

Chukat & Balak
“Statute” & “Balak”

Torah: Numbers 19:1 – 25:9
Haftarah: Judges 11:1-33, Micah 5:6-6:8
Brit Chadasha: John 3:9-21, 4:3-30, 12:27-50, 2 Peter 2:1-22, Jude 1:11,
Revelation 2:14-15

All verses are from the Tree of Life Bible

TORAH:

Numbers 19

Red Heifer and Cleansing Water

1 *Adonai* spoke to Moses and Aaron saying,

2 “This is the statute of the *Torah* which *Adonai* commanded saying: Speak to *Bnei-Yisrael* that they bring to you a flawless red heifer on which there is no blemish and on which has never been a yoke.

3 Give her to Eleazar the *kohen*. He will take her outside the camp and slaughter her in his presence.

4 Then Eleazar the *kohen* is to take some of the blood on his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the Tent of Meeting.

5 “ While watching, he is to burn the heifer, her hide, flesh, blood and refuse.

6 The *kohen* is to take some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool, and cast them into the midst of the burning heifer.

7 “Afterward, the *kohen* is to wash his clothes and bathe his flesh with the water, and afterward he may come back into the camp. Still the *kohen* will be unclean until evening.

8 Also the one burning it is to wash his clothes and bathe his flesh with the water, and he will be unclean until evening.

9 “A clean man is to gather up the ashes of the heifer and put them in a clean place outside the camp. They are to be for the community of *Bnei-Yisrael* to use as water of purification from sin.

10 “The one who gathers the heifer’s ashes is also to wash his clothes as well as be unclean until evening. It will be a permanent statute for *Bnei-Yisrael* and for the outsider living among them.

11 “Whoever touches any dead body will be unclean for seven days.

12 He is to purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day. Then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third and seventh days, he will not be clean.

13 Anyone touching the dead body of any man, who does not purify himself, defiles *Adonai’s* Tabernacle, and that person will be cut off from Israel. Because the cleansing water was not sprinkled on him, he is unclean and his uncleanness will remain on him.

14 “This is the *Torah* for whenever a person dies in a tent. Anyone entering the tent or anyone inside the tent will be unclean seven days.

15 Any open container not having a lid fastened on it will also be unclean.

16 Anyone out in the open field who touches a dead body, whether killed by a sword or was killed by a natural cause, or touches a human bone or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

17 “For the unclean one, they are to take some of the ash of the burnt purification offering, and pour some fresh water into a jar.

18 Then a clean person will take some hyssop, dip it into the water, and, sprinkle it on the tent, all of the furnishings, and the people who were there, as well as the one touching the bone, the one killed, the corpse or the grave.

19 The clean person will sprinkle the unclean one on the third and seventh days. He is to purify himself on the seventh day, and on the seventh day he is to wash his clothes and bathe himself in water, and at evening he will be clean.

20 However, that man who is unclean but does not purify himself will be cut off from the community. He has defiled the Sanctuary of *Adonai*, since the cleansing water was not sprinkled on him. He is unclean.

21 This will be a permanent ordinance for them. The one sprinkling the cleansing water is also to wash his clothes, and anyone touching the cleansing water will be unclean until evening.

22 Anything touched by an unclean person becomes unclean, and anyone touching it will be unclean until evening.”

Numbers 20

Water from the Rock

1 In the first month, the entire community of *Bnei-Yisrael* arrived at the wilderness of Zin. The people stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.

2 Now there was no water for the community, so they assembled against Moses and Aaron.

3 The people quarreled with Moses saying, “If only we had died when our brothers died before *Adonai*!

4 Now why have you brought the community of *Adonai* into this wilderness, for us and our livestock to die here?

5 Why have you brought us from Egypt to bring us to this evil place—a place without grain, fig, grapevine or pomegranate—and there’s no water to drink!”

6 So Moses and Aaron went from before the assembly to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting and fell on their faces. Then the glory of *Adonai* appeared to them.

7 *Adonai* spoke to Moses saying,

8 “Take the staff and gather the assembly, you and your brother Aaron. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will give out its water. You will bring out water from the rock, and you will give the community something to drink, along with their livestock.”

9 So Moses took the staff from before the presence of *Adonai*, just as He had commanded him.

10 Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly in front of the rock. He said, “Listen now, you rebels! Must we bring you water from this rock?”

11 Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with the staff. Water gushed out and the community and its livestock drank.

12 But *Adonai* said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in Me so as to esteem Me as holy in the eyes of *Bnei-Yisrael*, therefore you will not bring this assembly into the land that I have given to them.”

13 These are the waters of Meribah where *Bnei-Yisrael* contended with Moses, and where *Adonai* showed Himself holy among them.

Edom Denies Passage

14 Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom. “Thus says your brother, Israel: ‘You know all the hardship that came on us.

15 Our forefathers went down to Egypt, so we lived there for a very long time. The Egyptians mistreated us, and our fathers.

16 But we cried out to *Adonai*, He heard our cry, sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt. See now, we are at Kadesh, a town on the frontier of your territory.

17 Permit us to pass through your territory. We will not cross through any field or vineyard or drink water of any well. But we will travel on the king’s highway. We

will not deviate to the right or left until we will have passed through your territory.’”

18 But Edom said to him, “You may not pass through me—or I will march out against you with the sword.”

19 *Bnei-Yisrael* then said to him, “We will travel on the main road, and if we or our livestock even drink any of your water, we will pay its price. It’s nothing, just to pass through on foot!”

20 He answered, “You may not pass through!” Yet Edom came out to oppose them with a large and well-armed people.

21 Since Edom refused to permit Israel to cross through her territory, Israel turned away from them.

Aaron Gathered To His People

22 The entirety of the community of *Bnei-Yisrael* set out from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor.

23 Now at Mount Hor, near the Edomite border, *Adonai* said to Moses and Aaron,

24 “Aaron will be gathered to his people. He will not enter the land, which I have given to *Bnei-Yisrael*, because you rebelled against My command at the waters of Meribah.

25 Take Aaron and his son Eleazar, and take them up Mount Hor.

26 Remove Aaron’s garments and put them on his son Eleazar, and Aaron will be gathered up and will die there.”

27 Moses did as *Adonai* commanded. They ascended Mount Hor before the eyes of the whole community.

28 Moses removed Aaron’s garments and placed them on Eleazar his son. Aaron died there at the top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar descended the mountain.

29 When they saw that Aaron had died, the entire community mourned Aaron 30 days.

Numbers 21

Nuhushtan: Snake on a Pole

1 When the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming along the road to Atharim, he attacked Israel and captured some of them.

2 Then Israel vowed to *Adonai* and stated, "If you deliver this people into our hand, we will put their cities under the ban of destruction!"

3 *Adonai* listened to Israel's plea and delivered up the Canaanites. They put them and their cities under the ban of destruction. So the name of the place was called Hormah.

4 They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Sea of Reeds in order to go around the land of Edom. The spirit of the people became impatient along the way.

5 The people spoke against God and Moses: "Why have you brought us from Egypt to die in the wilderness, because there is no bread, no water, and our very spirits detest the despicable food?"

6 So *Adonai* sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people and many of the people of Israel died.

7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against *Adonai* and you! Pray to *Adonai* for us, that He may take away the snakes!" So Moses prayed for the people.

8 *Adonai* said to Moses, "Make yourself a fiery snake and put it on a pole. Whenever anyone who has been bitten will look at it, he will live."

9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole, and it happened that whenever a snake bit anyone and he looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Journey to Moab

10 *Bnei-Yisrael* moved on and encamped at Oboth.

11 Then they set out from Oboth and camped in Ije-abarim, in the wilderness facing Moab toward the sunrise.

12 From there they set out and camped in the Wadi Zered.

13 They set out from there and camped along the Arnon, which is in the wilderness extending into Amorite territory. The Arnon is also the border between Moab and the Amorites.

14 Therefore, it is said in the Book of the Wars of *Adonai*, "...Vaheb in Suphah and the wadis of the Arnon,

15 and the slope of the wadis that leads to the site of Ar and lie along the border of Moab--"

16 And from there-on to Beer. This is the well where *Adonai* said to Moses, "Gather the people and I will give them water."

17 Then Israel sang this song, "Spring up, O well! Sing about it!"

18 The well the princes dug, that the nobles of the people sank with their scepter and their staffs." From the wilderness they went on to Mattanah.

19 From Mattanah they went on to Nahaliel, and from Nahaliel to Bamoth,

20 and from Bamoth to the valley in the field of Moab where the peak of Pisgah overlooks the wasteland.

Defeat of Sihon and Og

21 Israel sent messengers to King Sihon of the Amorites saying,

22 "Permit us to pass through your land. We will not turn aside into field or vineyard nor drink water from the wells. We will travel on the king's highway until we will have passed through your territory."

23 But Sihon would not let Israel pass through his territory. Instead, Sihon called out his entire army and marched out into the desert to oppose Israel. When he came to Jahaz, he fought against Israel.

24 But Israel struck him by the sword's edge and conquered his land from Arnon to Jabbok as far as the Ammonites, because the border of the sons of Ammon was fortified.

25 Israel conquered all these cities and occupied all the Amorite cities, Heshbon and all its towns.

26 Heshbon was the city of King Sihon of the Amorites, who had fought with the former king of Moab and had taken from his control all the land as far as the Arnon.

27 Therefore the poets say, "Come to Heshbon! Let her be rebuilt! Let the city of Sihon be restored!

28 For fire went out from Heshbon, a blaze from the city of Sihon! It consumed Ar of Moab, the masters of Arnon's heights!

29 Woe to you, O Moab! You have been destroyed, people of Chemosh! He has given up his sons as refugees and his daughters as captives to Sihon, king of the Amorites.

30 But we overthrew them! Heshbon as far as Dibon is destroyed! We have demolished them as far as Nophah up to Medeba."

31 So Israel was living in the land of the Amorites.

32 After Moses sent spies to Jazer, they captured her towns and drove out the Amorites who were there.

33 Then they turned and went up the road to the Bashan. Og, king of the Bashan, went out to confront them, he and all his people, in battle at Edrei.

34 *Adonai* said to Moses, "Do not fear him. I have given him with all his people and his land into your hand. You are to do to him just as you did to Sihon, the Amorite king who was living in Heshbon."

35 So they struck him and his sons and his entire army until no survivor was left to him, and they possessed his land.

Numbers 22

A Donkey Rebukes Balaam

1 Then *Bnei-Yisrael* set out and camped in the plains of Moab alongside the Jordan across from Jericho.

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

Judges 11:1-33

Jephthah's Valor and Vow

1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, but he was son of a prostitute, while Gilead was Jephthah's father.

2 But Gilead's wife bore him sons, and when the wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You won't inherit in our father's house, for you are a son of another woman."

3 Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob. Some worthless fellows joined with Jephthah and went out with him.

4 Now it came about after a while that the children of Ammon fought with Israel.

5 When the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah from the land of Tob.

6 They said to Jephthah, "Come and be our chief, so we may fight the children of Ammon."

7 Jephthah then said to the elders of Gilead, "Didn't you hate me and drive me out of my father's house? So why are you coming to me now that you're in trouble?"

8 "Here is why we're now turning to you," the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah. "Come with us, fight the children of Ammon, and then you will become head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

9 So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you take me back home to fight the children of Ammon, and *Adonai* gives them over to me, I should become your head!"

10 The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "Let *Adonai* be witness between us if we don't do as you say."

11 Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and chief over them, after Jephthah repeated all his terms before *Adonai* at Mizpah.

12 Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the children of Ammon saying, "What have you to do with me, that you have come to me to make war on my land?"

13 The king of the children of Ammon answered the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel took away my land, when they came up from Egypt, from the Arnon to the Jabbok as far as the Jordan. Now therefore, return them peaceably."

14 But Jephthah sent messengers again to the king of the children of Ammon,

15 and said to him, "Thus says Jephthah, 'Israel did not take away the land of Moab or the land of the children of Ammon.

16 For upon departing from Egypt, Israel traveled through the wilderness to the Sea of Reeds and came to Kadesh,

17 then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom saying, "Please, let me pass through your land," but the king of Edom would not consent. Similarly he sent word to the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So Israel, after staying at Kadesh,

18 traveled through the wilderness, around the land of Edom and the land of Moab, came to the east side of the land of Moab and they camped on the other side of the Arnon. But they did not enter the territory of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab.

19 Then Israel sent messengers to King Sihon of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him, "Please, let us pass through your land to my place."

20 But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his troops, camped in Jahaz and fought against Israel.

21 But *Adonai* God of Israel gave Sihon and all his troops into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them. So Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.

22 Thus they possessed all the territory of the Amorites, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok, and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan.

23 So now *Adonai* God of Israel dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel. So should you possess their land?

24 Don't you possess what Chemosh your god gives you to possess? Likewise, whatever *Adonai* our God has dispossessed from before us, this we will possess.

25 Besides, are you any better than Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever strive against Israel, or did he ever fight against them?

26 While Israel was living in Heshbon and its villages, in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities on both sides of the Arnon for 300 years, why didn't you try to recover them all that time?

27 So I myself have not transgressed against you, yet you are doing me harm by waging war against me. May *Adonai*, the Judge, judge today between *Bnei-Yisrael* and the children of Ammon.'"

28 However, the king of the children of Ammon paid no attention to the words of Jephthah that he sent him.

29 Then the *Ruach Adonai* came upon Jephthah, so he marched through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he crossed over to the children of Ammon.

30 Then Jephthah vowed a vow to *Adonai* and said, "If You will indeed give the children of Ammon into my hand,

31 then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return safely from the children of Ammon, it will be *Adonai's*, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering."

32 So Jephthah crossed over to the children of Ammon to fight against them, and *Adonai* gave them into his hand.

33 So he utterly defeated them from Aroer until you come to Minnith—20 towns—and as far as Abel-cheramim. So the children of Ammon were subdued before *Bnei-Yisrael*.

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

John 3:9-21

9 “How can these things happen?” Nicodemus said.

10 *Yeshua* answered him, “You’re a teacher of Israel and you do not understand these things?”

11 Amen, *amen* I tell you, We speak about what We know and testify about what We have seen. Yet you all do not receive Our testimony!

12 If you do not believe the earthly things I told you, how will you believe when I tell you about heavenly things?

13 No one has gone up into heaven except the One who came down from heaven—the Son of Man.

14 Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

15 so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life!

16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

17 God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

18 The one who believes in Him is not condemned; but whoever does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not put his trust in the name of the one and only *Ben-Elohim*.

19 “Now this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world and men loved the darkness instead of the light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone who does evil hates the light and does not come to the light, so that their deeds will not be exposed.

21 But whoever practices the truth comes to the light, so that it may be made known that his deeds have been accomplished in God.”

John 4:3-30

3 So He left Judea and went back again to the Galilee.

4 But He needed to pass through Samaria.

5 So He comes to a Samaritan town called Shechem, near the plot of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 Now Jacob’s well was there. So *Yeshua*, exhausted from the journey, was sitting by the well. It was midday.

7 A Samaritan woman comes to draw water. “Give me a drink,” *Yeshua* tells her,

8 for His disciples had gone away to the town to buy food.

9 Then the Samaritan woman tells Him, “How is it that You, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” (For Jewish people don’t deal with Samaritans.)

10 *Yeshua* replied to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

11 “Sir,” the woman tells Him, “You don’t have a bucket, and the well is deep. Then from where do You get this living water?”

12 You’re not greater than our father Jacob, are You? He gave us this well. He drank out of it himself, with his sons and his cattle.”

13 *Yeshua* replied to her, “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again.

14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty. The water that I give him will become a fountain of water within him, springing up to eternal life!”

15 “Sir,” the woman tells Him, “give me this water, so I won’t get thirsty or have to come all the way here to draw water!”

16 He tells her, “Go call your husband, and then come back here.”

17 “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. *Yeshua* tells her, “You’ve said it right, ‘I have no husband.’”

18 For you’ve had five husbands, and the man you have now isn’t your husband. This you’ve spoken truthfully!”

19 “Sir,” the woman tells Him, “I see that You are a prophet!

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you all say that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

21 *Yeshua* tells her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

23 But an hour is coming—it is here now—when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people as His worshipers.

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

25 The woman tells Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called the Anointed One.) When He comes, He will explain everything to us.”

26 *Yeshua* tells her, “I—the One speaking to you—I am.”

Ready for Harvest

27 At this moment, His disciples came back. They were amazed that He was speaking with a woman. Yet no one said, “What do You want?” or “Why are You speaking with her?”

28 So the woman left her water jar and went back to the town. She tells the people,

29 “Come see a man who told me everything I ever did! He couldn’t be the Messiah, could He?”

30 The people left the town and began coming to Him.

John 12:27-50

27 “Now My soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But it was for this reason I came to this hour.

28 Father, glorify Your name!” Then a voice came out of heaven, “I have glorified it, and again I will glorify it!”

29 Therefore the crowd that was standing there and heard it was saying that it had thundered. Others were saying, “An angel has spoken to Him.”

30 *Yeshua* responded, “This voice hasn’t come for My sake, but for yours.

31 Now is the judgment of this world! Now the prince of this world will be driven out!

32 And as I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself.”

33 He said this to show the kind of death He was about to die.

34 The crowd answered Him, “We’ve heard from Scripture that the Messiah remains forever. How can You say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”

Choose Either the Light or the Darkness

35 Therefore *Yeshua* said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness will not overtake you. The one who walks in darkness doesn’t know where he is going.

36 While you have the light, believe in the light so that you may become sons of light." *Yeshua* spoke these things, then left and hid Himself from them.

37 But even though He had performed so many signs before them, they weren't trusting in Him.

38 This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet, who said, "*Adonai*, who has believed our report? To whom has the arm of *Adonai* been revealed?"

39 For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah also said,

40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they might not see with their eyes nor understand with their hearts and turn back, and I would heal them."

41 Isaiah said these things because he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

42 Nevertheless many, even among the leaders, put their trust in Him. But because of the Pharisees, they were not confessing *Yeshua*, so they would not be thrown out of the synagogue;

43 for they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God.

44 *Yeshua* cried out, "Whoever puts trust in Me believes not in Me but in the One who sent Me!

45 And whoever beholds Me beholds the One who sent Me.

46 As light I have come into the world, so that everyone who trusts in Me should not remain in darkness.

47 "If anyone hears My words but doesn't keep them, I do not judge him; for I came to save the world, not to judge the world.

48 The one who rejects Me and doesn't receive My words has a judge; the word I spoke will judge him on the last day.

49 For I did not speak on My own, but the Father Himself who sent Me has commanded Me what to say and speak.

50 And I know that His commandment is life everlasting. Therefore what I say, I say just as the Father has told Me.”

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.