



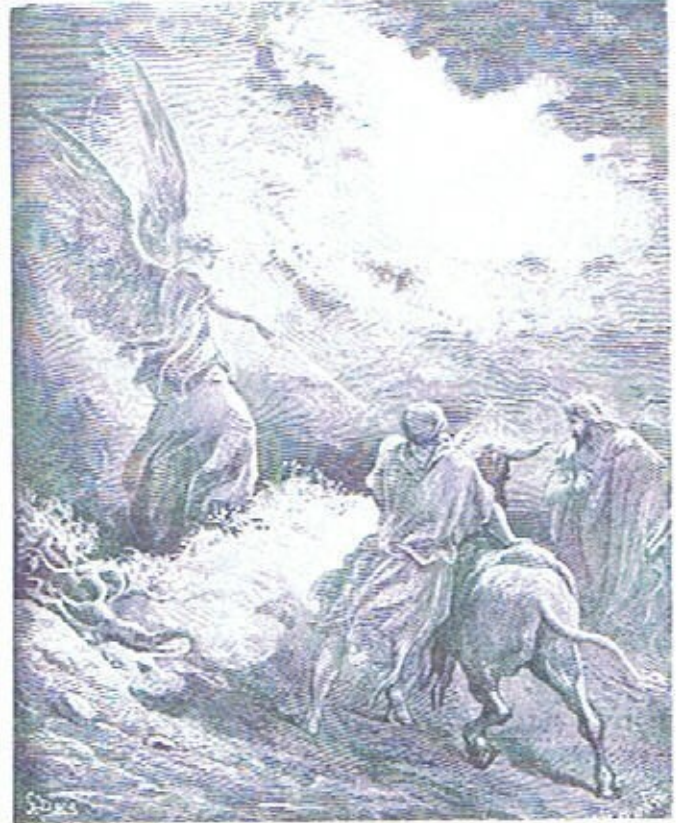
April 23, 2006

Lesson 16: "I Cannot Go Beyond the Word of the Lord"

Questions to Ponder

- What are some modern parallels of individuals and groups stubbornly trying to do what they want rather than submitting to God's will or to the righteous counsel of parents or leaders?
- Why did the Israelites go to war against the Midianites?
- What lessons can we learn from this story?

"The Angel Appearing to Balaam" by Gustave Doré



Are You:

- Obeying the Commandments?
- Living a Christlike Example?
- Saying Your Prayers Every Day?

Today's Scriptures

Numbers 22-24

Numbers 31:1-16

Next Week

Branch Conference
(no Sunday School)

May 7

Lesson 17

"Beware Lest Thou Forget"

Deuteronomy 6, 8, 11, 32

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Did You Ever Wonder Who Translated the Bible?

We believe the Bible to be the Word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God. . . . "As far as it is translated correctly. . . —I've always wondered about that phrase in Article 8. As a convert to the Church, I probably had the most trouble in my conversion with the level of doubt implied in that phrase, because I have always felt that the Bible was (and still is!) the word of God. However, as I learn more about how the Bible has been translated, transcribed, and interpreted among various versions, I understand a bit better why that phrase is

fairly apt for a statement of belief. So let me tell you about a theory called **The Documentary Hypothesis**. Many biblical scholars believe the first five books of the Bible were derived from four main sources from four different time frames:

J = Jahwist—refers to Yahweh, main interest is Judah, mostly responsible for Genesis. **E = Elohist**—uses Elohim for God's

name, seems to have written the Aqedah story, much of Exodus, Numbers. **P = Priestly**—stresses genealogy, cultic aspects, uses lists, refers to the priestly editors. **D = Deuteronomist**—wrote almost all of Deuteronomy, Leviticus, Judges, Kings, etc.

