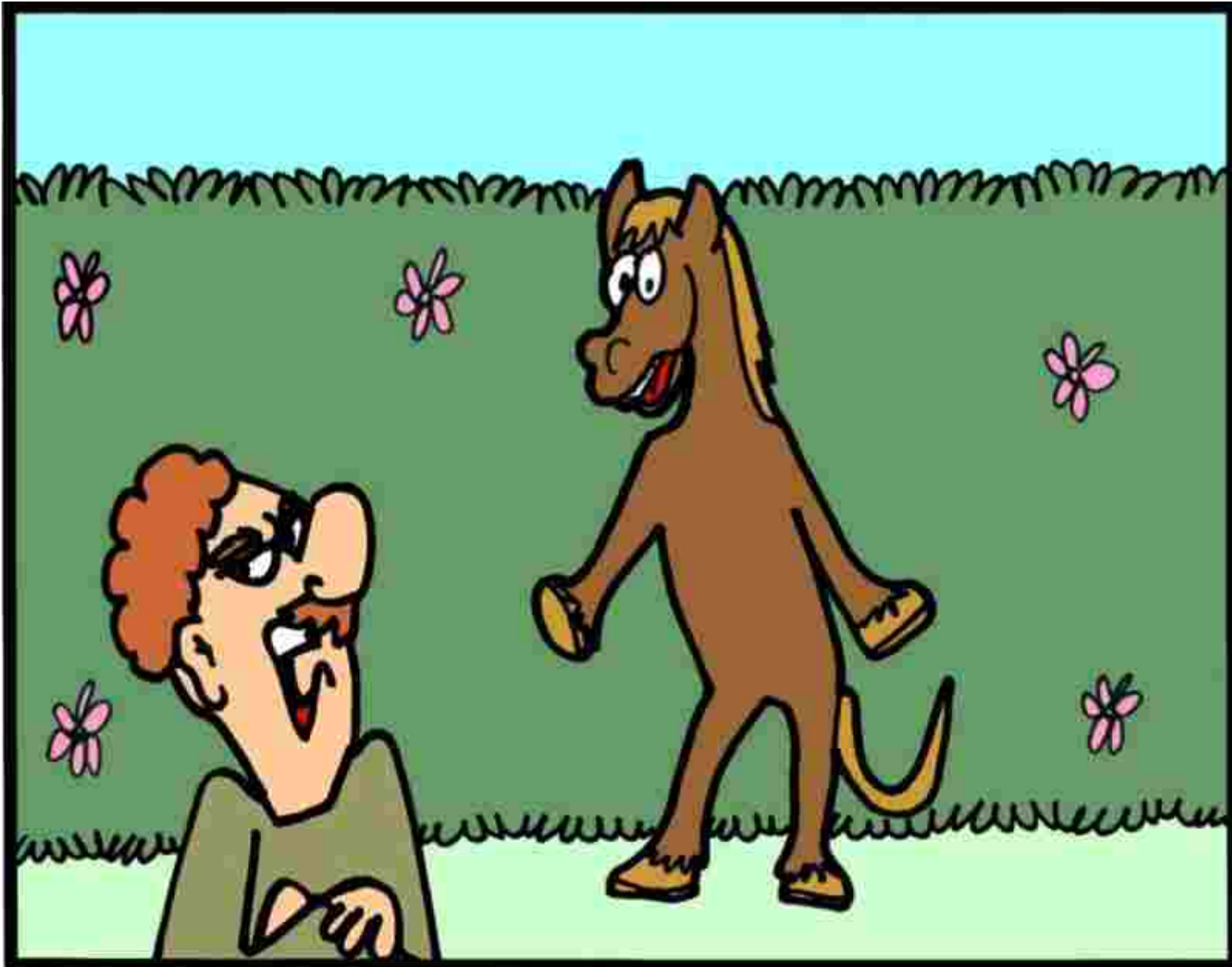
Next morning Balaam saddled his donkey and went with the princes. God was angry that he went, so God's angel came to stand against him. The donkey saw the angel standing in the path holding out a sword. She went into the field and Balaam hit her to make her go back onto the path.



Again the donkey saw the angel and this time because she was walking between two walls, she threw herself against one of the walls and crushed Balaam's foot. Balaam hit his donkey again.



The angel went further down the path to a skinny place. When the donkey saw the angel, she lay down. This time Balaam hit her with a stick. The Lord made the donkey able to talk. “What have I done to you that you have hit me these three times?” she asked.



“You have made fun of me!” answered Balaam. “I wish I had a sword for if I did, I would kill you.” The donkey talked again. “Have I ever done anything like this before?”





Then Balaam saw the angel and he fell on his face. The angel said, "I came to stop you because your plans are not right." Balaam offered to go home. "You may go with the men," said the angel, "but you can only say the words that God says to you."



Balaam stood on a high place where he could see all the people of Israel below. “How can I curse the one God has blessed? Let the end of my life be like Jacobs.” “You are putting a blessing on them instead of a curse!” screamed the king of Moab.



The king brought Balaam to two more places, hoping that Balaam would put a curse on the people of Israel. Instead he spoke blessings on them both times. The king was very angry and told Balaam to go home.



Although Balaam didn't put a curse on the people of Israel, he knew how to get them into trouble. By his advice the people of Moab set a trap for the people of Israel.



They sent very pretty, evil ladies to the Israelite camp. It was their job to get the Israelite men to worship the Baal statue instead of God and many men fell for the trap. As a result 24,000 Israelite people died because of a plague.



Balaam became a soothsayer. *(People paid him money to tell their futures.)* In the end he was one of the ones killed when the people of Israel finally took the promised land.



Lord, thank you that no one can put a curse on the people that God has blessed. I want to worship only you.