

# The book of Numbers

## חוקת - בלק Chukat - Balak



*Moses Striking Water from the Rock* (painting circa 1633–1635 by Nicolas Poussin)

Daily Zohar Edition  
Free for distribution as is, not for profit

---

<https://dailyzohar.com>

*Chukat is the 39th weekly Torah portion (פְּרָשָׁה, parashah) in the annual Jewish cycle of Torah reading and the sixth in the Book of Numbers. The parashah sets out the laws of corpse contamination (tumat hamet) and purification with the water of lustration prepared with the Red Heifer (פָּרָה אֲדֻמָּה, parah adumah. It also reports the deaths of Miriam and Aaron, the failure of Moses at the Waters of Meribah, and the conquest of Arad, the Amorites, and Bashan.*

***The parashah constitutes Numbers 19:1–22:1. The parashah is the shortest weekly Torah portion in the Book of Numbers (although not the shortest in the Torah), and is made up of 4,670 Hebrew letters, 1,245 Hebrew words, 87 verses, and 159 lines in a Torah Scroll (סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה, Sefer Torah).***

*Jews generally read it in late June or July. In most years (for example, in 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025, and 2028), parashah Chukat is read separately. In some years (for example, 2020, 2023, 2026, and 2027) when the second day of Shavuot falls on a Sabbath in the Diaspora (where observant Jews observe Shavuot for two days), parashah Chukat is combined with the subsequent parashah, Balak, in the Diaspora to synchronize readings thereafter with those in Israel (where Jews observe Shavuot for one day).*

*Jews also read the first part of the parashah, Numbers 19:1–22, in addition to the regular weekly Torah portion, on the Sabbath after Purim, called Shabbat Parah. On Shabbat Parah, a reader chants the regular weekly Torah portion first, and then a reader chants the chapter of the Red Heifer. Shabbat Parah occurs shortly before Passover, and Numbers 19:1–22 sets out the procedure by which the Israelites could purify themselves from the impurity of death (tumat hamet), and so prepare for the Pilgrimage Festival of Passover.*

*In the first reading (עלייה, aliyah), God told Moses and Aaron to instruct the Israelites regarding the ritual law of the Red Heifer (פָּרָה אֲדֻמָּה, parah adumah) used to create the water of lustration. The Heifer was to be without blemish, have no defect, and not have borne a yoke. Eleazar the priest was to take it outside the camp, observe its slaughter, and take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the Tabernacle. The Heifer was to be burned in its entirety along with cedar wood, hyssop, and crimson wool. The priest and the one who burned the Heifer were both to wash their garments, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. The ashes of the Heifer were to be used to create the water of lustration. One who touched the corpse of any human being was to be unclean for seven days. On the third and seventh days, the person who had touched the corpse was to cleanse with the water of lustration and then be clean. One who failed to do so would remain unclean, would defile the Tabernacle, and would be cut off from Israel. When a person died in a tent, whoever entered the tent was to be unclean seven days, and every open vessel in the tent was to be unclean. In the open, anyone who touched a corpse, bone, or a grave was to be unclean seven days.*

Chapter: 19

1. וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר:

1. And YHVH spoke unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying:

2. זאת זִמְתָּהּ הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּה יְהוָה לֵאמֹר דַּבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּקְחוּ אֵלֶיךָ פָּרָה אֲדֻמָּה תְּמִימָה אֲשֶׁר אֵין-בָּהּ מוֹם אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָלָה עָלֶיהָ עֹל:

2. This is the statute of the law which YHVH hath commanded, saying: Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer, faultless, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke.

3. וַנִּתְּנָהּ אֵתָהּ אֶל-אַלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן וְהוּצִיא אֹתָהּ אֶל-מִזְבֵּחַ לְמִזְבֵּחַ וְשָׂוַט אֹתָהּ לְפָנָיו:

3. And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, and she shall be brought forth without the camp, and she shall be slain before his face.

4. וְלָקַח אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן מִדָּמָהּ בְּאֶצְבָּעוֹ וְהִזָּה אֶל-נֹכַח פְּנֵי אֹהֶל-מוֹעֵד מִדָּמָהּ שֶׁבַע פְּעָמִים:

4. And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood toward the front of the tent of meeting seven times.

5. וְשָׂרַף אֶת-הַפָּרָה לְעֵינָיו אֶת-עֲרָה וְאֶת-בְּשָׂרָהּ וְאֶת-דָּמָהּ עַל-פְּרִשָׁה  
יִשְׂרָף:

5. And the heifer shall be burnt in his sight; her skin, and her flesh,  
and her blood, with her dung, shall be burnt.

6. וְלָקָוּ הַכֹּהֵן עֵץ אֲרָז וְאַזְבִּיב וְשִׁנֵי תוֹלַעַת וְהִשְׁלִיךְ אֶל-תּוֹךְ שְׂרֵפַת הַפָּרָה:

6. And the priest shall take cedar-wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and  
cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer.

7. וְכִבֵּס בְּגָדָיו הַכֹּהֵן וְרוּזֵץ בְּשָׂרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְאֹזֵר יָבֵא אֶל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְטָמֵא  
הַכֹּהֵן עַד-הָעֶרֶב:

7. Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh  
in water, and afterward he may come into the camp, and the priest  
shall be unclean until the even.

8. וְהִשְׂרָף אֹתָהּ יְכַבֵּס בְּגָדָיו בַּמַּיִם וְרוּזֵץ בְּשָׂרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְטָמֵא עַד-הָעֶרֶב:

8. And he that burneth her shall wash his clothes in water, and bathe  
his flesh in water, and shall be unclean until the even.

9. וְאִסַּף אִישׁ טָהוֹר אֶת אֶפְרַי הַפָּרָה וְהִיזוּ מִזֹּזוּץ לַמִּזְבֵּחַ בַּמָּקוֹם טָהוֹר  
וְהִיטָהּ לְעֵדוּת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁמֵרַת לִמִּי נִדָּה זֹטְאֵת הוּא:

9. And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and  
lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for  
the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of sprinkling; it is  
a purification from sin.

10. וְכִבֵּס הָאִסַּף אֶת-אֶפְרַי הַפָּרָה אֶת-בְּגָדָיו וְטָמֵא עַד-הָעֶרֶב וְהִיטָהּ  
לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלִגְר הַגֵּר בְּתוֹכָם לְזִכָּרָת עוֹלָם:

10. And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his  
clothes, and be unclean until the even; and it shall be unto the  
children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them,  
for a statute for ever.

11. הַנֹּגֵעַ בְּמֵת לְכָל-נֶפֶשׁ אָדָם וְטָמֵא שִׁבְעַת יָמִים:

11. He that toucheth the dead, even any man's dead body, shall be  
unclean seven days;

12. הוּא יִתְזַטֵּא-כִּי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי יִטְהַר וְאִם-לֹא יִתְזַטֵּא  
בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לֹא יִטְהַר:

12. the same shall purify himself therewith on the third day and on  
the seventh day, and he shall be clean; but if he purify not himself the  
third day and the seventh day, he shall not be clean.

13. כָּל-הַנִּזְעַע בְּמִת בְּנֶפֶשׁ הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר-יָמוּת וְלֹא יִתְוַטֵּא אֶת-מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה טָמֵא וְנִכְרַתָּה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהִוא מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל כִּי מִי נָדָה לֹא-זָרַק עָלָיו טָמֵא יִהְיֶה עוֹד טָמֵאתוּ בּוֹ:

13. Whosoever toucheth the dead, even the body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself--he hath defiled the tabernacle of YHVH--that soul shall be cut off from Israel; because the water of sprinkling was not dashed against him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him.

14. זֹאת הַתּוֹרָה אֲדָרָם כִּי-יָמוּת בְּאֶהָל כָּל-הַבָּא אֵל-הָאֶהָל וְכָל-אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶהָל יִטָּמֵא שִׁבְעַת יָמִים:

14. This is the law: when a man dieth in a tent, every one that cometh into the tent, and every thing that is in the tent, shall be unclean seven days.

15. וְכָל כְּלֵי פְתוּזִים אֲשֶׁר אֵין-צָבָר עֲלֵיהֶם עָלְיוּ טָמֵא הוּא:

15. And every open vessel, which hath no covering close-bound upon it, is unclean.

16. וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-יִזַּע עַל-פְּנֵי הַשָּׂדֶה בְּזוּלָל-זוֹרֵב אוֹ בְּמִת אוֹ-בְּעֵצִים אֲדָרָם אוֹ בְּקֶבֶר יִטָּמֵא שִׁבְעַת יָמִים:

16. And whosoever in the open field toucheth one that is slain with a sword, or one that dieth of himself, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

17. וְלִקְחוּ לְטָמֵא מִבְּעַר שָׂרֵפֶת הַזּוֹטָאֵת וְנָתַן עָלָיו בַּיּוֹם זָוִים אֵל-כָּלִי:

17. And for the unclean they shall take of the ashes of the burning of the purification from sin, and running water shall be put thereto in a vessel.

—◆ Aliya: Levi-Gevurah-Isaac ◆—

*In the second reading (עלייה, aliyah), a person who was clean was to add fresh water to ashes of the Red Cow, dip hyssop in the water, and sprinkle the water on the tent, the vessels, and people who had become unclean. The person who sprinkled the water was then to wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be clean at nightfall. Anyone who became unclean and failed to cleanse himself was to be cut off from the congregation. The person who sprinkled the water of lustration was to wash his clothes, and whoever touched the water of lustration, whatever he touched, and whoever touched him were to be unclean until evening. The Israelites arrived at Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin, and Miriam died and was buried there. The people were without water, and they complained against Moses and Aaron. Moses and Aaron fell on their faces at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and the Presence of God appeared to them.*

18. וְלָקְחוּ אֹזֶב וְטָבַל בַּמַּיִם אִישׁ טָהוֹר וְהָזָה עַל-הָאֹהֶל וְעַל-כָּל-הַכֵּלִים וְעַל-הַנְּפֹשׁוֹת אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ-שָׁם וְעַל-הַנִּגְעַת בְּעַצְמָם אוֹ בְּזוֹכְלָם אוֹ בַּמָּוֶת אוֹ בַּקָּבֵר:

18. And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched the bone, or the slain, or the dead, or the grave.

19. וְהָזָה הַטָּהוֹר עַל-הַטָּמֵא בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וְזוֹטָאוּ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וְכַבֵּס בְּגָדָיו וְרוּזַן בַּמַּיִם וְטָהַר בְּעֶרְבֵי:

19. And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day; and on the seventh day he shall purify him; and he shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be clean at even.

20. וְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-יִטְמָא וְלֹא יִתְוַטֵּא וְנִכְרַתְתָּה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהִוא מִתּוֹךְ הַקָּהָל כִּי אֶת-מִקְדָּשִׁי יִהְיֶה טָמֵא בְּיָדוֹ לֹא-זָרַק עָלָיו טָמֵא הוּא:

20. But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from the midst of the assembly, because he hath defiled the sanctuary of YHVH; the water of sprinkling hath not been dashed against him: he is unclean.

21. וְהִיְתָה לָהֶם לְזִמְתָּה עוֹלָם וּבְמִוָּה בְּיַד הַנֶּגֶד יִכַּסּוּ בְּגָדָיו וְהַנִּגְעַת בְּמִי הַנֶּגֶד יִטְמָא עַד-הָעֶרֶב:

21. And it shall be a perpetual statute unto them; and he that sprinkleth the water of sprinkling shall wash his clothes; and he that toucheth the water of sprinkling shall be unclean until even.

22. וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-יִגַּע-בּוֹ הַטָּמֵא יִטְמָא וְהַנֶּפֶשׁ הַנִּגְעָת תִּטְמָא עַד-הָעֶרֶב: (פ)

22. And whatsoever the unclean person toucheth shall be unclean; and the soul that toucheth him shall be unclean until even.

## Chapter: 20

1. וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל-הָעֵדָה מִדְּבָר-צִן בְּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן וַיֵּשֶׁב הָעָם בְּקֶדֶשׁ וְתַמֹּת שָׁם מִרְיָם וְתִקְבַּר שָׁם:

1. And the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, came into the wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

2. וְלֹא-הָיָה בָּיָם לְעֵדָה וַיִּקְהָלוּ עַל-מִשֶּׁה וְעַל-אֲהָרֹן:

2. And there was no water for the congregation; and they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

3. וַיִּרְבּוּ הָעָם עִם-מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֵאמֹר וְלוֹ גְּוַעַנּוּ בַּגֹּעַז אֲנֹחֲנִי לִפְנֵי יְהוָה:

3. And the people strove with Moses, and spoke, saying: 'Would that we had perished when our brethren perished before YHVH!

4. וְלָמָּה הֵבֵאתֶם אֶת-קְהַל יְהוָה אֶל-הַמִּדְבָּר הַזֶּה לָמוּת לְפָנֵי יְהוָה אֲנֹחֲנִי וּבְעֵירָנוּ:

4. And why have ye brought the assembly of YHVH into this wilderness, to die there, we and our cattle?

5. וְלָמָּה הֵעַלִיתֶנּוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם לְהַבְיֵא אֹתָנוּ אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה הָרַע הַזֶּה לֹא מָקוֹם זֵרַע וְתַאֲנֶה וְזָפֶן וְרַמּוֹן וּבָמִים אֵין לְשִׁתּוֹת:

5. And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.'

6. וַיָּבֹאוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן מִפְּנֵי הַקְּהָל אֶל-פֶּתַח מוֹעֵד וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל-פְּנֵיהֶם וַיֵּרָא כְבוֹד-יְהוָה אֲלֵיהֶם: (פ)

6. And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tent of meeting, and fell upon their faces; and the glory of YHVH appeared unto them.

—◆ Aliya: Third-Tiferet-Jacob ◆—

—◆ When combined, Aliya (Levi): Second, Gevura, Isaac ◆—

*In the third reading (עליה, aliyah), God told Moses that he and Aaron should take the rod and order the rock to yield its water. Moses took the rod, assembled the congregation in front of the rock, and said to them: "Listen, you rebels, shall we get water for you out of this rock?" Then Moses struck the rock twice with his rod, out came water, and the community and their animals drank. But God told Moses and Aaron: "Because you did not trust Me enough to affirm My sanctity in the sight of the Israelite people, therefore you shall not lead this congregation into the land that I have given them." The water was named Meribah, meaning quarrel or contention."*

7. וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

7. And YHVH spoke unto Moses, saying:

8. קוּזוּ אֶת-הַמַּטֵּה וְהִקְהַל אֶת-הָעֵדָה אֹתָהּ וְאַהֲרֹן אָזְזִיךָ וּדְבַרְתֶּם אֵל-  
הַסֵּלַע לְעֵינֵיהֶם וְנָתַן מִיַּמּוֹ וְהוֹצֵאתָ לָהֶם מַיִם מִן-הַסֵּלַע וְהִשְׁקִיתָ אֶת-  
הָעֵדָה וְאֶת-בְּעִירָם:

8. 'Take the rod, and assemble the congregation, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes, that it give forth its water; and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock; so thou shalt give the congregation and their cattle drink.'

9. וַיִּקְזוּ מִשְׁנֵה אֶת-הַמַּטֵּה מִלְּפָנַי יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי:

9. And Moses took the rod from before YHVH, as He commanded him.

10. וַיִּקְהָלוּ מִשְׁנֵה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶת-הַקְּהָל אֵל-פְּנֵי הַסֵּלַע וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם שְׁמַעוּ-  
נָא הַמְּרִים הַבָּנִים-הַסֵּלַע הַזֶּה נּוֹצֵיא לָכֶם מַיִם:

10. And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said unto them: 'Hear now, ye rebels; are we to bring you forth water out of this rock?'

11. וַיָּרֶם מֹשֶׁה אֶת-יָדוֹ וַיַּךְ אֶת-הַסֵּלַע בְּמַטְּהוֹ פַּעַמַיִם וַיֵּצְאוּ מַיִם רַבִּים  
וַתִּשְׁתַּה הָעֵדָה וּבְעִירָם: (ס)

11. And Moses lifted up his hand, and smote the rock with his rod twice; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their cattle.

12. וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵל-מֹשֶׁה וְאַל-אַהֲרֹן יַעַן לֹא-הֵאֱמַנְתֶּם בִּי לְהַקְדִּישֵׁנִי  
לְעֵינַי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכֵן לֹא תָבִיאוּ אֶת-הַקְּהָל הַזֶּה אֵל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-נָתַתִּי  
לָהֶם:

12. And YHVH said unto Moses and Aaron: 'Because ye believed not in Me, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.'

13. הֲבֵנָה בְּי מוֹרִיבָה אֲשֶׁר-רָבוּ בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-יְהוָה וַיִּקְדָּשׁ בָּם:  
(ס)

13. These are the waters of Meribah, where the children of Israel strove with YHVH, and He was sanctified in them.

—◆ Aliya: Fourth-Netzach-Moses ◆—

*In the fourth reading (עלייה, aliyah), Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom asking him to allow the Israelites to cross Edom, without passing through fields or vineyards, and without drinking water from wells. But the Edomites would not let the Israelites pass through, and turned out in heavy force to block their way, and the Israelites turned away.*

14. וישלחו משה מלכאים מקדש אל-מלך אדום כה אמר אוזיה ישראל  
אתה ידעת את כל-התלאה אשר במצאתנו:

14. And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom:  
'Thus saith thy brother Israel: Thou knowest all the travail that hath  
befallen us;

15. וירדו אבותינו מצרימה ונשב במצרים ימים רבים וירעו לנו מצרים  
ולאבותינו:

15. how our fathers went down into Egypt, and we dwelt in Egypt a  
long time; and the Egyptians dealt ill with us, and our fathers;

16. ונצעק אל-יהוה וישמע קלנו וישלח מלך ויצאנו ממצרים והנה  
אנחנו בקדש עיר קצה גבולך:

16. and when we cried unto YHVH, He heard our voice, and sent an  
angel, and brought us forth out of Egypt; and, behold, we are in  
Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border.

17. נעברה-נא בארצה לא נעבר בשדה ובכרם ולא נשתה מי באר  
דרך המלך נלך לא נטה ימין ושמאל עד אשר-נעבר גבולך:

17. Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy land; we will not pass  
through field or through vineyard, neither will we drink of the water of  
the wells; we will go along the king's highway, we will not turn aside to  
the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy border.'

18. ויאמר אליו אדום לא תעבר בי פן-בוזרב אצא לקראתך:

18. And Edom said unto him: 'Thou shalt not pass through me, lest I  
come out with the sword against thee.'

19. ויאמרו אליו בני-ישראל במסלה נעלה ואם-מימיה נשתה אני ובקני  
ונתתי מכרם רק אין-דבר ברגלי אעברה:

19. And the children of Israel said unto him: 'We will go up by the  
highway; and if we drink of thy water, I and my cattle, then will I give  
the price thereof; let me only pass through on my feet; there is no  
hurt.'

20. ויאמר לא תעבר ויצא אדום לקראתו בעם כבד וביר וזקה:

20. And he said: 'Thou shalt not pass through.' And Edom came out  
against him with much people, and with a strong hand.

21. וימאן אדום נתן את-ישראל עבר בגבולו ויט ישראל מעליו: (פ)

21. Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border;  
wherefore Israel turned away from him.

Aliya: Fifth-Hod-Aaron

When combined, Aliya: Third, Tiferet, Jacob

*In the fifth reading (עלייה, aliyah), at Mount Hor, God told Moses and Aaron: "Let Aaron be gathered to his kin: he is not to enter the land that I have assigned to the Israelite people, because you disobeyed my command about the waters of Meribah." Moses took Aaron and his son Eleazar up on Mount Hor, and there he stripped Aaron of his vestments and put them on Eleazar, and Aaron died there. The Israelites mourned Aaron 30 days. The king of Arad engaged the Israelites in battle and took some of them captive. The Israelites vowed that if God gave them victory, they would destroy Arad. God delivered up the Canaanites, and the Israelites killed them and destroyed their cities, calling the place Hormah. The people grew restive and spoke against God and Moses, so God let loose serpents that killed many of the Israelites. The people came to Moses, admitted their sin by speaking against God, and asked Moses to intercede with God to take away the serpents, and Moses did so. God told Moses to mount a Nehushtan, or bronze serpent figure, on a pole, saying: "If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he shall recover."*

22\ וַיִּסְעוּ מִקַּדְשׁ וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל-הָעֵדָה הָרַר הָהָר:

22. And they journeyed from Kadesh; and the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, came unto mount Hor.

23. וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן בְּהַר הָהָר עַל-גְּבוּל אֶרֶץ-אֲדוֹם לֵאמֹר:

23. And YHVH spoke unto Moses and Aaron in mount Hor, by the border of the land of Edom, saying:

24. וַיֹּאסֶף אֲהֲרֹן אֶל-עַבְדָּיו כִּי לֹא יָבֹא אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַל אֲשֶׁר-בְּרִיתָם אֶת-פִּי לְבְנֵי מִרְיָבָה:

24. 'Aaron shall be gathered unto his people; for he shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because ye rebelled against My word at the waters of Meribah.

25. קְחוּ אֶת-אַהֲרֹן וְאֶת-אֶלְעָזָר בְּנֵו וְהַעֲלֵם אֹתָם הָרַר הָהָר:

25. Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up unto mount Hor.

26. וְהַפְּשִׁט אֶת-אַהֲרֹן אֶת-בְּגָדָיו וְהִלְבַּשְׁתָּם אֶת-אֶלְעָזָר בְּנֵו וְאַהֲרֹן יֹאסֶף וּבְמַת שָׁם:

26. And strip Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron shall be gathered unto his people, and shall die there.'

27. וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה וַיַּעֲלוּ אֶל-הַר הָהוֹר לְעֵינֵי כָל-הָעֵדָה:

27. And Moses did as YHVH commanded; and they went up into mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation.

28. וַיִּכְשִׁיט מֹשֶׁה אֶת-אֶהֱרֹן אֶת-בְּגָדָיו וַיִּלְבַּשׂ אֶת-אֶלְעָזָר בְּנֹו וַיָּמָת אֶהֱרֹן שָׁם בְּרֹאשׁ הָהָר וַיָּרֶד מֹשֶׁה וְאֶלְעָזָר מִן-הָהָר:

28. And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount; and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount.

29. וַיֵּרְאוּ כָל-הָעֵדָה כִּי גָוַע אֶהֱרֹן וַיִּבְכּוּ אֶת-אֶהֱרֹן שְׁלֹשִׁים יוֹם כָּל בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ס)

29. And when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they wept for Aaron thirty days, even all the house of Israel.

## Chapter: 21

1. וַיִּשְׁמָע הַכְּנַעֲנִי מֶלֶךְ-עָרֹד יֹשֵׁב הַנֶּגֶב כִּי בָא יִשְׂרָאֵל דֶּרֶךְ הָאֲתָרִים וַיִּלָּחֶם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשָּׁב | מִמֶּנּוּ שְׁבִי:

1. And the Canaanite, the king of Arad, who dwelt in the South, heard tell that Israel came by the way of Atharim; and he fought against Israel, and took some of them captive.

2. וַיֵּדֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶדֶר לַיהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אִם-נָתַן תֵּתֶן אֶת-הָעָם הַזֶּה בְּיָדִי וְהַזְוֹרְמֵתִי אֶת-עָרֵיהֶם:

2. And Israel vowed a vow unto YHVH, and said: 'If Thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities.'

3. וַיִּשְׁמָע יְהוָה בְּקוֹל יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתֵּן אֶת-הַכְּנַעֲנִי וַיִּזְוֶרְם אֶתְהֶם וְאֶת-עָרֵיהֶם וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם-הַמָּקוֹם זֹרְמָה: (פ)

3. And YHVH hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities; and the name of the place was called Hormah.

4. וַיִּסְעוּ מִהָר הָהָר דֶּרֶךְ יָם-סוּף לְסַבֵּב אֶת-אֶרֶץ אֱדוֹם וַתִּקְצַר נַפְשׁ-הָעָם בַּדֶּרֶךְ:

4. And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way to the Red Sea, to compass the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became impatient because of the way.

5. וַיֵּדְבַר הָעָם בְּאֱלֹהִים ֹ וַיִּבְמַשְׁתָּה לָמוֹת הַעֲלִיתֵנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם לָמוֹת בְּמִדְבָּר כִּי אֵין לָנוּם וְאֵין מַיִם וְנַפְשֵׁנוּ קָצָה בְּלֹוֹם הַקָּלְקָל:

5. And the people spoke against God, and against Moses: 'Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, and there is no water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.'

6. וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוָה בָּעָם אֶת הַנְּזֻזִים הַשָּׂרְפִים וַיִּנְשְׁכוּ אֶת-הָעָם וַיָּמָת עִם-  
רַב מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל:

6. And YHVH sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

7. וַיָּבֹא הָעָם אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמְרוּ זֹטְאָנוּ כִּי-דִבַּרְנוּ בַיהוָה וּבָךְ הַתַּפְּכֵל  
אֶל-יְהוָה וַיִּסַּר בְּעַלְלֵינוּ אֶת-הַנְּזֻזִים וַיִּתַּפְּכֵל מֹשֶׁה בְּעַד הָעָם:

7. And the people came to Moses, and said: 'We have sinned, because we have spoken against YHVH, and against thee; pray unto YHVH, that He take away the serpents from us.' And Moses prayed for the people.

8. וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה עֲשֵׂה לָךְ שָׂרָף וְשִׂים אֹתוֹ עַל-גֹּס וְהָיָה כָל-  
הַנְּשֻׁךְ וַרְאָה אֹתוֹ וָחָי:

8. And YHVH said unto Moses: 'Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he seeth it, shall live.'

9. וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה נְזֻזִים נְזֻזֵת וַיִּשְׂמְהוּ עַל-הַגָּס וְהָיָה אִם-נִשְׁךְ הַנְּזֻזִים אֶת-  
אִישׁ וְהִבִּיט אֶל-נְזֻזֵת הַנְּזֻזֵת וָחָי:

9. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and set it upon the pole; and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked unto the serpent of brass, he lived.



Aliya: Sixth-Yessod-Joseph

*In the sixth reading (עליה, aliyah), the Israelites traveled on to Oboth, Ije-abarim, the valley of Zered, the other side of the Arnon, Beer, Mattanah, Nahaliel, Bamoth, and the field of Moab, by the top of Mount Pisgah.*

10. וַיִּסְעוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּזְזוּ בְּאֹבֹת:

10. And the children of Israel journeyed, and pitched in Oboth.

11. וַיִּסְעוּ מֵאֹבֹת וַיַּזְזוּ בְּעֵי הָעֲבָרִים בְּמִדְבַּר אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי מוֹאָב בְּמִזְרֹחַ  
הַשָּׁמֶשׁ:

11. And they journeyed from Oboth, and pitched at Ije-abarim, in the wilderness which is in front of Moab, toward the sun-rising.

12. משם נסעו ויזונו בנזול זרד:

12. From thence they journeyed, and pitched in the valley of Zered.

13. משם נסעו ויזונו מעבר ארנון אשר במדבר היצא מגבל האמורי כי ארנון גבול מואב בין מואב ובין האמורי:

13. From thence they journeyed, and pitched on the other side of the Arnon, which is in the wilderness, that cometh out of the border of the Amorites. --For Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites;

14. על-כן יאמר בספר מלחמות יהוה את-והב בסופה ואת-הנזולים ארנון:

14. wherefore it is said in the book of the Wars of YHVH: Vaheb in Suphah, and the valleys of Arnon,

15. ואשר הנזולים אשר נטה לשבת ער ונשען לגבול מואב:

15. And the slope of the valleys that inclineth toward the seat of Ar, and leaneth upon the border of Moab.--

16. ומשם בארה הוא הבאר אשר אמר יהוה למישה אסף את-העם ואתנה להם מים: (ס)

16. And from thence to Beer; that is the well whereof YHVH said unto Moses: 'Gather the people together, and I will give them water.'

17. אז ישיר ישראל את-השירה הזאת עלי באר ענו-לה:

17. Then sang Israel this song: Spring up, O well--sing ye unto it--

18. באר וזפרוה שרים פרוה נדיבי העם במוזקק במשענתם ובמדבר בתנה:

18. The well, which the princes digged, which the nobles of the people delved, with the sceptre, and with their staves. And from the wilderness to Mattanah;

19. ובמתנה נזוליאל ומנוזליאל במות:

19. and from Mattanah to Nahaliel; and from Nahaliel to Bamoth;

20. ובבמות הנזיל אשר בשדה מואב ראש הפסגה ונשקפה על-פני הישיבון:

20. and from Bamoth to the valley that is in the field of Moab, by the top of Pisgah, which looketh down upon the desert.

*In the seventh reading (עליה, aliyah), the Israelites sent messengers to Sihon, king of the Amorites, asking that he allow them to pass through his country, without entering the fields or vineyards, and without drinking water from wells. But Sihon would not let Israel pass through his territory and engaged the Israelites in battle. The Israelites defeated the Amorites and took possession of their land and towns.*

*Then the Israelites marched on, and King Og of Bashan engaged them in battle. The Israelites defeated his forces and took possession of his country. The Israelites then marched to the steppes of Moab, across the Jordan River from Jericho.*

21. וַיִּשְׁלַח יִשְׂרָאֵל מַלְאָכָיִם אֶל-סִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ-הָאֱמֹרִי לֵאמֹר:

21. And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, saying:

22. אֲעֹבְרָה בְּאַרְצֶךָ לֹא נָטָה בְּשַׂדֵּה וּבְכָרֶם לֹא נִשְׁתֶּה מִי בְּאֵר בְּדַרְךְ הַמֶּלֶךְ יָלֶךְ עַד אֲשֶׁר-נַעֲבֹר גְּבֻלְךָ:

22. 'Let me pass through thy land; we will not turn aside into field, or into vineyard; we will not drink of the water of the wells; we will go by the king's highway, until we have passed thy border.'

23. וְלֹא-נָתַן סִיחֹן אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל עֹבֵר בְּגְבֻלוֹ וַיֹּאסֶף סִיחֹן אֶת-כָּל-עַמּוּוֹ וַיֵּצֵא לְקִרְאת יִשְׂרָאֵל הַמִּדְבָּרָה וַיָּבֹא יְהֻצָה וַיִּקְוּם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:

23. And Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through his border; but Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness, and came to Jahaz; and he fought against Israel.

24. וַיַּכֵּהוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל לָפִי-זָוָרֶב וַיִּירֶשׁ אֶת-אַרְצוֹ מֵאֲרֹנָן עַד-יַבֶּק עַד-בְּנֵי עַמּוּן כִּי עַז גְּבוּל בְּנֵי עַמּוּן:

24. And Israel smote him with the edge of the sword, and possessed his land from the Arnon unto the Jabbok, even unto the children of Ammon; for the border of the children of Ammon was strong.

25. וַיִּקְחוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת כָּל-הָעָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיֵּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכָל-עָרֵי הָאֱמֹרִי בְּזוּשְׁבוֹן וּבְכָל-בְּנֵייהָ:

25. And Israel took all these cities; and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the towns thereof.

26. כִּי זוּשְׁבוֹן עִיר סִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאֱמֹרִי הִוא וְהִוא זְלוּמִים בְּמִלְכָּה מוֹאָב הָרֵאשִׁוֹן וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת-כָּל-אַרְצוֹ מִיַּדוֹ עַד-אַרְנֹן:

26. For Heshbon was the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and taken all his land out of his hand, even unto the Arnon.

עַל-כֵּן יֹאמְרוּ הַמְּשָׁלִים בָּאוּ וְזִשְׁבוֹן תִּבְנֶה וְתִכּוֹנֵן עִיר סִיזוֹן:

27. Wherefore they that speak in parables say: Come ye to Heshbon! let the city of Sihon be built and established!

28. כִּי-אֵשׁ יֵצֵאתָ מִזִּשְׁבוֹן לְהַבִּיחַ מִקְּרִית סִיזוֹן אֲכַלְהָ עַר מוֹאָב בְּעַלְי בְּמוֹת אֲרָנוֹן:

28. For a fire is gone out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon; it hath devoured Ar of Moab, YHVHs of the high places of Arnon.

29. אוֹי-לְךָ מוֹאָב אֲבָדְתָ עִם-כְּמוֹשׁ נָתַן בָּנָיו פְּלִיטִם וּבָנָתָיו בְּשָׁבִית לְמַלְכָּה אֲמֹרִי סִיזוֹן:

29. Woe to thee, Moab! thou art undone, O people of Chemosh; he hath given his sons as fugitives, and his daughters into captivity, unto Sihon king of the Amorites.

30. וְנִירָם אֲבָד וְזִשְׁבוֹן עַר-דִּיבֹן וְנִשִּׁים עַר-נָפוּז אֲשֶׁר עַד-מִיִּדְבָּא:

30. We have shot at them--Heshbon is perished--even unto Dibon, and we have laid waste even unto Nophah, which reacheth unto Medeba.

31. וַיֵּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאֶרֶץ הָאֲמֹרִי:

31. Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites.

32. וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה לְרַגֵּל אֶת-יַעֲזָר וַיִּלְכְּדוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-הָאֲמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר-שָׁם:

32. And Moses sent to spy out Jazer, and they took the towns thereof, and drove out the Amorites that were there.

33. וַיִּפְּנוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ דֶרֶךְ הַבָּשָׁן וַיֵּצֵא עוֹג מֶלֶךְ-הַבָּשָׁן לְקָרְאֵתָם הוּא וְכָל-עַמּוֹ לְמִלְחָמָה אֶדְרֵי:

33. And they turned and went up by the way of Bashan; and Og the king of Bashan went out against them, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

**Aliya: Maftir**

34. וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה אַל-תִּירָא אֹתוֹ כִּי בְיָדִי נָתַתִּי אֹתוֹ וְאֶת-כָּל-עַמּוֹ וְאֶת-אֶרְצוֹ וְעָשִׂיתָ לוֹ כְּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ לְסִיזוֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאֲמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר יוֹשֵׁב בְּזִשְׁבוֹן:

34. And YHVH said unto Moses: 'Fear him not; for I have delivered him into thy hand, and all his people, and his land; and thou shalt do

to him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon.'

35. וַיִּכּוּ אֹתוֹ וְאֶת־בָּנָיו וְאֶת־כָּל־עַמּוֹ עַד־בְּלַתִּי הַשְּׂאִיר־לּוֹ שְׂרִיד וַיִּירְשׁוּ אֶת־אֲרָצוֹ:

35. So they smote him, and his sons, and all his people, until there was none left him remaining; and they possessed his land.

Chapter: 22

1. וַיִּסְעוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּזְזוּ בְּעֶרְבֹת מוֹאָב מֵעַבְרַת לְיַרְדֵּן יְרִיחוֹ:

1. And the children of Israel journeyed, and pitched in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan at Jericho.

(פכפ)

- End of Parasha -

# Balak - בלק

*Balak is the 40th weekly Torah portion (פְּרָשָׁה, parashah) in the annual Jewish cycle of Torah reading and the seventh in the Book of Numbers. In the parashah, Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, tries to hire Balaam to curse Israel, Balaam's donkey speaks to Balaam, and Balaam blesses Israel instead. The parashah constitutes Numbers 22:2–25:9. The parashah is made up of 5,357 Hebrew letters, 1,455 Hebrew words, 104 verses, and 178 lines in a Torah Scroll (סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה, Sefer Torah).*

*Jews generally read it in late June or July. In most years (for example, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025, and 2028), parashah Balak is read separately. In some years (for example, 2020, 2023, 2026, and 2027) when the second day of Shavuot falls on a Sabbath in the Diaspora (where observant Jews observe Shavuot for two days), parashah Balak is combined with the previous parashah, Chukat, in the Diaspora to synchronize readings thereafter with those in Israel (where Jews observe Shavuot for one day).*

*In the first reading (עלייה, aliyah), Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, grew alarmed at the Israelites' military victories among the Amorites. He consulted with the elders of Midian and sent elders of Moab and Midian to the land by the Euphrates to invite the prophet Balaam to come and curse the Israelites for him. Balaam told them: "Spend the night here, and I shall reply to you as YHVH may instruct me." God came to Balaam and said: "You must not curse that people, for they are blessed."*

Chapter: 22

2. וַיֵּרָא בְּלָק בֶּן-צִפּוֹר אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאֹמֹרִי:

2. And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

3. וַיִּגֹּר מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי הָעָם מְאֹד כִּי רַב-הוּא וַיִּקְרָן מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

3. And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many; and Moab was overcome with dread because of the children of Israel.

4. וַיֹּאמֶר מוֹאָב אֶל-זְקֵנָי מִדִּין עָתָה יִלְוֹכּוּ הַקְּהָל אֶת-כָּל-סְבִיבֹתֵינוּ

כְּלוֹזֵר הַשִּׁזּוֹר אֶת יֶרֶק הַשָּׂדֶה וּבְלָק בֶּן-צִפּוֹר מִלְכָּה לְמוֹאָב בָּעֵת הַהִוא:

4. And Moab said unto the elders of Midian: 'Now will this multitude lick up all that is round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field.' --And Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time.--

5. וַיִּשְׁלַח מִלְאָכִים אֶל-בְּלָעָם בֶּן-בְּעֹר פְּתוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר עַל-הַנָּהָר אֶרֶץ

בְּנֵי-עַבּוֹ לְקָרָא-לוֹ לְאֹמֹר הִנֵּה עָם יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם הִנֵּה כֶסֶה אֶת-עֵינַי

הָאָרֶץ וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב בְּמִלְכֵי:

5. And he sent messengers unto Balaam the son of Beor, to Pethor, which is by the River, to the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying: 'Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt; behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me.'

6. וְעַתָּה לְכֹה-נָא אֶרְאֶה-לִּי אֶת-הָעָם הַזֶּה כִּי-עָצוּם הוּא מִפְּנֵי אוֹלֵי אוֹכְלֵי נֶזֶה-בּוֹ וְאֶגְרֹשֶׁנּוּ מִן-הָאָרֶץ כִּי יִדְּעֵתִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר-תִּבְרַךְ מִבְּרַךְ וְאֲשֶׁר תֵּאָר יוֹאָר:

6. Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me; peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land; for I know that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.'

7. וַיֵּלְכוּ וְקָנִי מוֹאָב וְקָנִי מִדְּיָן וְקָסָמִים בְּיָדָם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בְּלָעָם וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלָיו דְּבָרֵי בָלָק:

7. And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spoke unto him the words of Balak.

8. וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם לִינּוּ פֹה הַלְלִיכֶה וְהִנְשַׁבְתִּי אֶתְכֶם דְּבַר כַּאֲשֶׁר יִדְבַר יְהוָה אֵלַי וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׂרֵי-מוֹאָב עִם-בְּלָעָם:

8. And he said unto them: 'Lodge here this night, and I will bring you back word, as YHVH may speak unto me'; and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam.

9. וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בְּלָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה עִמָּוָה:

9. And God came unto Balaam, and said: 'What men are these with thee?'

10. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעָם אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים בְּלֶק בֶּן-צִפּוֹר מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב שָׁלַח אֵלָי:

10. And Balaam said unto God: 'Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me saying:

11. הֲגִיחַ הָעָם הַיֵּצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיִּכַּס אֶת-עֵינַי הָאָרֶץ עַתָּה לְכֹה קְבֹה-לִּי אִתּוֹ אוֹלֵי אוֹכְלֵי לֶחֶלֶט בּוֹ וְגִרְשֵׁתִיו:

11. Behold the people that is come out of Egypt, it covereth the face of the earth; now, come curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to fight against them, and shall drive them out.'

12. וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בְּלָעָם לֹא תִלְךָ עִמָּהֶם לֹא תֵאָר אֶת-הָעָם כִּי בָרוּךְ הוּא:

12. And God said unto Balaam: 'Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people; for they are blessed.'

—◆— Aliya: Levi-Gevurah-Isaac —◆—  
—◆— When combined, Aliya: Fifth, Hod, Aaron —◆—

*In the second reading (עלייה, aliyah), in the morning, Balaam asked Balak's dignitaries to leave, as God would not let him go with them, and they left and reported Balaam's answer to Balak. Then Balak sent more numerous and distinguished dignitaries, who offered Balaam rich rewards in return for damning the Israelites. But Balaam replied: "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything, big or little, contrary to the command of YHVH my God." Nonetheless, Balaam invited the dignitaries to stay overnight to let Balaam find out what else God might say to him, and that night God told Balaam: "If these men have come to invite you, you may go with them."*

13. וַיִּקָּם בְּלָעָם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-שָׂרֵי בְלָק לָכוּ אֵל-אֲרֻצְכֶם כִּי מֵאֵן יְהוָה לְתַתִּי לְהֵלֵךְ עִמָּכֶם:

13. And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak: 'Get you into your land; for YHVH refuseth to give me leave to go with you.'

14. וַיִּקְוּבוּ שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בְּלָק וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵאֵן בְּלָעָם הֵלֵךְ עִמָּנוּ:

14. And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said: 'Balaam refuseth to come with us.'

15. וַיִּסַּף עוֹד בְּלָק שְׂלֹז שָׂרִים רַבִּים וְנִכְבָּדִים מֵאֵלֶּה:

15. And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.

16. וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בְּלָעָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ כֹּה אָמַר בְּלָק בֶּן-צְפּוֹר אֶל-גַּם תִּמְנַע בְּהֵלֵךְ אֵלַי:

16. And they came to Balaam, and said to him: 'Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor: Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me;

17. כִּי-כִבֹּד אֶכְבְּדְךָ מְאֹד וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר-תֹּאמַר אֵלַי אֶעֱשֶׂה וּלְכָה-נָא  
קָבֵה-לִּי אֶת הָעָם הַזֶּה:

17. for I will promote thee unto very great honour, and whatsoever thou sayest unto me I will do; come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.'

18. וַיַּעַן בְּלָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-עֲבָדַי בְּלָקָה אִם-יִתֶּן-לִּי בְּלָקָה מְלֵא בֵיתוֹ כֶּסֶף  
וְהֵב לֹא אוֹכֵל לְעֵבֶר אֶת-פִּי יִהְיֶה אֱלֹהֵי לַעֲשׂוֹת קִטְנָה אוֹ גְדוֹלָה:

18. And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak: 'If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of YHVH my God, to do any thing, small or great.

19. וַעֲתָה שִׁבּוּ נָא בָּזֶה גַם-אַתֶּם הַלַּיְלָה וְאֲדַעַה מַה-יִסְרַף יְהוָה דַּבֵּר עִמִּי:

19. Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what YHVH will speak unto me more.'

20. וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בְּלָעָם לַיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אִם-לִקְרָא לְךָ בָּאוּ

הָאֲנָשִׁים קוּם לְךָ אִתָּם וְאֵךְ אֶת-הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר-אֲדַבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ אֲנִי תַעֲשֶׂה:

20. And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him: 'If the men are come to call thee, rise up, go with them; but only the word which I speak unto thee, that shalt thou do.'

—  Aliya: Third-Tiferet-Jacob  —

*In the third reading (עלייה, aliyah), in the morning, Balaam saddled his donkey and departed with the dignitaries, but God was incensed at his going and placed an angel in Balaam's way. When the donkey saw the angel standing in the way holding his drawn sword, the donkey swerved from the road into the fields, and Balaam beat the ass to turn her back onto the road. The angel then stationed himself in a lane with a fence on either side. Seeing the angel, the donkey pressed herself and Balaam's foot against the wall, so he beat her again. The angel then stationed himself on a narrow spot that allowed no room to swerve right or left, and the donkey lay down under Balaam, and Balaam became furious and beat the ass with his stick. Then God allowed the donkey to speak, and she complained to Balaam. And then God allowed Balaam to see the angel, and Balaam bowed down to the ground. The angel questioned Balaam for beating his donkey, noting that she had saved Balaam's life. Balaam admitted his error and offered to turn back if the angel still disapproved. But the angel told Balaam: "Go with the men. But you must say nothing except what I tell you." So Balaam went on. Balak went out to meet Balaam on the Arnon border, and asked him why he didn't come earlier. But Balaam told Balak that he could utter only the words that God put into his mouth.*

21. וַיָּקָם בַּלְעָם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיַּזְבֵּשׂ אֶת-אֲתוֹנוֹ וַיִּלְכָּד עִם-שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב:

21. And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.

22. וַיִּזְזַר-אִף אֱלֹהִים ֹכִי-הוֹלֵךְ הוּא וַיִּתְיַצֵּב מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה בַּדֶּרֶךְ לְשֹׁטֵן לוֹ

וְהוּא רֹכֵב עַל-אֲתוֹנוֹ וַיִּשְׁנִי נְעָרָיו עִמּוֹ:

22. And God's anger was kindled because he went; and the angel of YHVH placed himself in the way for an adversary against him. --Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him.--

23. וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת-מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה נֹצֵץ בַּדֶּרֶךְ וַזָּרְבוּ שְׁלוֹפָה בְּיָדוֹ וַתֵּט

הָאֲתוֹן מִן-הַדֶּרֶךְ וַתִּלְכָּךְ בְּשֵׂדֶה וַיִּף בַּלְעָם אֶת-הָאֲתוֹן לְהַטִּיחָהּ הַדֶּרֶךְ:

23. And the ass saw the angel of YHVH standing in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand; and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field; and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way.

24. וַיַּעֲמֹד מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה בְּמִישְׁעוֹל הַכְּרַמִּים גֶּדֶר מְזוּהָ וְגֶדֶר מְזוּהָ:

24. Then the angel of YHVH stood in a hollow way between the vineyards, a fence being on this side, and a fence on that side.

25. וַתִּרְאֵהָ הָאֱתוֹן אֶת-מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה וַתִּלְוֹץ אֶל-הַקִּיר וַתִּלְוֹץ אֶת-רִגְלָהּ בְּלֶעָם אֶל-הַקִּיר וַיִּסֶף לְהַכֹּתָהּ:

25. And the ass saw the angel of YHVH, and she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; and he smote her again.

26. וַיִּוָּסֵף מַלְאָךְ-יְהוָה עֲבוּר וַיַּעֲמֵד בְּמִקְוֹם צָר אֲשֶׁר אֵין-הֶרֶף לְנִטּוֹת יְמִין וּשְׂמֹאל:

26. And the angel of YHVH went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

27. וַתִּרְאֵהָ הָאֱתוֹן אֶת-מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה וַתִּרְבֹּץ תַּזוֹת בְּלֶעָם וַיִּזּוּר-אָף בְּלֶעָם וַיִּךְ אֶת-הָאֱתוֹן בַּמַּקֵּל:

27. And the ass saw the angel of YHVH, and she lay down under Balaam; and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with his staff.

28. וַיִּפְתְּחוּ יְהוָה אֶת-פִּי הָאֱתוֹן וַתֹּאמֶר לְבַלְעָם מַה-עָשִׂיתִי לָךְ כִּי הִכִּיתָנִי זֶה שָׁלַשׁ רְגָלִים:

28. And YHVH opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam: 'What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?'

29. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלַעָם לְאֱתוֹן כִּי הִתְעַלְלָתָ בִּי לֹא יֵשׁ-זוּרֵב בְּיָדֵי כִּי עָתִידָה הָרְגָתִיךָ:

29. And Balaam said unto the ass: 'Because thou hast mocked me; I would there were a sword in my hand, for now I had killed thee.'

30. וַתֹּאמֶר הָאֱתוֹן אֶל-בְּלַעָם הֲלוֹא אֲנִכִּי אֲתַנְּךָ אֲשֶׁר-רָכַבְתָּ עָלַי מֵעוֹדְךָ עַד-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה הֲהִסְכֵּן הִסְכַּנְתִּי לַעֲשׂוֹת לָךְ כֹּה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא:

30. And the ass said unto Balaam: 'Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden all thy life long unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee?' And he said: 'Nay.'

31. וַיִּגַּל יְהוָה אֶת-עֵינָי בְּלֵעָם ֹ וַיֵּרָא אֶת-מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה נֹצֵב בְּדֶרֶךְ וּזְרָבוֹ  
שָׁלַכָה בְּיָדוֹ וַיִּקַּד וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּוּ לְאַפָּיו:

31. Then YHVH opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of YHVH standing in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand; and he bowed his head, and fell on his face.

32. וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה עַל-מַה הִכִּיתָ אֶת-אַתְנָךְ זֶה שְׂקֹשׁ רֶגְלִים  
הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי יֹצֵאתִי לְשִׁטָּן כִּי-יִרְטֵ הַדֶּרֶךְ לְנַגְדִּי:

32. And the angel of YHVH said unto him: 'Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I am come forth for an adversary, because thy way is contrary unto me;

33. וַתֵּרֶאֱנִי הָאֲתוֹן וַתִּטֵּ לִפְנֵי זֶה שְׂלַשׁ רֶגְלִים אוֹלִי נִטַּתָּה מִפְּנֵי כִי עִתָּה  
גַּם-אֶתְכָּה הִרְגִּיתִי וְאוֹתָהּ הוֹוִייתִי:

33. and the ass saw me, and turned aside before me these three times; unless she had turned aside from me, surely now I had even slain thee, and saved her alive.'

34. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעָם אֶל-מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה זָוַתְּ אֶתִּי כִּי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אַתָּה נֹצֵב  
לִקְרָאתִי בְּדֶרֶךְ וְעִתָּה אִם-רַע בְּעֵינַי אֲשׁוּבָה לִּי:

34. And Balaam said unto the angel of YHVH: 'I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me; now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back.'

35. וַיֹּאמֶר מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה אֶל-בְּלָעָם כֹּף עִם-הָאֲנָשִׁים וְאָפַס אֶת-הַדָּבָר  
אֲשֶׁר-אָדַבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ אֲתוּ תִדְבַּר וַיִּכַּף בְּלָעָם עִם-שָׂרֵי בָלָק:

35. And the angel of YHVH said unto Balaam: 'Go with the men; but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak.' So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

36. וַיִּשְׁמַע בָּלָק כִּי בָא בְּלָעָם וַיֵּצֵא לִקְרָאתוֹ אֶל-עִיר מוֹאָב אֲשֶׁר עַל-  
גְּבוּל אַרְנוֹן אֲשֶׁר בְּקִצֵּה הַגְּבוּל:

36. And when Balak heard that Balaam was come, he went out to meet him unto Ir-moab, which is on the border of Arnon, which is in the utmost part of the border.

37. וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָק אֶל-בְּלָעָם הֲלֹא שְׁלַחְנוּ שְׁלוּחֵי אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְקַרְא-לְךָ לָמוֹת  
לֹא-הִלַּכְתָּ אֵלַי הָאֲמֹנִים לֹא אוֹכַל כְּבָדְךָ:

37. And Balak said unto Balaam: 'Did I not earnestly send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour?'

38. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעָם אֶל-בָּלָק הֲנֵה-בָאתִי אֵלֶיךָ עִתָּהּ הֵיכֵל אוֹכַל דְּבַר  
מֵאוֹמוֹת הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר יִשְׂיִים אֱלֹהִים בְּפִי אֲתוּ אֲדַבֵּר:

38. And Balaam said unto Balak: 'Lo, I am come unto thee; have I now any power at all to speak any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.'

 **Aliya: Fourth-Netzach-Moses**   
 When combined, Aliya: Sixth, Yessod, Joseph 

*In the fourth reading (עלייה, aliyah), Balaam and Balak went together to Kiriath-huzoth, where Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and they ate. In the morning, Balak took Balaam up to Bamoth-Baal, overlooking the Israelites. Balaam had Balak build seven altars, and they offered up a bull and a ram on each altar. Then Balaam asked Balak to wait while Balaam went off alone to see if God would grant him a manifestation. God appeared to Balaam and told him what to say. Balaam returned and said: "How can I damn whom God has not damned, how doom when YHVH has not doomed? . . . Who can count the dust of Jacob, number the dust-cloud of Israel? May I die the death of the upright, may my fate be like theirs!" Balak complained that he had brought Balaam to damn the Israelites, but instead Balaam blessed them. Balaam replied that he could only repeat what God put in his mouth.*

39. וַיֵּלֶךְ בְּלָעָם עִם-בָּלָק וַיָּבֹאוּ קִרְיַת הַזֹּצוֹת:

39. And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kiriath-huzoth.  
40. וַיִּזְבְּחוּ בָלָק בַּבָּקָר וַצֹּאֵן וַיִּשְׁלַחוּ לְבָלָעָם וּלְשָׂרָיִם אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ:

40. And Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that were with him.

41. וַיְהִי בַבִּקְרָר וַיִּקְחוּ בָלָק אֶת-בְּלָעָם וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ בְּמוֹת בָּעֵל וַיִּרְא מוֹשֶׁם קִצְהָ

הָעַם:

41. And it came to pass in the morning that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into Bamoth-baal, and he saw from thence the utmost part of the people.

Chapter: 23

1. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעָם אֶל-בָּלָק בְּנֵה-לִי בָּזֵה שִׁבְעָה מִזְבְּחוֹת וְהִכֵּן לִי בָּזֵה שִׁבְעָה פָּרִים וְשִׁבְעָה אִילִים:

1. And Balaam said unto Balak: 'Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven bullocks and seven rams.'

2. וַיַּעַשׂ בְּלָק כְּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר בְּלָעָם וַיַּעַל בְּלָק וּבְלָעָם פָּר וְאֵיל בְּמִזְבְּחוֹ:

2. And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on every altar a bullock and a ram.

3. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעָם לְבָלָק הֲתֵינִיב עַל-עֹלֹתֶיךָ וְאֹלֹכָהּ אוֹלִי יִקְרָה יְהוָה לְקָרְאתִי וְדַבֵּר בֵּיה-יִרְאֵנִי וְהִגִּדְתִּי לָךְ וַיִּלָּךְ שָׁפִי:

3. And Balaam said unto Balak: 'Stand by thy burnt-offering, and I will go; peradventure YHVH will come to meet me; and whatsoever He showeth me I will tell thee.' And he went to a bare height.

4. וַיִּקָּר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בְּלָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֶת-שִׁבְעַת הַמִּזְבְּחוֹת עָרְכֹתִי וְאָעַל פָּר וְאֵיל בְּמִזְבְּחוֹ:

4. And God met Balaam; and he said unto Him: 'I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered up a bullock and a ram on every altar.'

5. וַיֵּשֶׁם יְהוָה דְּבַר בְּפִי בְלָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוּב אֶל-בְּלָק וְכַה תְּדַבֵּר:

5. And YHVH put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said: 'Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak.'

6. וַיָּשָׁב אֵלָיו וְהִנֵּה נֹצֵב עַל-עֹלֹתָיו הוּא וְכָל-שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב:

6. And he returned unto him, and, lo, he stood by his burnt-offering, he, and all the princes of Moab.

7. וַיֵּשֶׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר מִן-אֲרָם יִנְזֹנִי בְּלָק מִלֶּכֶךְ-מוֹאָב מִהַרְרֵי-קָדָם לְכַה אָרָה-לִי יַעֲקֹב וּלְכַה אֲעִמָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל:

7. And he took up his parable, and said: From Aram Balak bringeth me, the king of Moab from the mountains of the East: 'Come, curse me Jacob, and come, execrate Israel.'

8. מִה אֶקְבֵּל לֹא קָבָה אֶל וּמִה אֶעָם לֹא וְעַם יְהוָה:

8. How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? And how shall I execrate, whom YHVH hath not execrated?

9. כִּי-מִרְאֵשׁ עָרִים אֶרְאֶנּוּ וּמִגְּבָעוֹת אֲשׁוּרֵינוּ הֵן-עַם לְבָדָד יִשְׁכֹּן וּבְגוֹיִם לֹא יִתְוַשֵּׁב:

9. For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, it is a people that shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

10. מִי מִנְּה עֶפְר יַעֲקֹב וּמִסֶּפֶר אֶת-רַבֵּעַ יִשְׂרָאֵל תְּמֹת גְּפָשִׁי מוֹת יִשְׂרָיִם וּתְהִי אֲזוּרִיתִי כְּמֹהוּ:

10. Who hath counted the dust of Jacob, or numbered the stock of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let mine end be like his!

11. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלֶקֶ אֶל-בְּלָעָם מִה עָשִׂיתָ לִי לְקַב אִיבִי לְקוֹזֹתֶיךָ וְהִנֵּה בִרְכַתְּ בָּרָךְ:

11. And Balak said unto Balaam: 'What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether.'

12. וַיַּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלֹא אֶת אֲשֶׁר יְשִׁים יְהוָה בְּפִי אֶשְׁמֹר לְדַבֵּר:

12. And he answered and said: 'Must I not take heed to speak that which YHVH putteth in my mouth?'

*In the fifth reading (עלייה, aliyah), Balak took Balaam to the summit of Pisgah, once offered a bull and a ram on each of seven altars, and once again Balaam asked Balak to wait while Balaam went off alone to seek a manifestation, and once again God told him what to say. Balaam returned and told Balak: "My message was to bless: When He blesses, I cannot reverse it. No harm is in sight for Jacob, no woe in view for Israel. YHVH their God is with them." Then Balak told Balaam at least not to bless them, but Balaam replied that he had to do whatever God directed.*

13. וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו בְּלֶקֶךָ לֵךְ-נָא אִתִּי אֶל-מִקְוֹם אַחֲזֵר אֲשֶׁר תִּרְאֶנּוּ מִשָּׁם אֶפְס קִצְהוּ תִרְאֶה וְכָלוּ לֹא תִרְאֶה וְקִבְּנוּ-לִי מִשָּׁם:

13. And Balak said unto him: 'Come, I pray thee, with me unto another place, from whence thou mayest see them; thou shalt see but the utmost part of them, and shalt not see them all; and curse me them from thence.'

14. וַיִּקְוֶהוּ שְׂדֵה עֲפִים אֶל-רֹאשׁ הַפְּסִגָּה וַיִּבֶן שִׁבְעָה מִזְבְּחוֹת וַיַּעַל בָּר וַאֲיִל בַּמִּזְבְּחוֹ:

14. And he took him into the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered up a bullock and a ram on every altar.

15. וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-בְּלֶקֶךָ הִתִּיצֵב כֹּה עַל-עֹלֹתֶיךָ וְאַנְכִי אֶקְרָה כֹּה:

15. And he said unto Balak: 'Stand here by thy burnt-offering, while I go toward a meeting yonder.'

16. וַיִּקָּר יְהוָה אֶל-בְּלַעַם וַיִּשֶׂם דְּבַר בְּפִיו וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוּב אֶל-בְּלַק וְכֹה תִדְבָּר:

16. And YHVH met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said: 'Return unto Balak, and thus shalt thou speak.'

17. וַיָּבֹא אֵלָיו וְהָיוּ נֹצֵב עַל-עֹלֹתוֹ וְשָׂרֵי מוֹאָב אִתּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ בְּלַק מִה-דְּבַר יְהוָה:

17. And he came to him, and, lo, he stood by his burnt-offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said unto him: 'What hath YHVH spoken?'

18. וַיִּשָּׂא מִשְׁכּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר קוֹם בְּלַק וּשְׁמַע הַאֲזִיעָה עָרִי בְּנוֹ צֹפֵר:

18. And he took up his parable, and said: Arise, Balak, and hear; give ear unto me, thou son of Zippor:

19. לֹא אִישׁ אֵל וְיִכָּזֵב וּבֶן-אָדָם וַיִּתְנַזֵּם הֲהוּא אָמַר וְלֹא יַעֲשֶׂה וְדַבֵּר  
וְלֹא יִקְיַמְנָה:

19. God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: when He hath said, will He not do it? or when He hath spoken, will He not make it good?

20. הֲנֵה בָרַךְ לְקוֹזְתֵי וּבָרַךְ וְלֹא אֲשִׁיבָנָה:

20. Behold, I am bidden to bless; and when He hath blessed, I cannot call it back.

21. לֹא-הִבִּיט אֶן בִּיעֲקֹב וְלֹא-רָאָה עֵמֶל בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו עִמּוֹ  
וַיִּתְרוּעַת מִלְכָּה בּוֹ:

21. None hath beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath one seen perverseness in Israel; YHVH his God is with him, and the shouting for the King is among them.

22. אֵל מוֹצִיאָם מִמִּצְרַיִם כְּתוֹעַפֹת רָאִם לוֹ:

22. God who brought them forth out of Egypt is for them like the lofty horns of the wild-ox.

23. כִּי לֹא-נִזְוַשׁ בִּיעֲקֹב וְלֹא-קָסַם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כָּעֵת יֹאמֵר לִיעֲקֹב וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל  
מִה-פַּעַל אֵל:

23. For there is no enchantment with Jacob, neither is there any divination with Israel; now is it said of Jacob and of Israel: 'What hath God wrought!'

24. הֵן-עַם כְּלָבִיא יְהוּם וּכְאֵרִי יִתְנַשֵּׂא לֹא יִשְׁכַּב עַד-יֵאכַל טָרֵף וְדָם-  
זוֹכְלִים יִשְׁתָּה:

24. Behold a people that riseth up as a lioness, and as a lion doth he lift himself up; he shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain.

25. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָק אֶל-בְּלָעָם גַּם-קָב לֹא תִקְבְּנוּ גַם-בָּרַךְ לֹא תִבְרַכְנוּ:

25. And Balak said unto Balaam: 'Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.'

26. וַיַּעַן בְּלָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-בָּלָק הֲלֹא דִבַּרְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ לֵאמֹר כָּל אֲשֶׁר-  
יִדְבַר יְהוָה אֶתּוֹ אֶעֱשֶׂה:

26. But Balaam answered and said unto Balak: 'Told not I thee, saying: All that YHVH speaketh, that I must do?'

—  **Aliya: Sixth-Yessod-Joseph**  —

—  When combined, Aliya: Seventh, Malchut, King David  —

*In the sixth reading (עליה, aliyah), Balak took Balaam to the peak of Peor, and once offered a bull and a ram on each of seven altars. Balaam, seeing that it pleased God to bless Israel, immediately turned to the Israelites and blessed them: "How fair are your tents, O Jacob, your dwellings, O Israel! . . . They shall devour enemy nations, crush their bones, and smash their arrows. . . . Blessed are they who bless you, accursed they who curse you!" Enraged, Balak complained and dismissed Balaam.*

27. וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָק אֶל-בְּלָעָם לְכֵה-נָא אֶקְוֶזְךָ אֶל-מְקוֹם אַזָּר אוֹלֵי יִישָׁר  
בְּעֵינַי הָאֱלֹהִים וְקִבַּתוּ לִי מִשָּׁם:

27. And Balak said unto Balaam: 'Come now, I will take thee unto another place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence.'

28. וַיִּקְוֶז בָּלָק אֶת-בְּלָעָם רֹאשׁ הַפְּעֹר הַנִּשְׁקָף עַל-פְּנֵי הַיַּשְׁבִּימֹן:

28. And Balak took Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh down upon the desert.

29. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעָם אֶל-בָּלָק בְּנֵה-לִי בָזֵה שִׁבְעָה מִזְבְּחוֹת וְהִכֵּן לִי בָזֵה  
שִׁבְעָה פָרִים וְשִׁבְעָה אֵילִם:

29. And Balaam said unto Balak: 'Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven bullocks and seven rams.'

30. וַיַּעַשׂ בָּלָק כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר בְּלָעָם וַיַּעַל פֶּר וְאֵיל בְּמִזְבְּחוֹ:

30. And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered up a bullock and a ram on every altar.

1. וַיֵּרָא בַלְעָם כִּי טוֹב בְּעֵינָיו יְהוָה לְבָרֵךְ אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא-הָלַךְ כְּפַעַם-  
בְּפַעַם לְקַרְאֵת נְזוּשִׁים וַיֵּשֶׁת אֶל-הַמִּדְבָּר פָּנָיו:

1. And when Balaam saw that it pleased YHVH to bless Israel, he went not, as at the other times, to meet with enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness.

2. וַיֵּשֶׂא בַלְעָם אֶת-עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל שֹׁכֵן לְשִׁבְטָיו וְתַהֲי עֲלָיו רוּחוֹ  
אֱלֹהִים:

2. And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel dwelling tribe by tribe; and the spirit of God came upon him.

3. וַיֵּשֶׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר נָאִם בַּלְעָם בְּנֹו בְעֹר וַיִּנָּאֵם הַגִּבּוֹר שְׂתֵם הָעֵינָן:

3. And he took up his parable, and said: The saying of Balaam the son of Beor, and the saying of the man whose eye is opened;

4. נָאִם שְׁמַע אֲמַרִי-אֵל אֲשֶׁר מוֹזְזָה שְׂדֵי יוֹזְזָה נָפַל וְנָלְוִי עֵינָיִם:

4. The saying of him who heareth the words of God, who seeth the vision of the Almighty, fallen down, yet with opened eyes:

5. מַה-טֹּבוֹ אֱהַלְיָה יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֹתָיָהּ יִשְׂרָאֵל:

5. How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, thy dwellings, O Israel!

6. כְּנֹזְזָלִים נָפְטוּ כְּנֹזְזַת עָלַי נָהָר כְּאֱהָלִים נָטַע יְהוָה כְּאֲרוֹזִים עָלַי-בְּמִים:

6. As valleys stretched out, as gardens by the river-side; as aloes planted of YHVH, as cedars beside the waters;

7. יִזְל-בְּמִים מִדְּלָיו וְזָרְעוּ בְּמִים רַבִּים וַיִּרֶם מִאֲגָג מִלְכּוֹ וַתִּנְשֵׂא מִלְכָּתוֹ:

7. Water shall flow from his branches, and his seed shall be in many waters; and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.

8. אֵל מוֹשִׁיָאֻ מִמִּצְרַיִם כְּתוֹעֵפֹת רַאֵם לּוֹ יֵאָכֵל גּוֹזִים עֲרִיו וְעַצְמוֹתֵיהֶם יִגָּרֶם  
וּזְצִיו יִמְזוּץ:

8. God who brought him forth out of Egypt is for him like the lofty horns of the wild-ox; he shall eat up the nations that are his adversaries, and shall break their bones in pieces, and pierce them through with his arrows.

9. כָּרַע שָׁכַב כְּאֲרִי וּכְלָבִיא מִי יִקְיַמֵּנוּ מִבְּרַכְיָה בְרוּךְ וְאֲרִיָה אָרוּר:

9. He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a lioness; who shall rouse him up? Blessed be every one that blesseth thee, and cursed be every one that curseth thee.

10. וַיִּזְזֶר-אֶף בְּלֶקֶךָ אֶל-בְּלָעָם וַיִּסְפֹּק אֶת-כַּפָּיו וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלֶקֶךָ אֶל-בְּלָעָם  
לֵקֶב אֵיבֵי קְרָאתֶיךָ וְהִנֵּה בִּרְכַת בְּרַךְ יְהוָה שְׁלֹשׁ פְּעָמִים:

10. And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together; and Balak said unto Balaam: 'I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed them these three times.

11. וַעֲתִידָה בְּרוּז-לְךָ אֶל-מִקְוֵמָה אֲבִירְתִּי כִכְדָּר אֲכַבְדְּךָ וְהִנֵּה מִנְעָרָה יְהוָה  
מִכְבוֹד:

11. Therefore now flee thou to thy place; I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, YHVH hath kept thee back from honour.'

12. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעָם אֶל-בְּלָק הֲלֹא גַם אֶל-מַלְאָכֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר-שָׁלַחְתָּ אֵלַי  
דִּבַּרְתִּי לֵאמֹר:

12. And Balaam said unto Balak: 'Spoke I not also to thy messengers that thou didst send unto me, saying:

13. אִם-יִתֶּן-לִי בְלָק מִלֵּא בֵיתוֹ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב לֹא אוֹכַל לְעַבֵּר אֶת-פִּי יְהוָה  
לַעֲשׂוֹת טוֹבָה אוֹ רָעָה מִלְּבַי אֲשֶׁר-יְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶתִּי אֲדַבֵּר:

13. If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of YHVH, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; what YHVH speaketh, that will I speak?

*In the seventh reading (עלייה, aliyah), Balaam replied once again that he could not do contrary to God's command, and blessed Israelites once again, saying: "A scepter comes forth from Israel; it smashes the brow of Moab." Then Balaam set out back home, and Balak went his way. While the Israelites stayed at Shittim, the people went whoring with the Moabite women and worshiped their god Baal-peor, enraging God. God told Moses to impale the ringleaders, and Moses directed Israel's officials to slay those who had attached themselves to Baal-peor. When one of the Israelites publicly brought a Midianite woman over to his companions, Phinehas son of Eleazar took a spear, followed the Israelite into the chamber, and stabbed the Israelite and the woman through the belly. Then the plague against the Israelites was checked, having killed 24,000.*

14. וְעַתָּה הִנְנִי הוֹכֵךְ לְעַמִּי לְכֹה אֵינְעֶצֶךָ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה הָעָם הַזֶּה לְעַמְּךָ  
בְּאַזְוָרִית הַיָּמִים:

14. And now, behold, I go unto my people; come, and I will announce to thee what this people shall do to thy people in the end of days.'

15. וַיֵּשֶׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר נָאִם בְּלָעַם בְּנֵוֹ בְּעַר וַנָּאִם הַגִּבּוֹר שֵׁתָם הָעֵינָן:

15. And he took up his parable, and said: The saying of Balaam the son of Beor, and the saying of the man whose eye is opened;

16. נָאִם שִׁמְעֵ אִבְרִי-אֵל וַיִּדַע הָעֵת עֲלִיוֹן מִזֹּזָה שִׁדִּי יִזְוָה נֹפֵל וְגִלְדִּי  
עֵינָיִם:

16. The saying of him who heareth the words of God, and knoweth the knowledge of the Most High, who seeth the vision of the Almighty, fallen down, yet with opened eyes:

17. אֶרְאֶנּוּ וְלֹא עֵתָה אֲשׁוּרֶנּוּ וְלֹא קָרוֹב דָּרֶךְ כּוֹכָב מִיַּעֲקֹב וְקָם יִשְׁבֹּט  
מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וּמִזֹּזֵן פְּאֵתֵי מוֹאָב וְקָרַקַר כָּל-בְּנֵי-שֵׁת:

17. I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh; there shall step forth a star out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite through the corners of Moab, and break down all the sons of Seth.

18. וְהָיָה אֲדוֹם יִרְשָׁה וְהָיָה יִרְשָׁה יִשְׁעִיר אִיבֵיו וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל עֲשֶׂה זֹוִיל:

18. And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also, even his enemies, shall be a possession; while Israel doeth valiantly.

19. וַיִּרְדֵּי בְּמִיעָקֵב וְהָאֶבְרִי שָׁרִיד בְּמַעִיר:

19. And out of Jacob shall one have dominion, and shall destroy the remnant from the city.

20. וַיִּרְא אֶת-עַמְלֵק וַיִּשָּׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר רֵאשִׁית גֹּזִיב עַמְלֵק וְאֲזוּרִיתוֹ עֲרִי

אֶבְרִ:

20. And he looked on Amalek, and took up his parable, and said: Amalek was the first of the nations; but his end shall come to destruction.

21. וַיִּרְא אֶת-הַקֵּינִי וַיִּשָּׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵיתָן בּוֹשֶׁבֶךְ וְשִׁיבִים בְּסַלְעַת קַנְזִי:

21. And he looked on the Kenite, and took up his parable, and said: Though firm be thy dwelling-place, and though thy nest be set in the rock;

22. כִּי אִם-יִהְיֶה לְבַעַר קַיִן עַד-בְּמָה אֲשׁוּר תִּשְׁבְּכָךְ:

22. Nevertheless Kain shall be wasted; How long? Asshur shall carry thee away captive.

23. וַיִּשָּׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֹי בְּמִי יוֹזִיחַ מִשְׁמוֹ אֵל:

23. And he took up his parable, and said: Alas, who shall live after God hath appointed him?

24. וְצִיִּים בְּיַד כְּתִיִּים וְעֵזוֹ אֲשׁוּר וְעֵזוֹ-עֶבֶר וְגַם-הוּא עֲרִי אֶבְרִ:

24. But ships shall come from the coast of Kittim, and they shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall come to destruction.

25. וַיָּקָם בְּלָעָם וַיִּכְרַח וַיֵּשֶׁב לְמִקְדָּמוֹ וְגַם-בְּלָקָה הִלָּךְ לְדַרְכּוֹ: (פ)

25. And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place; and Balak also went his way.

Chapter: 25

1. וַיֵּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשִׁטִּים וַיַּזְזוּל הָעָם לְאִזְוֹת אֶל-בָּנוֹת מוֹאָב:

1. And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit harlotry with the daughters of Moab.

2. וַתִּקְרְאוּן לָעָם לְאִזְוֵי אֱלֹהֵיהֶן וַיֹּאכַל הָעָם וַיִּשְׁתַּזְזוּוּ לְאֵלֵהֵיהֶן:

2. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods; and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

3. וַיִּצְבְּדוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל לְבַעַל פְּעֹר וַיִּזְוּ אִתָּהּ יְהוָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:

3. And Israel joined himself unto the Baal of Peor; and the anger of YHVH was kindled against Israel.

4. וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה קוּז אֶת-כָּל-רֵאשֵׁי הָעָם וְהוֹקֵעַ אוֹתָם לַיהוָה

נִגְדָה הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֵּשֶׁב זֶרֶן אִתָּהּ-יְהוָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:

4. And YHVH said unto Moses: 'Take all the chiefs of the people, and hang them up unto YHVH in face of the sun, that the fierce anger of YHVH may turn away from Israel.'

5. וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-שֹׁפְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הֲרֹגוּ אִישׁ אֶנְשָׁיו הַנִּצְבָּדִים לְבַעַל

פְּעֹר:

5. And Moses said unto the judges of Israel: 'Slay ye every one his men that have joined themselves unto the Baal of Peor.'

6. וְהָיָה אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּא וַיִּקְרַב אֶל-אִזְוֵי אֶת-הַמִּדְיָנִית לְעֵינֵי מֹשֶׁה

וּלְעֵינֵי כָל-עֹדֵת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהָמָה בָכִים פְּתוּז אֶהֱל מוֹעֵד:

6. And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, while they were weeping at the door of the tent of meeting.

**Aliya: Maftir**

7. וַיֵּרָא פִּינְחָס בֶּן-אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן-אֶהֱרֹן הַכֹּהֵן וַיִּקָּם מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה וַיִּקְחוּ רַמְזוֹ

בְּיָדוֹ:

7. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from the midst of the congregation, and took a spear in his hand.

8. וַיָּבֹא אִזְוֵר אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-הַקִּבְּהָ וַיִּדְקָר אֶת-שֵׁנֵיהֶם אֶת אִישׁ

יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת-הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-קִבְּתָהּ וַתַּעֲצֵר הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מֵעַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

8. And he went after the man of Israel into the chamber, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

9. וַיְהִי הַיּוֹם הַיּוֹמַיִם בְּמוֹצָאֵה אֶרְבָּעָה וְעֶשְׂרִים אָלֶף:

9. And those that died by the plague were twenty and four thousand.

(פפפ)

- End of Parasha -