

Balak
“Balak”

Torah: Numbers 22:2 – 25:9
Haftarah: Micah 5:6 - 6:8
Brit Chadasha: 2 Peter 2:1-22, Jude 1:11, Revelation 2:14-15

All verses are from the Tree of Life Bible

TORAH:

Numbers 22:2

2 When Balak son of Zippor, realized all that *Bnei-Yisrael* had done to the Amorites,

3 Moab became terrified because there were so many people. Moab was filled with dread because of *Bnei-Yisrael*.

4 Moab said to the elders of Midian, “The multitude will lick up everything around us like the ox licks up the grass of the field.” Now Balak son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time.

5 He sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor, at Pethor near the River in his native land, saying to him, “Look now, a people has come out of Egypt. See now, they cover the surface of the earth and are settling beside me.

6 Come now, curse this people for me, because they are too strong for me! Perhaps I may be able to defeat them and drive them away from the country. I know that whoever you bless will be blessed and whoever you curse will be accursed!”

7 The elders of Moab and Midian left with divination fees in their hand. When they came to Balaam, they told him Balak’s words.

8 He said to them, "Spend the night here. I will give you an answer just as *Adonai* speaks to me." So the officials of Moab stayed with Balaam.

9 God came to Balaam and asked, "Who are these men with you?"

10 Balaam said to God, "Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent word to me:

11 See, the people coming out of Egypt cover the surface of the land. Come now, curse them for me. Perhaps I will be able to fight against them and drive them away!"

12 God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them! Do not curse them, for they are blessed!"

13 So Balaam got up in the morning and said to the officials of Balak, "Go back to your country, for *Adonai* has refused to let me go with you."

14 So the Moabite officials got up, went back to Balak, and said, "Balaam refused to come with us."

15 Balak again sent other dignitaries, more numerous and honored than these previous ones.

16 They also came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak son of Zippor: Please let nothing keep you from coming to me!

17 I will richly reward you, and everything you tell me I will do! Just come now and curse this people for me!"

18 But Balaam answered Balak's servants, "Even if Balak gave me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot cross beyond the mouth of *Adonai* my God, to do anything small or great!

19 But now, you may spend the night here, too. Then I may find out anything else *Adonai* may say to me."

20 God came to Balaam by night and said to him, "Since the men came to you to summon you, arise and go with them. However, only the word I tell you are you to do!"

21 So Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the Moabite princes.

22 But the anger of God burned because he was going. The angel of *Adonai* stood in the road to oppose him—he was riding on his donkey and two of his servants were with him—

23 when the donkey saw the angel of *Adonai* standing in the road with his drawn sword in his hand, the donkey turned off the road and went into the field. So Balaam beat the donkey to get her back onto the road.

24 Then the angel of *Adonai* stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side.

25 When the donkey saw the angel of *Adonai*, she pressed against the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against the wall. So Balaam continued beating her.

26 The angel again moved. He stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, right or left.

27 When the donkey saw the angel of *Adonai*, she lay down under Balaam. Balaam was very angry and beat the donkey with his staff.

28 Then *Adonai* opened the donkey's mouth and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?"

29 Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you've made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you now!"

30 The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey which you have ridden as always to this day? Have I ever been in the habit of doing this to you?" "No," he said.

31 Then *Adonai* opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of *Adonai* standing in the road with his drawn sword in his hand. So he fell on his face.

32 The angel of *Adonai* said to him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? Behold, I came as an adversary because your way before Me is a reckless one!

33 The donkey saw Me and turned away from Me these three times. If she had not turned away from Me, by now I would have killed you indeed, but let her live!”

34 Balaam said to the angel of *Adonai*, “I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now, if this is displeasing in your eyes, I will go back home.”

35 The angel of *Adonai* said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but speak only the word that I tell you.” So Balaam went with Balak’s princes.

36 When Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to greet him at the Moabite city on the border of the Arnon, the frontier of the territory.

37 Balak said to Balaam, “Didn’t I send you an urgent summons? Why didn’t you come to me? Am I really unable to reward you?”

38 “Look, I have come to you now!” Balaam said to Balak. “Can I just say anything? I must speak only the message which God puts into my mouth.”

39 Then Balaam went with Balak to Kiriath-huzoth.

40 Balak sacrificed cattle and sheep and sent some to Balaam and the princes who were with him.

41 In the morning, Balak took Balaam with him to Bamoth-baal, and from there he saw part of the people.

Numbers 23

A Curse Turns to Blessings

1 Then Balaam said to Balak, “Build me seven altars here and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams.”

2 So Balak did just as Balaam had said. Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

3 Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here beside your offering. I will go and perhaps *Adonai* will meet me. Whatever message He shows me, I will tell you. Then he went to a barren height.

4 God met with Balaam and he said to Him, "I have prepared seven altars, and on each altar I offered a bull and a ram."

5 *Adonai* put a message into Balaam's mouth and said, "Return to Balak and speak this."

6 Balaam went back to him. Behold, he was standing beside his offering with all the princes of Moab.

7 Then he uttered his oracle and said, "From Aram, Balak brought me, Moab's king from the mountains of the east: 'Come! Curse Jacob for me! 'Come! Denounce Israel!'

8 How can I curse one whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce one whom *Adonai* has not denounced?

9 From the rocky peaks I see him. From the heights I behold him. Look, he lives as a nation apart, and does not consider himself as being like the other nations.

10 Who can count Jacob's dust? Who can number a fourth of Israel? Let my soul die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!"

11 Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but look, you've actually blessed them!"

12 But in response he said, "Mustn't I speak whatever *Adonai* puts into my mouth?"

13 Then Balak said to him, "Come now with me to another place where you can see a part of them only, not all of them. Curse them for me from there."

14 He took him to Lookout Field on top of Pisgah. He built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

15 "Stay here beside your offering," he said to Balak, "while I am meeting over there."

16 *Adonai* met Balaam there and put a message into his mouth, and said, "Return to Balak and speak thus."

17 So he went to him, and behold, he and the princes of Moab were standing beside his offering. Balak asked him, "What did *Adonai* say?"

18 So he uttered his oracle and said: "Rise, Balak! Hear me, son of Zippor!

19 God is not a man who lies, or a son of man who changes his mind! Does He speak and then not do it, or promise and not fulfill it?

20 Look, I received a command to bless. He has blessed - I cannot change it!

21 No misfortune is to be seen in Jacob, and no misery in Israel! *Adonai* their God is with them - the King's shout is among them!

22 God is bringing them from Egypt with the strong horns of the wild ox!

23 There is no sorcery effective against Jacob, nor any divination against Israel! Now it will be said of Jacob and Israel, 'See what God has done!'

24 The people rise like a lioness, like a lion who does not rest until he eats his prey and drinks his victim's blood!"

25 Then Balak said to Balaam, "Do not curse them or bless them at all!"

26 Balaam answered and said to Balak, "Haven't I told you, 'All that *Adonai* says, I must do?'

27 Balak said to Balaam, "Come with me to another place. Perhaps it will be pleasing to God and you may curse them for me from there."

28 So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, overlooking the wasteland.

29 Balaam said to Balak, "Build me seven altars here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me."

30 Balak did just as Balaam said, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

Numbers 24

How Lovely the Tents of Jacob

1 When Balaam realized that it was pleasing in the eyes of *Adonai* to bless Israel, he did not resort to sorceries as at the other times, but turned his face toward the wilderness.

2 Lifting up his eyes, Balaam saw Israel dwelling by tribes. The *Ruach Elohim* came over him.

3 He uttered his oracle and said: “This is the oracle of Balaam son of Beor, and the oracle of a strong man whose eye has been opened,

4 the oracle of one hearing God’s speech, one seeing Shaddai’s vision, one fallen down, yet with open eyes:

5 How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, and your dwellings, O Israel!

6 Like valleys they are spread out, like gardens beside a river, like aloes planted by *Adonai*, like cedars beside the waters.

7 Water will flow from his buckets, his seed by abundant water. His king will be greater than Agag, his kingdom will be exalted.

8 God is bringing him out of Egypt. like the strong horns of a wild ox. He devours nations hostile to him. He will crush their bones. His arrows will pierce them.

9 He crouches like a lion or a lioness— who would rouse him? He who blesses you will be blessed, and he who curses you will be cursed.”

10 Then Balak became furious at Balaam, and struck his hands together. Balak said to Balaam, “I summoned you to curse my enemies, but look, you have blessed them these three times!

11 Now, go home! I said I would reward you, but see, *Adonai* has kept you from reward!”

12 Balaam answered Balak, “Didn’t I indeed tell your messengers whom you sent to me saying:

13 'If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the mouth of *Adonai*, to do good or bad from my own heart? Whatever *Adonai* may speak, I will speak!'

14 Now, behold, I am going back to my people. Come, let me counsel you what these people will do to your people in the latter days.

15 Then he uttered his oracle: The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the strong man whose eye is opened,

16 the oracle of one hearing God's speech, one experiencing Elyon's knowledge, one seeing Shaddai's vision, one fallen down, yet with open eyes:

17 'I see him, yet not at this moment. I behold him, yet not in this location. For a star will come from Jacob, a scepter will arise from Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab and the skulls of all the sons of Seth.

18 Edom will be conquered- his enemies will conquer Seir, but Israel will triumph.

19 One from Jacob will rule and destroy the city's survivors."

20 Then he saw Amalek, so he uttered his oracle and said: "Amalek was the first of nations, but will come to ruin at last."

21 Then he saw the Kenite, so he uttered his oracle and said, "Your dwelling is secure. Your nest is set in the rock.

22 Yet Kain will be destroyed, when Asshur captures you."

23 Again he uttered his oracle and said, "O, who can live when God does this?

24 Ships will come from Kittim's shore. They will afflict Asshur and Eber, but they too will come to destruction."

25 Then Balaam got up and went and returned to his own place, and Balak went on his way.

Numbers 25

Moabite Seduction and Phineas Arises

1 While Israel was staying in Shittim, the people began to have immoral sexual relations with women from Moab.

2 Then they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, so the people were eating, and bowing down before their gods.

3 When Israel became bound to Baal of Peor, the anger of *Adonai* grew hot against Israel.

4 *Adonai* said to Moses, "Seize all the ringleaders and hang them before *Adonai* facing the sun, so that *Adonai*'s fierce anger may be turned away from Israel."

5 So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you, kill your men who have been joining themselves to Baal of Peor."

6 Then behold, a man from *Bnei-Yisrael* came and brought a Midianite woman to his brothers before the eyes of Moses and of the whole assembly of *Bnei-Yisrael*, while they were weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting!

7 When Phinehas son of Eleazar son of Aaron the *kohen* saw it, he arose from the midst of the assembly, took a spear in his hand,

8 and went after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced them through—both the Israelite man and the woman's belly. Then the plague among *Bnei-Yisrael* was stopped.

9 However, 24,000 were dead because of the plague!

HAFTARAH

Micah 5:6 -14

The Remnant of Jacob

6 Now the remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples, like dew from *Adonai*, like abundant showers on grass that does not wait for a man, nor lingers for the sons of men.

7 For the remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the forest beasts, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, who, if he passed through, would trample and tear to pieces, and there would be no deliverer.

8 May your hand be raised up against your adversaries, and may all your foes be cut off.

9 “Now in that day” —it is a declaration of *Adonai*— “I will cut off your horses among you, and I will destroy your chariots.

10 I will cut off the cities of your land, and throw down all your strongholds.

11 I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you will have no more diviners.

12 I will cut off your carved images and your sacred pillars from among you, so you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands.

13 I will uproot your Asherah poles from among you, and destroy your cities.

14 So I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath on the nations that have not listened.

Micah 6:1-8

Adonai Pleads His Case

1 Hear what *Adonai* is saying: “Arise! Contend with the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, *Adonai* ‘s dispute, O mountains— the enduring foundations of the earth. For *Adonai* has a dispute with His people and He will argue His case with Israel.

3 O My people, what have I done to you? Or how have I wearied you? Answer Me!

4 When I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O My people, remember, please: What did Balak, king of Moab, propose? What did Balaam son of Beor answer him? From Shittim as far as Gilgal, so that you might acknowledge the righteous acts of *Adonai*.”

What Is Adonai Seeking From You?

6 With what shall I come before *Adonai*? With what shall I bow myself before God on high? Shall I present Him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves?

7 Will *Adonai* be pleased with thousands of rams, with hordes of rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my belly for the sin of my soul?

8 He has told you, humanity, what is good, and what *Adonai* is seeking from you: Only to practice justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

BRIT CHADASHA

2 Peter 2:1-22

False Teachers Condemned

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies. They will even deny the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2 Many will follow their immoral ways, and as a result the way of the truth will be maligned.

3 In their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

4 For God did not spare angels when they sinned, but threw them into *Sheol*. He put them in chains of gloomy darkness, to be held until the judgment.

5 He did not spare the ancient world. He preserved only Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness, along with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.

6 He devastated the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, reducing them to ashes—making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.

7 He rescued Lot, a righteous man deeply troubled by the shameless immorality of the wicked.

8 (For that righteous man, while living among them, was tormented in his righteous soul day after day by lawless deeds he saw and heard.)

9 Therefore the Lord certainly knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and how to keep the unrighteous being punished until the Day of Judgment—

10 especially those who follow after the flesh in its unclean desires and who despise the Lord's authority. Brazen and arrogant, these people do not tremble while slandering glorious beings;

11 yet even angels, though stronger and more powerful, do not bring a slanderous charge against them before the Lord.

12 But these people are like irrational animals—creatures of instinct born to be captured and killed. They malign what they don't understand, and in their destruction they will be utterly destroyed.

13 They will be paid back for what they have done—evil for evil. They consider carousing in broad daylight a pleasure. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceitful pleasures while feasting together with you.

14 They have eyes full of adultery that never stop sinning, enticing unstable souls. They have hearts trained in greed—a cursed brood!

15 They have abandoned the straight way. They have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.

16 But he received a rebuke for his own wrongdoing. A dumb donkey spoke with a man's voice and put a stop to the prophet's madness.

17 These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. The gloom of utter darkness has been reserved for them.

18 For by mouthing grandiosities that amount to nothing, they entice in sensual fleshly passions those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.

19 They promise them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption—for a person is a slave to whatever has overcome him.

20 For if—after escaping the world's pollutions through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, *Yeshua* the Messiah—they again become entangled in these things and are overcome, the end for them has become worse than the beginning.

21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after learning about it, to turn back from the holy commandment passed on to them.

22 What has happened to them confirms the truth of the proverb, “A dog returns to its vomit,” and “A scrubbed pig heads right back into the mud.”

Jude 1:11

11 Woe to them! For they went the way of Cain; they were consumed for pay in Balaam’s error; and in Korah’s rebellion they have been destroyed.

Revelation 2:14-15

14“But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who was teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before *Bnei-Yisrael*, to eat food sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.

15Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.