

The book of Numbers

Balak - בלק



Coastal Landscape with Balaam and the Ass (1636 painting by Bartholomeus Breenbergh)

Daily Zohar Edition
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Balak is the 40th weekly Torah portion (פָּרָשָׁה, 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).

Aliya: Kohen-Chessed-Abraham

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 בָלָק בֶּן-צִפּוֹר אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאִמֹּרִי:

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 וַיִּקְּץ 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-זִמְדִּי בְרִי יִלְזָכוּ הַקָּהָל אֶת-כָּל-סְבִיבֹתָיו:

כְּלֹזֶזֶה הַשּׁוֹר אֶת יֶרֶק הַשָּׂדֶה וּבָלָק בֶּן-צִפּוֹר מֶלֶךְ לְמוֹאָב בָּעֵת הַהוּא:

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-בָּלָעַם בֶּן-בְּעֹר פֶּתוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר עַל-הַנָּהָר אֲרָץ

בְּנֵי-עַמּוֹ לִקְרֹא-לוֹ לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה עָם יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם הִנֵּה כִסָּה אֶת-עֵינַי

הָאָרֶץ וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב בְּמִלִּי:

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 לְכָה-זֶה אָרָה-לִּי אֶת-הָעָם הַזֶּה כִּי-עֲצוֹם הוּא מִפְּנֵי אוֹלֵי אוֹכְלִי

נֶכֶה-זֶה וְאֶגְרֹשֶׁנּוּ מִן-הָאָרֶץ כִּי יִדְעֵתִי אֵת אֲשֶׁר-תִּבְרָךְ מִבְּרָךְ וְאֲשֶׁר

תֵּאָר יוֹאֵר:

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. וַיִּלְכּוּ וְהָגִי מוֹאָב וְהָגִי מִדְיָן וַיִּקְסְבוּם בְּיָדָם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בָּלָעַם 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 לֵינּוּ פֹה הַלְיָלָה וְהִנֵּשׁוּבֹתַי אֶתְכֶם דָּבָר כֹּאֲשֶׁר יִדְבֹּר יְהוָה

אֵלַי וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ שְׁרֵי-מוֹאָב עִם-בָּלָעַם:

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-בָּלָעַם וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה עִמָּךְ:

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

10. וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָעַם אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים בָּלָק בֶּן-צֹפֹר מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב שָׁלַח אֵלָי:





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

11. הִנֵּה הָעָם הַיֵּצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיִּכַּסּ אֶת-עֵינַי הָאָרֶץ עֲתָה לְכָה קָבֵה-לִּי אֹתוֹ אוֹלִי אוֹכַל לְהַלְלוֹם 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 תֵלֵךְ עִמָּהֶם לֹא תֹאֵר 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 (עליה, 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. וַיָּקָם בְּלָעָם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-שָׂרֵי בָלָק לְכוּ אֶל-אֲרֻצְכֶם כִּי מֵאֵן יְהוָה לִתְתִּי 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. וַיָּקֻבּוּ שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בָּלָק 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. וַיִּסָּף עוֹד בָּלָק שְׂלֹז שָׂרִים רַבִּים וְנִכְבָּדִים מֵאֵלֶּה:

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

16. וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵל-בָּלָעָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ כֹּה אָמַר בָּלָק בֶּן-צְפּוֹר אֶל-זֶא תַמְנֶנָּה

מִהַלָּךְ 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-כַבֵּד אֶכְבְּדְּךָ מְאֹד וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-תֹּאמַר אֵלַי אֶעֱשֶׂה וּלְכֵה-זֶא

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 בָּלָעָם וַיֹּאמַר אֶל-עֲבָדָי בָּלָק אִם-יִתֶּן-לִי בָלָק מָלֵא בֵּיתוֹ כֶּסֶף

וַיִּהְיֶה לִּי אוֹכַל לְעֹבֵר אֶת-פִּי יִהְיֶה אֵלָּהִי 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. וְעַתָּה יָשְׁבוּ זֶא בָּזֶה נָם-אַתֶּם הַלֵּילָה וְאַדְעָה בַּיָּה-יִסָּף יְהוָה דְּבַר 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 אֵלָּהִים | אֶל-בָּלָעָם לֵילָה וַיֹּאמַר לוֹ אִם-לִקְרָא לְךָ בָּאוּ

הָאֲנָשִׁים קוֹם לְךָ אַתָּם וְאֶת-הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר-אֲדַבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ אַתָּה 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.'

In the third reading (עליה, 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-אֲתָנֹו וַיֵּלֶךְ עִם-שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב:

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

22. וַיַּזְזֶר-אִף אֱלֹהִים כִּי-הוֹלֵךְ הָיָא וַיִּתְּיָצֵב מִלִּאֶף יְהוָה בַּדֶּרֶךְ לְשֹׁטֵן לוֹ וְהוּא רֹכֵב עַל-אֲתָנֹו וּשְׁנֵי נָעָרָיו 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 הָאֲתָנֹן אֶת-מִלְאֶף יְהוָה נָצַב בַּדֶּרֶךְ וַיִּזְרְבוּ שְׁלוֹפָה בְּיָדוֹ וַתֵּט הָאֲתָנֹן מִן-הַדֶּרֶךְ וַתֵּלֶךְ בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיִּךְ בַּלְעָם אֶת-הָאֲתָנֹן לְהַטִּיתָהּ 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 מִלִּאֶף יְהוָה בְּמִשְׁעוֹל הַכְּרָבִים זָדָר מִזֶּה וּזְדָר מִזֶּה:

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. וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת-מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה וַתִּלְוֹץ אֶל-הַקִּיר וַתִּלְוֹץ אֶת-רִגְלָהּ בְּלִעָם אֶל-הַקִּיר וַיִּסֹּף 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. וַיִּסֹּף מִלְאָךְ-יְהוָה עֲבוּר וַיַּעֲמֵד בְּמָקוֹם צָר אֲשֶׁר אֵין-הֶרֶף לְנִטּוֹת יָמִין 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. וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת-מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה וַתִּרְבֹּץ תַּזוּת בְּלִעָם וַיּוֹר-אָף בְּלִעָם וַיַּךְ אֶת-הָאֲתוֹן בַּמִּקֵּל:

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. וַיִּפְתְּחֵן יְהוָה אֶת-פִּי הָאֲתוֹן וַתֹּאמֶר לְבָלָעַם מַה-עָשִׂיתִי לָךְ כִּי הִכִּיתָנִי זֶה שְׁלֹשׁ רָגָלִים:

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 בְּלָעַם לָאֲתוֹן כִּי הִתְעַלְלָתָּ בִּי לוֹ יֵשׁ-זֶרֶב בְּיָדִי 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 הָאֲתוֹן אֶל-בְּלָעַם הֲלוֹא אֲנִכִּי אֶתְנֶךָ 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 בִּלְעָם ֹ וַיֵּרָא אֶת-מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה נֹצֵב בַּדֶּרֶךְ וְזוֹרְכוֹ
שֹׁלֵכָה בְּיָדוֹ וַיִּקְדֹּר 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-מִזָּה הִכִּיתָ אֶת-אַתְנָךְ זֶה שְׂלֹשׁ רָגְלִים
הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי יֹצֵאתִי לְשֹׁטָן כִּי-יָרַט 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 וַתֵּט לִפְנֵי זֶה שְׂלֹשׁ רָגְלִים אוֹלִי נִטַּתָּה מִפְּנֵי כִי עָתָה
גַּם-אֶתְכָּה הָרָגְתִּי וְאוֹתָהּ הַזַּיִיתִי:

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 בִּלְעָם אֶל-מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה וּזְטָאתִי כִּי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אַתָּה נֹצֵב
לִקְרָאתִי בַּדֶּרֶךְ וְעָתָה אִם-רָע בְּעֵינַי אֲשׁוּבָה לִי:

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-בִּלְעָם כֹּךְ עִם-הָאֲנָשִׁים וְאָפַס אֶת-הַדָּבָר
אֲשֶׁר-אָדַבְּרָ אֵלַיךְ אֲתוֹ תַּדְבֵּר וַיֵּלֶךְ בִּלְעָם 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 בָּא בִלְעָם וַיֵּצֵא לִקְרָאתוֹ אֶל-עִיר מוֹאָב אֲשֶׁר עַל-
גְּבוּל אֲרֹנָן אֲשֶׁר בְּקֶצֶה הַנִּזְבוּל:

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-בִּלְעָם הֲלֹא שְׁלַחְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ לְקַרְא-לְךָ לְבִמָּה
לֹא-הִלַּכְתָּ אֵלַי הָאֲמֹנִם לֹא אוֹכַל כִּבְרֶךְ:

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 בִּלְעָם אֶל-בָּלָק הִנֵּה-בָאתִי אֵלֶיךָ עֲתָה הֵיכָל אוֹכַל דְּבַר
מֵאוֹמָה הַדְּבַר אֲשֶׁר יֵשִׁים 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 (עליה, 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 בִּלְעָם עִם-בָּלָק וַיָּבֹאוּ קִרְיַת הַזִּזְוֹת:

39. And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kiriath-huzoth.
40. וַיֵּזְבוּ בָּלָק בָּקָר וְצֹאן וַיִּשְׁלַח לְבִלְעָם וּלְשָׂרָיו אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ:

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

41. וַיְהִי בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּקְחוּ בָלָק אֶת-בִּלְעָם וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ בְּמוֹת בָּעַל וַיֵּרָא מִשָּׁם קִצְהָ
הָעָם:

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 בַּלְעָם אֶל-בָּלָק בְּנֵה-לִי בָזָה שִׁבְעָה מִזְבְּחוֹת וְהִכֵּן לִי בָזָה שִׁבְעָה פָּרִים וְשִׁבְעָה אֵילִים:

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

2. וַיַּעַשׂ בָּלָק כְּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר בַּלְעָם וַיַּעַל בָּלָק וּבַלְעָם פָּר וָאֵיל בְּמִזְבְּחוֹ:

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

3. וַיֹּאמֶר בַּלְעָם לְבָלָק הִתְיַצֵּב עַל-עֹלֹתֶיךָ וְאֶלְכָה אוֹלִי וְקָרָה יְהוָה לְקָרְאֹתִי וְדִבֶּר בִּי-יְרָאֵי וְהִגִּדְתִּי לְךָ וַיֵּלֶךְ 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. וַיֵּקֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בַּלְעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֶת-שִׁבְעַת הַמִּזְבְּחוֹת עֲרֹכְתִי וְאָעַל פָּר וָאֵיל 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 בַלְעָם וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוּב אֶל-בָּלָק וְכַה תִּדְבֹּר:

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

6. וַיָּשָׁב אֵלָיו וְהִנֵּה נָצַב עַל-עֹלֹתוֹ 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. וַיַּעַשׂ מִשְׁלֹו וַיֹּאמֶר מִן-אֲרָם יָצְאוֹנִי בָלָק מֶלֶךְ-מוֹאָב מִדֶּהֲרִי-קֶדֶם לְכָה אָרָה-לִּי יַעֲקֹב וּלְכָה זַעֲמָה 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 אֶקְבֹּל לֹא קָבָה אֵל וּמִה אֶעֱמָה 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 עֲרִים אֶרְאֶנּוּ וּמִגְבְּעוֹת אֲשׁוּרֵינוּ הֵן-עִם לְבַדֵּד יֵשְׁכּוּ וּבְגוֹיִם לֹא יִתְחַשְּׁב:

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 מִנָּה עֲפָר יַעֲקֹב וּמִסֶּפֶר אֶת-רַבֵּעַ יִשְׂרָאֵל תָּמוֹת נַפְשֵׁי מוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל וּתְהִי אֲזוּרִיתִי כְמוֹהוּ:

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 בְּלִקְיָא אֵל-בְּלָעָם מַה עָשִׂיתָ לִּי לָקַב אֹיְבֵי לִקְזוֹתֶיךָ וְהִנֵּה בִרְכָתְךָ 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 אֲתָּ אֲשֶׁר יְשָׁים יְהוָה בְּפִי אֲתָּו אֲשַׁמֵּר לְדַבָּר:

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

In the fifth reading (עליה, 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 בָּלָק לֵךְ-נָא אִתִּי אֶל-מִקְוֹם אֲחֹזֵר אֲשֶׁר תִּרְאֶנּוּ מִשָּׁם אֶפְסָ קִצָּהוּ תִּרְאֶה וְכָלֹ 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 שָׂדֶה צָפִים אֶל-רֹאשׁ הַפְּסִגָּה וַיִּבֶן שִׁבְעָה מִזְבְּחֹת וַיַּעַל בָּר וַאֲכַל בַּמִּזְבְּחֹת:

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-בָּלָק הִתִּיצֵב כֹּה עַל-עֹלֹתֶךָ וְאֲנֹכִי אִקְרָה כֹּה:

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

16. וַיִּקָּר יְהוָה אֶל-בָּלָעָם וַיִּשֶׂם דְּבָר בְּפִיו וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוּב אֶל-בָּלָק 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 בָּלָק מַה-דְּבָר 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 בָּלָק וְשִׁמְעֵה הָאֲנִיָּה עֲרִי בָנוּ צֹפָר:

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 וַיִּתְּנוּם הֵהוּא אָמַר וְלֹא יַעֲשֶׂה וְדָבָר וְלֹא יְקִימֶנָּה:

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. הִנֵּה בָרַךְ לְקוֹזְתִּי וּבָרַךְ וְלֹא אֲשִׁיבֶנָּה:

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

21. לֹא-הִבִּיט אֶוֶן בְּיַעֲקֹב וְלֹא-רָאָה עֲמֹל בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו עִמּוֹ וַיִּתְרוּעַת מֶלֶךְ 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 רָאם כֹּו:

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

23. כִּי לֹא-נִזְוֶשׁ בְּיַעֲקֹב וְלֹא-קָסָם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כָּעֵת יֹאמַר לְיַעֲקֹב 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-עָם כָּלְבִּיא יָהִיִּם וּכְאֲרִי יִתְנַשֵּׂא לֹא יִשְׁכַּב עַד-יֹאכַל טָרֶף וְדָם-וּזְלָלִים יִשְׁתֶּה:

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 בָּלָק אֶל-בָּלָעָם גָּם-קֵב לֹא תִקְבְּנוּ גָם-בָּרַךְ לֹא תִבְרַכְנוּ:

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

26. וַיַּעַן בַּלְעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-בָּלָק הֲלֹא דִבַּרְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ לֵאמֹר כָּל אֲשֶׁר-
יִדְבֹּר יְהוָה אֵתוֹ 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-בַּלְעָם לָכֵה-נָא אֶקְדָּוָךְ אֶל-מָקוֹם אֲזוּר אוֹלֵי יִישָׁר
בְּעֵינַי הָאֱלֹהִים וְקָבְתוּ 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. וַיִּקַּח בָּלָק אֶת-בַּלְעָם רֹאשׁ הַפְּעוּר הַנִּשְׁקָף עַל-פְּנֵי הַיַּשִּׁיבוֹן:

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

29. וַיֹּאמֶר בַּלְעָם אֶל-בָּלָק בְּנֵה-לִּי בֹזֵה שִׁבְעָה מִזְבְּחוֹת וְהִכֵּן לִי בֹזֵה
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 כְּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר בַּלְעָם 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 בְּעֵינָי יְהוָה לְבָרֵךְ אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא-הָלַךְ כְּפָעַם-
בְּפָעַם לְקַרְאֵת נְחֹשִׁים 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 וְתַהֲ עָלָיו רוּחַ
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 מִשְׁלֹ וַיֹּאמֶר נָאֻם בַּלְעָם בְּנוֹ בְּעֹר וַנֹּאֻם הַגִּבּוֹר שִׁתָּם 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. נָאֻם שִׁמְעֵ אֲמַר־אֵל אֲשֶׁר מוֹחֶזֶה שְׂדֵי יוֹחֶזֶה נָפַל וְגָלְי עֵינָיו:

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 אֹהֲלֶיהָ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֹתֶיהָ יִשְׂרָאֵל:

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

6. כְּנֹחָלִים נָפְיוֹ כְּגִזַּת עָלֵי נָהָר כְּאֹהֲלִים נָטַעַ יְהוָה כְּאֲרָזִים עָלֵי-בָמִים:

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

7. יוֹל-בָּמִים מִדְּלִיו וְזָרְעוּ בְּבָמִים רַבִּים וְיָרֵם מֶלֶךְ מִלְכּוֹ וְתִנְשֵׂא מַלְכֻתוֹ:

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 מוֹעִיאוֹ מִמִּצְרַיִם כְּתוּעַפֹּת רָאֵם לוֹ יֹאכֹל גּוֹיִם עָרְיוֹ וְעַצְמוֹתֵיהֶם יִגְרֵם

וּזְעִיו יִמְחֹץ:

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 שָׁכֵב כְּאֶרֶץ וּכְלָבִיא מִי יִקְיִמֶנּוּ מִבְּרַכִּיהָ בָרוּךְ וְאֶרְרֶיהָ 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-אֵף בָּלָק אֶל-בָּלְעָם וַיִּסְפֹּק אֶת-כַּפָּיו וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָק אֶל-בָּלְעָם

לָקֹב אֵיבֵי קְרָאתִיךָ וְהִנֵּה בִּרְכִיתָ בְּרֹךְ יְיָ 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. וְעַתָּה בָּרוּז-לָךְ אֶל-מִקְוִמָּךְ אֲבִירְתִּי כַבֹּד אַכְבֶּדְךָ וְהִנֵּה מִנְעָרְךָ 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 בָּלְעָם אֶל-בָּלָק הֲלֹא גָם 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 בָלָק מִלֵּא בֵיתוֹ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב לֹא אוֹכַל לְעֹבֵר אֶת-פִּי יְהוָה

לַעֲשׂוֹת טוֹבָה אוֹ רָעָה מִלְּבִי 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 (עליה, 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 לְכָה אֵיעֶצְךָ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה הָעָם הַזֶּה לְעַמֶּךָ
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. וַיֵּשָׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר נָאם בְּלָעַם בְּנֹו בְעֹר וְנָאם הַגִּבֹּר 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. נָאם שִׁמְעֵ אֲבִיר־אֵל וַיִּדַּע דָּעַת עֲלִיוֹן מִחוּזָה שִׁדִּי יוֹחֶזֶה נֹפֵל וְגָלִי
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 עָתָה אֲשׁוּרֶנּוּ וְלֹא קָרוֹב דֶּרֶךְ כּוֹכָב מִיַּעֲקֹב וְקָם שִׁבְטִי
מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וּמִחוּץ בְּאֶתִי מוֹאָב וְקָרַךְ 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 שִׁעִיר אִיִּבּוֹ וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל עָשָׂה וְזִיל:

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

19. וַיֵּרֶד מִיַּעֲקֹב וְהָאֶבְרִיר שָׁרִיד מִעִיר:

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

20. וַיֵּרָא אֶת-עַמְלֵק וַיֵּשֶׂא מִשְׁלֹ וַיֹּאמֶר רֵאשִׁית גְּזֵיבִי עַמְלֵק וְאֶזְרִיתוּ עָרֵי

אֶבְרִיר:

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. וַיֵּרָא אֶת-הַקֵּנִי וַיֵּשֶׂא מִשְׁלֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵיתָן מוֹשְׁבָךָ וְשֵׁם בְּסַלַע קִנָּה:

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 לְבָעֵר קִין עַד-מָה אֲשִׁיר תִּשְׁבָּךְ:

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

23. וַיֵּשֶׂא מִשְׁלֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֹי מִי יוֹזִיחַ מִשְׁמוֹ אֵל:

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

24. וְצִיִּם מִיַּד כְּתִים וְעֲנֹ אֲשִׁיר וְעֲנֹ-עֶבֶר וְגַם-הוּא עָרֵי אֶבְרִיר:

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 בַּלְעָם וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיֵּשֶׁב לְמִקְוָמוֹ וְגַם-בָּלָק הָלַךְ 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 וַיִּזְחַל הָעָם לְזָנוֹת אֶל-בָּנוֹת מוֹאָב:

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

2. וַתִּהְיֶינָה לָעָם לְזָנוֹת אֶל־הַיָּהוָה וַיֹּאכַל הָעָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ לֵאלֹהֵיהֶן:

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

3. וַיִּצְבּוּד יִשְׂרָאֵל לְבַעַל פְּעֹר וַיִּזְזוּ-אִף 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-רָאשֵׁי הָעָם וְהוֹקֵעַ אוֹתָם לַיהוָה

נִגְדַּד הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֵּשֶׁב זֶרֶחַן אִף-יְהוָה מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל:

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 הַנִּצְבּוֹדִים 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-אִזְוִיו אֶת-הַמִּדְיָנִית לְעֵינֵי מֹשֶׁה

וּלְעֵינֵי כָל-עֹדֶת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהָמָּה בָכִים פָּתְחוּ אֹהֶל 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 רִמּוֹז

בִּידָו:

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 אִזְוִר אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-הַקִּבְצָה וַיִּדְקֹר אֶת-שְׁעִיָּתָם אֶת אִישׁ

יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת-הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-קִבְצָתָהּ וַתַּעֲצֹר הַמִּצֵּפָה 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 הַיּוֹמָתִים בַּמּוֹצָא אֶרְבָּעָה וְעֶשְׂרִים אָלֶף:

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

(פפפ)

- End of Parasha -