

Chukat / Balak
Numbers 19:1-25:9
Judges 11:1-33; Micah 5:6-6:8
John 3:9-21, 4:3-30, 12:27-50; 2 Peter 2:1-22;
Jude 11, Revelations 2:14-15

The Complete Jewish Bible

Numbers 19

1 ADONAI said to Moshe and Aharon, **2** "This is the regulation from the Torah which ADONAI has commanded. Tell the people of Isra'el to bring you a young red female cow without fault or defect and which has never borne a yoke. **3** You are to give it to El'azar the cohen; it is to be brought outside the camp and slaughtered in front of him. **4** El'azar the cohen is to take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle this blood toward the front of the tent of meeting seven times. **5** The heifer is to be burned to ashes before his eyes -its skin, meat, blood and dung is to be burned to ashes. **6** The cohen is to take cedar-wood, hyssop and scarlet yarn and throw them onto the heifer as it is burning up. **7** Then the cohen is to wash his clothes and himself in water, after which he may re-enter the camp; but the cohen will remain unclean until evening. **8** The person who burned up the heifer is to wash his clothes and himself in water, but he will remain unclean until evening. **9** A man who is clean is to collect the ashes of the heifer and store them outside the camp in a clean place. They are to be kept for the community of the people of Isra'el to prepare water for purification from sin. **10** The one who collected the ashes of the heifer is to wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. For the people of Isra'el and for the foreigner staying with them this will be a permanent regulation.

11 "Anyone who touches a corpse, no matter whose dead body it is, will be unclean for seven days. **12** He must purify himself with [these ashes] on the third and seventh days; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself the third and seventh days, he will not be clean. **13** Anyone who touches a corpse, no matter whose dead body it is, and does not purify himself has defiled the tabernacle of ADONAI. That person will be cut off from Isra'el, because the water for purification was not sprinkled on him. He will be unclean; his uncleanness is still on him. **14** "This is the law: when a person dies in a tent, everyone who enters the tent and everything in the tent will be unclean for seven days. **15** Every open container without a cover closely attached is unclean. **16** Also whoever is in an open field and touches a corpse, whether of someone killed by a weapon or of someone who died naturally, or the bone of a person, or a grave, will be unclean for seven days. **17** "For the unclean person they are to take some of the ashes of the animal burned up as a purification from sin and add them to fresh water in a container. **18** A clean person is to take a bunch of hyssop leaves, dip it in the water and sprinkle it on the tent, on all the containers, on the people who were there, and on the person who touched the bone or the person killed or the one who died naturally or the grave. **19** The clean person will sprinkle the unclean person on the third and seventh days. On the seventh day he will purify him; then he will wash his clothes and himself in water; and he will be clean at evening. **20** The person who remains unclean and does not purify himself will be cut off from the community because he has defiled the sanctuary of ADONAI. The water for purification has not been sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **21** This is to be a permanent regulation for them. The person who sprinkles the water for purification is to wash his clothes. Whoever touches the water for purification will be unclean until evening. **22** Anything the unclean person touches will be unclean, and anyone who touches him will be unclean until evening."

Numbers 20

1 The people of Isra'el, the whole community, entered the Tzin Desert in the first month, and they stayed in Kadesh. There Miryam died, and there she was buried. **2** Because the community had no water, they assembled themselves against Moshe and Aharon. **3** The people quarreled with Moshe and said, "We wish we had died when our brothers died before ADONAI. **4** Why did you bring ADONAI's community into this desert? To die there, we and our livestock? **5** Why did you make us leave Egypt? To bring us to this terrible place without seed, figs, grapevines, pomegranates or even water to drink?" **6** Moshe and Aharon left the assembly, went to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces; and the glory of ADONAI appeared to them. **7** ADONAI said to Moshe, **8** "Take the staff, assemble the community, you and Aharon your brother; and before their eyes, tell the rock to produce its water. You will bring them water out of the rock and thus enable the community and their livestock to drink." **9** Moshe took the staff from the presence of ADONAI, as he had ordered him. **10** But after Moshe and Aharon had assembled the community in front of the rock, he said to them, "Listen here, you rebels! Are we supposed to bring you water from this rock?" **11** Then Moshe raised his hand and hit the rock twice with his staff. Water flowed out in abundance, and the community and their livestock drank. **12** But ADONAI said to Moshe and Aharon, "Because you did not trust in me, so as to cause me to be regarded as holy by the people of Isra'el, you will not bring this community into the land I have given them." **13** This is M'rivah Spring [Disputation Spring], where the people of Isra'el disputed with ADONAI, and he was caused to be regarded as holy by them.

14 Moshe sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom: "This is what your brother Isra'el says: you know all the troubles we have gone through - **15** that our ancestors went down into Egypt, we lived in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians treated us and our ancestors badly. **16** But when we cried out to ADONAI, he heard us, sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt. Now here we are in Kadesh, a city at the edge of your territory. **17** Please let us pass through your land. We will not go through fields or vineyards, and we won't drink any water from the wells. We will go along the King's Highway, not turning aside either to the right or to the left until we have left your territory." **18** But Edom answered, "You are not to pass through my land; if you do, I will come out against you with the sword." **19** The people of Isra'el replied, "We will keep to the highway; if we do drink the water, either we or our livestock, we will pay for it. Just let us pass through on foot - it's nothing." **20** But he said, "You are not to pass through"; and Edom came out against them with many people and much force. **21** Thus Edom refused to allow Isra'el passage through its territory, so Isra'el turned away.

22 They traveled on from Kadesh; and the people of Isra'el, the whole community, arrived at Mount Hor. **23** At Mount Hor, by the border of the land of Edom, ADONAI said to Moshe and Aharon, **24** "Aharon is about to be gathered to his people, because he is not to enter the land I have given to the people of Isra'el, inasmuch as you rebelled against what I said at the M'rivah Spring. **25** Take Aharon and El'azar his son, bring them up to Mount Hor, **26** remove the garments from Aharon and put them on El'azar his son. Aharon will be gathered to his people - he will die there." **27** Moshe did as ADONAI had ordered. They went up onto Mount Hor before the eyes of the whole community. **28** Moshe removed the garments from Aharon, and put them on El'azar his son, and Aharon died there on the top of the mountain. Then Moshe and El'azar came down the mountain. **29** When the entire community saw that Aharon was dead, they mourned Aharon thirty days, the whole house of Isra'el.

Numbers 21

1 Then the king of 'Arad, a Kena'ani who lived in the Negev, heard that Isra'el was approaching by way of Atarim, so he attacked Isra'el and took some of them captive. **2** Isra'el made a vow to ADONAI, "If you will hand this people over to me, I will completely destroy their cities." **3** ADONAI listened to what Isra'el said and handed over the Kena'anim, so they completely destroyed them and their cities and named the place Hormah [complete destruction].

4 Then they traveled from Mount Hor on the road toward the Sea of Suf in order to go around the land of Edom; but the people's tempers grew short because of the detour. **5** The people spoke against God and against Moshe: "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? To die in the desert? There's no real food, there's no water, and we're sick of this miserable stuff we're eating!" **6** In response, ADONAI sent poisonous snakes among the people; they bit the people, and many of Isra'el's people died. **7** The people came to Moshe and said, "We sinned by speaking against ADONAI and against you. Pray to ADONAI that he rid us of these snakes." Moshe prayed for the people, **8** and ADONAI answered Moshe: "Make a poisonous snake and put it on a pole. When anyone who has been bitten sees it, he will live." **9** Moshe made a bronze snake and put it on the pole; if a snake had bitten someone, then, when he looked toward the bronze snake, he stayed alive.

10 The people of Isra'el traveled on and camped at Ovot. **11** From Ovot they traveled and camped at 'Iyei-Ha'avarim, in the desert fronting Mo'av on the east. **12** From there they traveled and camped in Vadi Zered. **13** From there they traveled and camped on the other side of the Arnon, in the desert; this river comes out of the territory of the Emori; for the Arnon is the boundary between Mo'av and the Emori. **14** This is why it says, in the Book of the Wars of ADONAI, ". . . Vahev at Sufah, the vadis of Arnon, **15** and the slope of the vadis extending as far as the site of 'Ar, which lie next to the territory of Mo'av." **16** From there they went on to Be'er [well]; that is the well about which ADONAI said to Moshe, "Assemble the people, and I will give them water." **17** Then Isra'el sang this song: "Spring up, oh well! Sing to the well **18** sunk by the princes, dug by the people's leaders with the scepter, with their staffs!" From the desert they went to Mattanah, **19** from Mattanah to Nachali'el, from Nachali'el to Bamot, **20** and from Bamot to the valley by the plain of Mo'av at the start of the Pisgah range, where it overlooks the desert.

21 Isra'el sent messengers to Sichon, king of the Emori, with this message: **22** "Let me pass through your land. We won't turn aside into fields or vineyards, and we won't drink any water from the wells. We will go along the King's Highway until we have left your territory." **23** But Sichon would not allow Isra'el to pass through his territory. Instead, Sichon mustered all his people and went out into the desert to fight Isra'el. On reaching Yachatz, he fought Isra'el. **24** Isra'el defeated him by force of arms and took control of his land from the Arnon to the Yabok River, but only as far as the people of 'Amon, because the territory of the people of 'Amon was well defended. **25** Isra'el took all these cities - Isra'el lived in all the cities of the Emori, in Heshbon and all its surrounding towns. **26** Heshbon was the city of Sichon, the king of the Emori, who had fought against the former king of Mo'av and conquered all his land up to the Arnon. **27** This is why the storytellers say, "Come to Heshbon! Let it be rebuilt! Let Sichon's city be restored! **28** "For fire burst out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sichon. It consumed 'Ar of Mo'av, the lords of Arnon's high places. **29** "Woe to you, Mo'av! You are destroyed, people of K'mosh! He let his sons be fugitives and his daughters captives of Sichon, king of the Emori. **30** "We shot them down; Heshbon is destroyed, all the way to Divon. We even laid waste to Nofach, which extends as far as Meidva." **31** Thus Isra'el lived in the land of the Emori. **32** Moshe sent men to reconnoiter Ya'zer; they captured its towns and drove out the Emori who were there. **33** Then they turned and went up along the road to Bashan; and 'Og, the king of Bashan, marched out against them, he with all his people, to fight at Edre'i. **34** ADONAI said to Moshe, "Don't be afraid of him, for I have handed him over to you with all his people and his land. You will treat him just as you did Sichon, king of the Emori, who lived at Heshbon." **35** So they struck him down, with his sons and all his people, until there was no one left alive; and then they took control of his land.

Numbers 22

1 Then the people of Isra'el traveled on and camped in the plains of Mo'av beyond the Yarden River, opposite Yericho. **2** Now Balak the son of Tzippor saw all that Isra'el had done to the Emori. **3** Mo'av was very afraid of the people, because there were so many of them; Mo'av was overcome with dread because of the people of Isra'el. **4** So Mo'av said to the leaders of Midyan, "This horde will lick up everything around us, the way an ox licks up grass in the field." Balak the

son of Tzippor was king of Mo'av at that time. **5** He sent messengers to Bil'am the son of B'or, at P'tor by the [Euphrates] River in his native land, to tell him, "Listen, a people has come out of Egypt, spread over all the land and settled down next to me. **6** Therefore, please come, and curse this people for me, because they are stronger than I am. Maybe I will be able to strike them down and drive them out of the land, for I know that whomever you bless is in fact blessed, and whomever you curse is in fact cursed." **7** The leaders of Mo'av and Midyan left, taking with them the payment for divining, came to Bil'am and spoke to him the words of Balak. **8** He said to them, "Stay here tonight, and I will bring you back whatever answer ADONAI tells me." So the princes of Mo'av stayed with Bil'am. **9** God came to Bil'am and said, "Who are these men with you?" **10** Bil'am said to God, "Balak the son of Tzippor, king of Mo'av, has sent me this message: **11** 'The people who came out of Egypt have spread over the land; now, come and curse them for me; maybe I will be able to fight against them and drive them out.'" **12** God answered Bil'am, "You are not to go with them; you are not to curse the people, because they are blessed." **13** Bil'am got up in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Return to your own land, because ADONAI refuses to give me permission to go with you." **14** The princes of Mo'av got up, returned to Balak and said, "Bil'am refuses to come with us."

15 Balak again sent princes, more of them and of higher status than the first group. **16** They went to Bil'am and said to him, "Here is what Balak the son of Tzippor says: 'Please don't let anything keep you from coming to me. **17** I will reward you very well, and whatever you say to me I will do. So please come, and curse this people for me.'" **18** Bil'am answered the servants of Balak, "Even if Balak were to give me his palace filled with silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of ADONAI my God to do anything, great or small. **19** Now, please, you too, stay here tonight; so that I may find out what else ADONAI will say to me." **20** God came to Bil'am during the night and said to him, "If the men have come to summon you, get up and go with them; but do only what I tell you." **21** So Bil'am got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Mo'av.

22 But God's anger flared up because he went, and the angel of ADONAI stationed himself on the path to bar his way. He was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. **23** The donkey saw the angel of ADONAI standing on the road, drawn sword in hand; so the donkey turned off the road into the field; and Bil'am had to beat the donkey to get it back on the road. **24** Then the angel of ADONAI stood on the road where it became narrow as it passed among the vineyards and had stone walls on both sides. **25** The donkey saw the angel of ADONAI and pushed up against the wall, crushing Bil'am's foot against the wall. So he beat it again. **26** The angel of ADONAI moved ahead and stood in a place so tight that there was no room to turn either right or left. **27** Again the donkey saw the angel of ADONAI and lay down under Bil'am, which made him so angry that he hit the donkey with his stick. **28** But ADONAI enabled the donkey to speak, and it said to Bil'am, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" **29** Bil'am said to the donkey, "It's because you've been making a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand; I would kill you on the spot!" **30** The donkey said to Bil'am, "I'm your donkey, right? You've ridden me all your life, right? Have I ever treated you like this before?" "No," he admitted. **31** Then ADONAI opened Bil'am's eyes, so that he could see the angel of ADONAI standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand, and he bowed his head and fell on his face. **32** The angel of ADONAI said to him, "Why did you hit your donkey three times like that? I have come out here to bar your way, because you are rushing to oppose me. **33** The donkey saw me and turned aside these three times; and indeed, if she hadn't turned away from me, I would have killed you by now and saved it alive!" **34** Bil'am said to the angel of ADONAI, "I have sinned. I didn't know that you were standing on the road to block me. Now, therefore, if what I am doing displeases you, I will go back." **35** But the angel of ADONAI said to Bil'am, "No, go on with the men; but you are to say only what I tell you to say." So Bil'am went along with the princes of Balak.

36 When Balak heard that Bil'am had come, he went out to meet him in the city of Mo'av at the Arnon border, in the farthest reaches of the territory. **37** Balak said to Bil'am, "I sent more than once to summon you! Why didn't you come to me? Did you think I couldn't pay you enough?"

38 Bil'am replied to Balak, "Here, I've come to you! But I have no power of my own to say anything. The word that God puts in my mouth is what I will say." **39** Bil'am went with Balak. When they arrived at Kiryat-Hutzot, **40** Balak sacrificed cattle and sheep, then sent to Bil'am and the princes with him. **41** In the morning Balak took Bil'am and brought him up to the high places of Ba'al; from there he could see a portion of the people.

Numbers 23

1 Bil'am said to Balak, "Build me seven altars here, and prepare me seven bulls and seven rams here." **2** Balak did as Bil'am said; then Balak and Bil'am offered a bull and a ram on each altar. **3** Bil'am said to Balak, "Stand by your burnt offering while I go off; maybe ADONAI will come and meet me; and whatever he shows me I will tell you." He went off to a bare hill. **4** God met Bil'am, who said to him, "I prepared the seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar." **5** Then ADONAI put a word in Bil'am's mouth and said, "Go on back to Balak, and speak as I tell you." **6** He went back to him, and there, standing by his burnt offering, he with all the princes of Mo'av, **7** he made his pronouncement: "Balak, the king of Mo'av, brings me from Aram, from the eastern hills, saying, 'Come, curse Ya'akov for me; come and denounce Isra'el.' **8** "How am I to curse those whom God has not cursed? How am I to denounce those whom ADONAI has not denounced? **9** "From the top of the rocks I see them, from the hills I behold them yes, a people that will dwell alone and not think itself one of the nations. **10** "Who has counted the dust of Ya'akov or numbered the ashes of Isra'el? May I die as the righteous die! May my end be like theirs!" **11** Balak said to Bil'am, "What have you done to me?! To curse my enemies is why I brought you; and, here, you have totally blessed them!" **12** He answered, "Mustn't I take care to say just what ADONAI puts in my mouth?"

13 Balak said to him, "All right, come with me to another place where you can see them. You will see only some of them, not all; but you can curse them for me from there." **14** He took him through the field of Tzofim to the top of the Pisgah Range, built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. **15** Bil'am said to Balak, "Stand here by your burnt offering, while I go over there for a meeting." **16** ADONAI met Bil'am, put a word in his mouth and said, "Go on back to Balak, and speak as I tell you." **17** He came to him and stood by his burnt offering, with all the princes of Mo'av. Balak asked him, "What did ADONAI say?" **18** Then Bil'am made his pronouncement: "Get up, Balak, and listen! Turn your ears to me, son of Tzippor! **19** "God is not a human who lies or a mortal who changes his mind. When he says something, he will do it; when he makes a promise, he will fulfill it. **20** Look, I am ordered to bless; when he blesses, I can't reverse it. **21** "No one has seen guilt in Ya'akov, or perceived perversity in Isra'el; ADONAI their God is with them and acclaimed as king among them. **22** "God, who brought them out of Egypt, gives them the strength of a wild ox; **23** thus one can't put a spell on Ya'akov, no magic will work against Isra'el. It can now be said of Ya'akov and Isra'el, 'What is this that God has done?!' **24** "Here is a people rising up like a lioness; like a lion he rears himself up -he will not lie down till he eats up the prey and drinks the blood of the slain." **25** Balak said to Bil'am, "Obviously, you won't curse them. But at least don't bless them!" **26** However, Bil'am answered Balak, "Didn't I warn you that I must do everything ADONAI says?" **27** Balak said to Bil'am, "Come, I will take you now to another place; maybe it will please God for you to curse them for me from there." **28** Balak took Bil'am to the top of P'or, overlooking the desert. **29** Bil'am said to Balak, "Build me seven altars here, and prepare me seven bulls and seven rams." **30** Balak did as Bil'am said and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

Numbers 24

1 When Bil'am saw that it pleased ADONAI to bless Isra'el, he didn't go, as at the other times, to make use of divination, but looked out toward the desert. **2** Bil'am raised his eyes and saw Isra'el encamped tribe by tribe. Then the Spirit of God came upon him, **3** and he made his pronouncement: "This is the speech of Bil'am, son of B'or; the speech of the man whose eyes

have been opened; **4** the speech of him who hears God's words; who sees what Shaddai sees, who has fallen, yet has open eyes: **5** "How lovely are your tents, Ya'akov; your encampments, Isra'el! **6** They spread out like valleys, like gardens by the riverside, like succulent aloes planted by ADONAI, like cedar trees next to the water. **7** "Water will flow from their branches, their seed will have water aplenty. Their king will be higher than Agag and his kingdom lifted high. **8** God, who brought them out of Egypt, gives them the strength of a wild ox. They will devour the nations opposing them, break their bones, pierce them with their arrows. **9** "When they lie down they crouch like a lion, or like a lioness - who dares to rouse it? Blessed be all who bless you! Cursed be all who curse you!"

10 Balak blazed with fury against Bil'am. He struck his hands together and said to Bil'am, "I summoned you to curse my enemies. But here, you have done nothing but bless them - three times already! **11** Now you had better escape to your own place! I had planned to reward you very well, but now ADONAI has deprived you of payment." **12** Bil'am answered Balak, "Didn't I tell the messengers you sent me **13** that even if Balak would give me his palace full of silver and gold, I could not of my own accord go beyond the word of ADONAI to do either good or bad? that what ADONAI said is what I would say? **14** But now that I am going back to my own people, come, I will warn you what this people will do to your people in the acharit-hayamim.

15 So he made his pronouncement: "This is the speech of Bil'am, son of B'or; the speech of the man whose eyes have been opened; **16** the speech of him who hears God's words; who knows what 'Elyon knows, who sees what Shaddai sees, who has fallen, yet has open eyes: **17** "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not soon -a star will step forth from Ya'akov, a scepter will arise from Isra'el, to crush the corners of Mo'av and destroy all descendants of Shet. **18** His enemies will be his possessions -Edom and Se'ir, possessions. Isra'el will do valiantly, **19** From Ya'akov will come someone who will rule, and he will destroy what is left of the city." **20** He saw 'Amalek and made this pronouncement: "First among nations was 'Amalek, but destruction will be its end." **21** He saw the Keini and made this pronouncement: "Though your dwelling is firm, your nest set on rock, **22** Kayin will be wasted while captive to Ashur." **23** Finally, he made this pronouncement: "Oh no! Who can live when God does this? **24** But ships will come from the coast of Kittim to subdue Ashur and subdue 'Ever, but they too will come to destruction." **25** Then Bil'am got up, left and returned to his home; and Balak too went his way.

Numbers 25:1 – 9

1 Isra'el stayed at Sheetim, and there the people began whoring with the women of Mo'av. **2** These women invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, where the people ate and bowed down to their gods. **3** With Isra'el thus joined to Ba'al-P'or, the anger of ADONAI blazed up against Isra'el. **4** ADONAI said to Moshe, "Take all the chiefs of the people, and hang them facing the sun before ADONAI, so that the raging fury of ADONAI will turn away from Isra'el." **5** Moshe said to the judges of Isra'el, "Each of you is to put to death those in his tribe who have joined themselves to Ba'al-P'or."

6 Just then, in the sight of Moshe and the whole community of Isra'el, as they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting, a man from Isra'el came by, bringing to his family a woman from Midyan. **7** When Pinchas the son of El'azar, the son of Aharon the cohen, saw it, he got up from the middle of the crowd, took a spear in his hand, **8** and pursued the man from Isra'el right into the inner part of the tent, where he thrust his spear through both of them -the man from Isra'el and the woman through her stomach. Thus was the plague among the people of Isra'el stopped; **9** nevertheless, 24,000 died in the plague.

Judges 11:1 – 33

1 Now Yiftach, a brave soldier from Gil'ad, was the son of a prostitute. His father, Gil'ad, **2** had other sons by his wife; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Yiftach away and told him, "You will not inherit from our father, because you are another woman's son." **3** Then Yiftach fled from his brothers and lived in the territory of Tov, where he enlisted a gang of rowdies who would go out raiding with him.

4 After a while the people of 'Amon made war against Isra'el. **5** When the army of 'Amon attacked Isra'el, the leaders of Gil'ad went to fetch Yiftach from the territory of Tov **6** and said to him, "Come and be our chief, so that we can fight the army of 'Amon." **7** Yiftach answered the leaders of Gil'ad, "Didn't you hate me so much that you forced me out of my father's house? Why are you coming to me now, when you're in trouble?" **8** The leaders of Gil'ad replied, "Here is why we've come back to you now: if you lead us in war with the people of 'Amon, you will be head over everyone living in Gil'ad." **9** Yiftach answered them, "If you bring me back home to fight the army of 'Amon, and ADONAI defeats them for me, I will be your head." **10** The leaders of Gil'ad said to Yiftach, "ADONAI is witness that we promise to do what you have said." **11** Then Yiftach went with the leaders of Gil'ad, and the people made him head and chief over them. Yiftach repeated all these conditions at Mitzpah in the presence of ADONAI.

12 Yiftach sent messengers to the king of the people of 'Amon to say, "What's your problem with us? Why are you invading our territory?" **13** The king of 'Amon answered the messengers of Yiftach, "Because Isra'el took away my territory when they came up from Egypt. They took everything from the Arnon to the Yabok and the Yarden. Now, restore it peacefully." **14** Yiftach sent messengers again to the king of the people of 'Amon **15** with this response, "Here is what Yiftach has to say: 'Isra'el captured neither the territory of Mo'av nor the territory of the people of 'Amon. **16** But when Isra'el came up from Egypt, walked through the desert to the Red Sea and arrived at Kadesh, **17** then Isra'el sent messengers to the king of Edom, to say, "Please let us pass through your land." But the king of Edom wouldn't let them. He sent a similar message to the king of Mo'av, but neither would he, so Isra'el stayed at Kadesh. **18** Then they walked through the desert, around the territory of Edom and the territory of Mo'av, past the east border of the territory of Mo'av, and pitched camp on the other side of the Arnon; but they did not cross the border into Mo'av, for the Arnon was the border of Mo'av. **19** Isra'el sent messengers to Sichon king of the Emori and king of Heshbon with this message, "Please let us pass through your land to our own place." **20** But Sichon did not trust that Isra'el would only pass through his land, so he gathered all his people together, pitched camp in Yahatz and fought against Isra'el. **21** ADONAI the God of Isra'el handed Sichon and all his people over to Isra'el, and they killed them. Thus Isra'el possessed all the territory of the Emori who lived there. **22** They took possession of all the territory of the Emori from the Arnon to the Yabok and from the desert to the Yarden. **23** So now that ADONAI the God of Isra'el has expelled the Emori before his people Isra'el, do you think that you will expel us? **24** You should just keep the territory your god K'mosh has given you; while we, for our part, will hold onto whatever ADONAI our God has given us of the lands that belonged to others before us. **25** Really, are you better than Balak the son of Tzippor, king of Mo'av? Did he ever pick a quarrel with Isra'el or fight with us? **26** Isra'el lived in Heshbon and its villages, in 'Aro'er and its villages and in all the cities on the banks of the Arnon for three hundred years. Why didn't you take them back during that time? **27** No, I have done you no wrong. But you are doing me wrong to war against me. May ADONAI the Judge be judge today between the people of Isra'el and the people of 'Amon." **28** But the king of the people of 'Amon paid no attention to the message Yiftach sent him.

29 Then the spirit of ADONAI came upon Yiftach; and he passed through Gil'ad and M'nasheh, on through Mitzpeh of Gil'ad, and from there over to the people of 'Amon. **30** Yiftach made a vow to ADONAI: "If you will hand the people of 'Amon over to me, **31** then whatever comes out the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the people of 'Amon will belong to ADONAI; I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering." **32** So Yiftach crossed over to fight the people of 'Amon, and ADONAI handed them over to him. **33** He killed them from 'Aro'er until you reach

Minnit, twenty cities, all the way to Avel-K'ramim; it was a massacre. So the people of 'Amon were defeated before the people of Isra'el.

Micah 5:6

6 They will shepherd the land of Ashur with the sword, the land of Nimrod at its gates; and he will rescue us from Ashur when he invades our land, when he overruns our borders.

7 Then the remnant of Ya'akov, surrounded by many peoples, will be like dew from ADONAI, like showers on the grass, which doesn't wait for a man or expect anything from mortals. **8** The remnant of Ya'akov among the nations, surrounded by many peoples, will be like a lion among forest animals, like a young lion among flocks of sheep - if it passes through, tramples and tears to pieces, there is no one to rescue them. **9** Your hand will be raised over your enemies; all your adversaries will be destroyed. **10** "When that day comes," says ADONAI, "I will cut off your horses from among you and destroy your chariots. **11** I will cut off the cities of your land and lay waste your strongholds. **12** I will cut off sorceries from your land; you will no longer have soothsayers. **13** I will cut off your carved images and standing-stones from among you; no longer will you worship what your own hands have made. **14** I will pull up your sacred poles from among you and destroy your enemies. **15** I will wreak vengeance in anger and fury on the nations, because they would not listen."

Micah 6:1 – 8

So listen now to what ADONAI says: "Stand up and state your case to the mountains, let the hills hear what you have to say." **2** Listen, mountains, to ADONAI's case; also you enduring rocks that support the earth! ADONAI has a case against his people; he wants to argue it out with Isra'el: **3** "My people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! **4** I brought you up from the land of Egypt. I redeemed you from a life of slavery. I sent Moshe, Aharon and Miryam to lead you. **5** My people, just remember what Balak the king of Mo'av had planned, what Bil'am the son of B'or answered him, [and what happened] between Sheetim and Gilgal - so that you will understand the saving deeds of ADONAI."

6 "With what can I come before ADONAI to bow down before God on high? Should I come before him with burnt offerings? with calves in their first year? **7** Would ADONAI take delight in thousands of rams with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Could I give my firstborn to pay for my crimes, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" **8** Human being, you have already been told what is good, what ADONAI demands of you - no more than to act justly, love grace and walk in purity with your God.

John 3:9 – 21

9 Nakdimon replied, "How can this happen?" **10** Yeshua answered him, "You hold the office of teacher in Isra'el, and you don't know this? **11** Yes, indeed! I tell you that what we speak about, we know; and what we give evidence of, we have seen; but you people don't accept our evidence! **12** If you people don't believe me when I tell you about the things of the world, how will you believe me when I tell you about the things of heaven? **13** No one has gone up into heaven; there is only the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moshe lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up; **15** so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life. **16** "For God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed. **17** For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but rather so that through him, the world might be saved. **18** Those who trust in him are not judged; those who do not trust have been judged already, in that they have not trusted in the one who is God's only and unique Son. **19** "Now this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness rather than the light. Why? Because their actions were wicked. **20** For everyone who does evil

things hates the light and avoids it, so that his actions won't be exposed. **21** But everyone who does what is true comes to the light, so that all may see that his actions are accomplished through God."

John 4:3 – 30

3 Yeshua left Y'hudah and set out again for the Galil.

4 This meant that he had to pass through Shomron. **5** He came to a town in Shomron called Sh'khem, near the field Ya`akov had given to his son Yosef. **6** Ya`akov's Well was there; so Yeshua, exhausted from his travel, sat down by the well; it was about noon. **7** A woman from Shomron came to draw some water; and Yeshua said to her, "Give me a drink of water." **8** (His talmidim had gone into town to buy food.) **9** The woman from Shomron said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for water from me, a woman of Shomron?" (For Jews don't associate with people from Shomron.) **10** Yeshua answered her, "If you knew God's gift, that is, who it is saying to you, 'Give me a drink of water,' then you would have asked him; and he would have given you living water." **11** She said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket, and the well is deep; so where do you get this 'living water'? **12** You aren't greater than our father Ya`akov, are you? He gave us this well and drank from it, and so did his sons and his cattle." **13** Yeshua answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks the water I will give him will never be thirsty again! On the contrary, the water I give him will become a spring of water inside him, welling up into eternal life!" **15** "Sir, give me this water," the woman said to him, "so that I won't have to be thirsty and keep coming here to draw water." **16** He said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." **17** She answered, "I don't have a husband." Yeshua said to her, "You're right, you don't have a husband! **18** You've had five husbands in the past, and you're not married to the man you're living with now! You've spoken the truth!" **19** "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet," the woman replied. **20** "Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you people say that the place where one has to worship is in Yerushalayim." **21** Yeshua said, "Lady, believe me, the time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Yerushalayim. **22** You people don't know what you are worshipping; we worship what we do know, because salvation comes from the Jews. **23** But the time is coming -- indeed, it's here now -- when the true worshippers will worship the Father spiritually and truly, for these are the kind of people the Father wants worshipping him. **24** God is spirit; and worshippers must worship him spiritually and truly." **25** The woman replied, "I know that Mashiach is coming" (that is, "the one who has been anointed"). "When he comes, he will tell us everything." **26** Yeshua said to her, "I, the person speaking to you, am he."

27 Just then, his talmidim arrived. They were amazed that he was talking with a woman; but none of them said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" **28** So the woman left her water-jar, went back to the town and said to the people there, **29** "Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could it be that this is the Messiah?" **30** They left the town and began coming toward him.

John 12:27 – 50

27 "Now I am in turmoil. What can I say -- 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. I will say this: **28** 'Father, glorify your name!'" At this a bat-kol came out of heaven, "I have glorified it before, and I will glorify it again!" **29** The crowd standing there and hearing it said that it had thundered; others said, "An angel spoke to him." **30** Yeshua answered, "This bat-kol did not come for my sake but for yours. **31** Now is the time for this world to be judged, now the ruler of this world will be expelled. **32** As for me, when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." **33** He said this to indicate what kind of death he would die. **34** The crowd answered, "We have learned from the Torah that the Messiah remains forever. How is it that you say the Son of Man has to be 'lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of

Man'?" **35** Yeshua said to them, "The light will be with you only a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, or the dark will overtake you; he who walks in the dark doesn't know where he's going. **36** While you have the light, put your trust in the light, so that you may become people of light." Yeshua said these things, then went off and kept himself hidden from them.

37 Even though he had performed so many miracles in their presence, they still did not put their trust in him, **38** in order that what Yesha`yahu the prophet had said might be fulfilled, "ADONAI, who has believed our report? To whom has the arm of ADONAI been revealed?" **39** The reason they could not believe was -- as Yesha`yahu said elsewhere -- **40** "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so that they do not see with their eyes, understand with their hearts, and do t'shuvah, so that I could heal them." **41** (Yesha`yahu said these things because he saw the Sh'khinah of Yeshua and spoke about him.)

42 Nevertheless, many of the leaders did trust in him; but because of the P'rushim they did not say so openly, out of fear of being banned from the synagogue; **43** for they loved praise from other people more than praise from God.

44 Yeshua declared publicly, "Those who put their trust in me are trusting not merely in me, but in the One who sent me. **45** Also those who see me see the One who sent me. **46** I have come as a light into the world, so that everyone who trusts in me might not remain in the dark. **47** If anyone hears what I am saying and does not observe it, I don't judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. **48** Those who reject me and don't accept what I say have a judge -- the word which I have spoken will judge them on the Last Day. **49** For I have not spoken on my own initiative, but the Father who sent me has given me a command, namely, what to say and how to say it. **50** And I know that his command is eternal life. So what I say is simply what the Father has told me to say."

1 Peter 2:1 – 22

1 From: Kefa, an emissary of Yeshua the Messiah To: God's chosen people, living as aliens in the Diaspora - in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, the province of Asia, and Bythinia - **2** chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father and set apart by the Spirit for obeying Yeshua the Messiah and for sprinkling with his blood: Grace and shalom be yours in full measure.

3 Praised be God, Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who, in keeping with his great mercy, has caused us, through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah from the dead, to be born again to a living hope, **4** to an inheritance that cannot decay, spoil or fade, kept safe for you in heaven. **5** Meanwhile, through trusting, you are being protected by God's power for a deliverance ready to be revealed at the Last Time.

6 Rejoice in this, even though for a little while you may have to experience grief in various trials. **7** Even gold is tested for genuineness by fire. The purpose of these trials is so that your trust's genuineness, which is far more valuable than perishable gold, will be judged worthy of praise, glory and honor at the revealing of Yeshua the Messiah. **8** Without having seen him, you love him. Without seeing him now, but trusting in him, you continue to be full of joy that is glorious beyond words. **9** And you are receiving what your trust is aiming at, namely, your deliverance.

10 The prophets, who prophesied about this gift of deliverance that was meant for you, pondered and inquired diligently about it. **11** They were trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of the Messiah in them was referring in predicting the Messiah's sufferings and the glorious things to follow. **12** It was revealed to them that their service when they spoke about these things was not for their own benefit, but for yours. And these same things have now been proclaimed to you by those who communicated the Good News to you through the Ruach HaKodesh sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things!

13 Therefore, get your minds ready for work, keep yourselves under control, and fix your hopes fully on the gift you will receive when Yeshua the Messiah is revealed. **14** As people who obey God, do not let yourselves be shaped by the evil desires you used to have when you were still ignorant. **15** On the contrary, following the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in your entire way of life; **16** since the Tanakh says, "You are to be holy because I am holy." **17** Also, if you are addressing as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's actions, you should live out your temporary stay on earth in fear. **18** You should be aware that the ransom paid to free you from the worthless way of life which your fathers passed on to you did not consist of anything perishable like silver or gold; **19** on the contrary, it was the costly bloody sacrificial death of the Messiah, as of a lamb without defect or spot. **20** God knew him before the founding of the universe, but revealed him in the acharit-hayamim for your sakes. **21** Through him you trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory; so that your trust and hope are in God. **22** Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth, so that you have a sincere love for your brothers, love each other deeply, with all your heart.

Jude 11

11 Woe to them, in that they have walked the road of Kayin, they have given themselves over for money to the error of Bil'am, they have been destroyed in the rebellion of Korach.

Revelations 2:14 – 15

14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: you have some people who hold to the teaching of Bil'am, who taught Balak to set a trap for the people of Isra'el, so that they would eat food that had been sacrificed to idols and commit sexual sin. **15** Likewise, you too have people who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.