

looking for blessing where God has sent the curse, and the curse where God has sent the blessing. There is as much sense about God's ways in an ass as in a man walking without Him.

There are two things in Balaam's mind. One is, that he is afraid of God. So the world are frightened at what they see wrought amongst God's people, whilst they cannot perceive the motives that are at work, and they have no power to control them. There is no power in a parent to prevent the conversion of his child all in a moment. The world cannot control God's work. See how God takes Balaam up; but has he any time to go to God? (Ver. 20, &c.)

God is always for His people *in His own heart*. Israel were entirely ignorant of what was going on, but God was not. *He* has taken up the cause of His people, because of the love in His own heart; and therefore, though he warns them and chastens them, yet He will not let Satan have anything to do with them. It is a sign of Balak being a very wicked man, that he tried to get God's word to Balaam reversed.

In Zech. iii. we have the same thing. Satan there tries to get God's sentence pronounced against the high priest. What could Joshua say for himself? But God says, "I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee." He does not say, I do not mind the filthy garments, but He comes in of His own love and grace, "I will clothe thee with change of raiment."