

# The book of Numbers

## חוקת - בלק Chukat - Balak



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

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*Chukat is the 39th weekly Torah portion (פָּרָשָׁה, 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 (עליה, 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. זֹאת זִקְתַּת הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּה יְהוָה לֵאמֹר דְּבַר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּקְחוּ אֹלֶיהָ 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. וַתֵּתֶנָּה אֵתָהּ אֶל-אַלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן וְהוֹצִיא אֹתָהּ אֶל-מִוְזוּץ לַמִּוֹזָה וַשְׂחֹט אֹתָהּ לִפְנָיו:

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. וְלָקָח אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן מִדָּמָהּ בְּאֶצְבָּעוֹ וְהִזָּה אֶל-נִכּוֹז 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. וְשִׂרְף אֶת-הַפָּרָה לְעֵינָיו אֶת-עֹרָהּ וְאֶת-בְּשָׂרָהּ וְאֶת-דָּמָהּ עַל-פְּרִשָּׁה 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. וְלָקָחַם הַכֹּהֵן עֵץ אֲרָז וְאַזְבִּיב וְשִׁנִּי תוֹלַעֶת וְהִשְׁלִיךְ אֵל-תּוֹךְ שִׂרְפַת 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 וְרוּחוֹ בְּשָׂרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְאַחֲרָיִם יָבֹא 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 וְרוּחוֹ 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. וְאִסָּף אִישׁ טָהוֹר אֶת אֲפֶר הַפָּרָה וְהָיָיוּ מִזְוִיךְ לַמִּזְבֵּחַ בַּמָּקוֹם טָהוֹר וְהִיטָהּ לַעֲרֹת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל לַמִּשְׁבֵּרֶת לְמִי נִזְהָה זֹטָאת 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 הָאִסָּף אֶת-אֲפֶר הַפָּרָה אֶת-בְּגָדָיו וְטָמֵא עַד-הָעֶרֶב וְהִיטָהּ לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלִזְרָה הַגֵּר בְּתוֹכָם לְזִקְתָּ 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-בּוֹ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי יִטָּהַר וְאִם-לֹא יִתְזַטֵּא בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לֹא יִטָּהַר:

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-הַנֹּגֵעַ בְּמֵת בְּנֶפֶשׁ הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר-יָמוּת וְלֹא יִתְוַטֵּא אֶת-מִשְׁכָּן יְהוָה טָמֵא וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהִוא מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל כִּי מִי נִדָּה לֹא-וָרַק 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. וְזֹאת הַתּוֹרָה אֲדָם 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 כְּלִי פָתוּחַ אֲשֶׁר אֵין-צָבִיד פָּתִיל עָלָיו טָמֵא הוּא:

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

16. וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-יִנָּע עַל-פְּנֵי הַשָּׂדֶה בְּזוֹלָל-וְזָרָב אוֹ בְּמֵת אוֹ-בְעֵצִים אָדָם 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 מִעֵפָר שְׂרֵפַת הַזֹּטָאת וְנָתַן עָלָיו מַיִם זָרִים אֵל-כָּל:

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 (עליה, 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-הַנֶּפֶשׁוֹת אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ-שָׁם וְעַל-הַנֶּזֶעַ בַּעֲצָם אוֹ בְּזֹחֶל אוֹ בַּמָּוֶת אוֹ בַּקָּבֶר:

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 וְזָטָא בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וּכְבַס בְּגָדָיו וְרוּחוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְטָהַר בָּעֶרְב:

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 וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַזֹּאת מִתּוֹךְ הַקָּהָל כִּי אֶת-מִקְדָּשׁ יְהוָה טָמֵא מִי נִדָּה 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 וּבְמֹה מִי-הַנִּדָּה יְכַבֵּס בְּגָדָיו וְהַנֶּזֶעַ בְּמִי הַנִּדָּה 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 הַנֶּזֶעַת 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 מִדְבַּר-צֵן בְּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן וַיֵּשֶׁב הָעָם בְּקֶדֶשׁ וַתָּמוּת שָׁם מִרְיָם וַתִּקָּבֶר 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 לָעֵדָה וַיִּקָּהְלוּ עַל-מִשֶּׁה וְעַל-אַהֲרֹן:

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

3. וַיִּרְבּוּ הָעָם עִם-מֹשֶׁה וְיֵאמְרוּ לֵאמֹר וְלוֹ גָּעַנּוּ בְּגֹעַ אֲנֹחֲנוּ 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-קְהֵל יְהוָה אֶל-הַמִּדְבָּר הַזֶּה לָמוּת שָׁם אֲנֹחֲנוּ וּבְעִירָנוּ:

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

5. וְלָמָּה הֵעֲלִיתֵנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם לְהָבִיא אֹתָנוּ אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם הַרְעָה הַזֶּה לֹא מָקוֹם זֶרַע וְתֵאֵנָה וְגִפְן וְרִמּוֹן וּבַיִם אֵין לִשְׁתּוֹת:

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. וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן מִפְּנֵי הַקְּהֵל 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. קָוֹז אֶת-הַמַּטֶּה וְהִקְהֵל אֶת-הָעֵדָה אֹתָהּ וְאַהֲרֹן אָזְיִיר וְדִבְּרָתָם אֶל-  
הַסֵּלַע לְעֵינֵיהֶם וְנָתַן מִיָּמָיו 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. וַיִּקְוֹז מֹשֶׁה אֶת-הַמַּטֶּה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּהוּ:

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

10. וַיִּקְהֲלוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶת-הַקָּהָל אֶל-פְּנֵי הַסֵּלַע וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם שְׁמַעוּ-  
נָא הַמְּרִים הַבֵּן-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 פַּעַמַּיִם וַיֵּצְאוּ מַיִם רַבִּים  
וַתִּשְׁתֶּה 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 אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן יַעַן לֹא-הֵאֱמַנְתֶּם בִּי לְהַקְדִּישֵׁנִי  
לְעֵינַי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכֵן לֹא תָבִיאוּ אֶת-הַקָּהָל הַזֶּה אֶל-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. הִבֹּתָ בִּי מִרִּיבָה אֲשֶׁר-רָבּוּ בְנֵי-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 (עליה, 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. וַיִּשְׁלָחוּ מִשְׁנֵה מַלְאָכִים מִקָּדֵשׁ אֶל-מֶלֶךְ אֲדָוִם כֹּה אָמַר אֲזַיְיָהוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל  
אֹתָהּ יָדַעְתָּ אֵת כָּל-הַתְּלָאָה אֲשֶׁר מִצָּאתָנוּ:

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. וַיֵּרְדּוּ אֲבֹתֵינוּ מִצְרִימָה וְנָשָׁב בְּמִצְרַיִם יָמִים רַבִּים וַיִּרְעוּ לָנוּ מִצְרַיִם  
וְלֹאֲבֹתֵינוּ:

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. וְנִצָּעַק אֶל-יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמַע קוֹלָנוּ וַיִּשְׁלָחוּ מִלְאָךְ וַיֵּצְאוּנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם וְהִנֵּה  
אֲנִינוּ בְּקָדֵשׁ עִיר קֶצֶה גְבוּלָךְ:

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. נִעְבְּרָה-נָא בָאֲרָצָךְ לֹא נַעֲבֹר בְּשָׂדֶה וּבְכָרֶם וְלֹא נִשְׁתֶּה מִי בְּאֵר  
דֶּרֶךְ הַמֶּלֶךְ נֵלֶךְ לֹא נִטֶּה יְמִין וּשְׂמֹאל עַד אֲשֶׁר-נִעְבֹּר גְּבוּלָךְ:

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. וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲדָוִם לֹא תַעֲבֹר בִּי פֶן-בְּזוֹרֵב אֵצֶא לִקְרָאתָךְ:

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

19. וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִסְלָה נַעֲלֶה וְאִם-מִיַּמִּינָךְ נִשְׁתֶּה אֲנִי וּבְמִקְנִי  
וְנִתַּתִּי מִכְרָם רֶקֶת אֵין-דָּבָר בְּרַגְלִי אֶעֱבֹרָה:

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. וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא תַעֲבֹר וַיֵּצֵא אֲדָוִם לִקְרָאתוֹ בָּעָם כָּבֵד וּבַיָּד זֹזָקָה:

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

21. וַיִּמָּאֵן אֲדָוִם נָתַן אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל עֹבֵר בְּגִבְלוֹ וַיֵּט יִשְׂרָאֵל מִעָלָיו: (פ)

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

*In the fifth reading (עליה, 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 מִקָּדֶשׁ 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-גִּבּוֹל אֶרֶץ-אֲדוֹם לֵאמֹר:

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

24. יֵאָסֶף אַהֲרֹן אֶל-עַמּוּי כִּי לֹא יָבֹא אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַל אֲשֶׁר-בִּרְיָתָם 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. וְהִפָּשַׁטְתָּ אֶת-אַהֲרֹן אֶת-בְּגָדָיו וְהִלַּבַשְׁתָּם אֶת-אֶלְעָזָר בְּנֵו וְאַהֲרֹן יֵאָסֶף וּבִמֵּת 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-הָהָר הַהוּא 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-אַהֲרֹן אֶת-בְּגָדָיו וַיִּלְבַּשׁ אֹתָם אֶת-אֶלְעָזָר בְּנוֹ וַיָּמָת אַהֲרֹן 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 אַהֲרֹן וַיִּבְכּוּ אֶת-אַהֲרֹן 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 בא יִשְׂרָאֵל דֶּרֶךְ הָאֲתָרִים וַיִּלָּחֶם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשָּׁבֶּה אֶמְנוֹנוֹ שְׂבִי:

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. וַיֵּדַר יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶדֶר לַיהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אִם-נָתַן תִּתֵּן אֶת-הָעָם הַזֶּה בְּיָדִי וְהַזְרַמְתִּי 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 וַיִּזְרַם אֹתָם 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 לְסָבֵב אֶת-אֶרֶץ אֱדוֹם וַתִּקְצַר נַפְשֵׁי-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. וַיַּדְבֵּר הָעָם בְּאֱלֹהִים וּבַמֶּשֶׁה לָמָּה הִעֲלִיתָנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם לָמוּת בַּמִּדְבָּר כִּי אֵין לָנוּם וְאֵין מַיִם וְנַפְשֵׁנוּ קָצָה בַּלָּוִם הַקָּלֶקֶל:

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 הַשָּׂרָפִים 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 זָזָאנוּ כִּי-דִבַּרְנוּ בַיהוָה וּבָךְ הַתַּפְּכָל אֶל-יְהוָה וַיִּסַּר מֵעַלֵּינוּ אֶת-הַנְּזֻזִים וַיִּתַּפְּכֵל מֹשֶׁה בָּעָר 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-גָּס וְהָיָה כָל-הַנִּשְׁוֹף וַרְאָה אֹתוֹ וְחָיָה:

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 נָזֻזִים נְזֻזִים וַיִּשְׁבְּהוּ עַל-הַגָּס וְהָיָה אִם-נִשְׁוֹף הַנְּזֻזִים אֶת-אִישׁ וְהִכִּיט אֶל-נְזֻזִים הַנְּזֻזִים וְחָיָה:

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 מִמִּזְרֹחַ הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ:

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. מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ וַיִּזְנוּ בְּנֹזֶל זֶרֶד:
12. From thence they journeyed, and pitched in the valley of Zered.
13. מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ וַיִּזְנוּ מֵעֵבֶר אֲרֹנוֹן אֲשֶׁר בְּמִדְבָּר הַיָּצָא מִגְּבֹל הָאֱמֹרִי כִי אֲרֹנוֹן גְּבֹל מוֹאָב בֵּין מוֹאָב וּבֵין הָאֱמֹרִי:
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. עַל-כֵּן יֹאמַר בְּסֵפֶר מִלְחָמוֹת יְהוָה אֶת-וְהָב בְּסוּפָהּ וְאֶת-הַנְּזֻלִּים אֲרֹנוֹן:
14. wherefore it is said in the book of the Wars of YHVH: Vaheb in Suphah, and the valleys of Arnon,
15. וְאֲשֶׁר הַנְּזֻלִּים אֲשֶׁר נָטָה לְשֹׁנֶת עָר וְנִשְׁעָן לְגְבוּל מוֹאָב:
15. And the slope of the valleys that inclineth toward the seat of Ar, and leaneth upon the border of Moab.--
16. וּבִמְשֶׁם בְּאֵרָה הִוא הַבְּאֵר אֲשֶׁר אָמַר יְהוָה לְמֹשֶׁה אֶסֶף אֶת-הָעָם וְאֶתְנָה לָהֶם מַיִם: (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. אֹז יִשְׁאִיר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת עָלֶי בְּאֵר עֵזוֹ-לָהּ:
17. Then sang Israel this song: Spring up, O well--sing ye unto it--
18. בְּאֵר זִכְרוֹתָ שְׂרִים כְּרוֹתָ נְדִיבֵי הָעָם בְּמוֹזָקָה בְּמוֹשְׁעֵנָתָם וּבְמִדְבָּר בִּיתְנָהּ:
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. וּבִמִּיתְנָהּ נֹזֶלִיאֵל וּבְנֹזֶלִיאֵל בָּמוֹת:
19. and from Mattanah to Nahaliel; and from Nahaliel to Bamoth;
20. וּבְבָמוֹת הַזֵּיאֵל אֲשֶׁר בְּשִׂרְהָ מוֹאָב רֹאשׁ הַפְּסִגָּה וְנִשְׁקָפָה עַל-פְּנֵי הַיַּשִּׁיבוֹן:
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. וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּלָאֲכִים אֶל-סִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ-הָאֲמֹרִי לֵאמֹר:

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

22. אֶעֱבֹרָה בְּאַרְצֶךָ לֹא נָטָה בְּשַׁדָּה וּבְכָרֶם לֹא נִשְׁתֶּה בְּמִי בְּאֵר בְּדֶרֶךְ הַמֶּלֶךְ יָלֶכְךָ עַד אֲשֶׁר-נַעֲבֹר גְּבֻלֶךָ:

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-עַמּוּ וַיֵּצֵא לְקִרְיַת יִשְׂרָאֵל הַמִּדְבָּרָה וַיָּבֹא יְהֻצָּה וַיִּלָּחֶם 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-זָוֵיב וַיִּירֶשׁ אֶת-אֲרָצוֹ 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 הָאֲמֹרִי בְּחֶשְׁבֹּן וּבְכָל-בְּנֵיהֶּ:

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 חֶשְׁבֹּן עִיר סִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאֲמֹרִי הָיָה וְהָיָה גְּבוּל בְּמֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב הָאֲרָשֹׁן וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת-כָּל-אֲרָצוֹ מִיָּדוֹ עַד-אֲרֹנָן:

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.

27. על-כן ואמרו המושלים באו וזשבוֹן תבנה ותכונן עיר סיוון:

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

28. כי-אש יצאה מוזשבוֹן להבה מקרית סיוון אכלה ער מואב בעלי במות ארנן:

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. אוי-לך מואב אבדת עם-כמוש נתן בנני פליטם ובנותיו בשבית לבןך אמרי סיוון:

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. ונזרם אבר זושבוֹן ער-דיבן ונשים ער-נפוז אשר עד-מידבא:

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. וישב ישראל בארץ האמרי:

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

32. וישלחו משה לרגל את-יעזר וילכדו בנותיה (ויירש) ויורש את-האמרי אשר-שם:

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

33. ויפנו ויעלו דרך הבשן ויצא עוג מלך-הבשן לקראתם הוא וכל-עמו לבלזמה אדרי:

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. ואמר יהוה אל-משה אל-תירא אתו כי בידך נתתי אתו ואת-כל-עמו ואת-ארצו ועשית לו כאשר עשית לסיוון מלך האמרי אשר ישב בזשבוֹן:

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־בִּלְתִּי הֵשְׁאִיר־לּוֹ שְׂרִיד וַיִּירְשׁוּ אֶת־אֶרְצוֹ:

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 בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּזְזוּ בְּעֶרְבוֹת מוֹאָב מֵעַבְרָ לִירֵיחוֹ:

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 (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).*

*In the first reading (עליה, 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 לְאֹמֹרִי:

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

3. וַיִּזְרַם 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-זִקְנֵי מִדְיָן עֲתָה יִלְוֹכוּ הַקָּהָל אֶת-כָּל-סְבִיבֹתֵינוּ

כְּלוֹזֶה הַשְּׂוֹר אֶת יֶרֶק הַשָּׂדֶה וּבָלָק בֶּן-צִפּוֹר מֶלֶךְ 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. וַיִּשְׁלֹחַ מִלָּאכִים אֶל-בָּלָעָם בֶּן-בְּעֹר פְּתוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר עַל-הַנָּהָר אֲרָץ

בְּנֵי-עַמּוֹ לִקְרָא-לוֹ לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה עָם יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם הִנֵּה כֶסֶה אֶת-עֵינַי

הָאָרֶץ וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב בְּמִלְי:

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 לְכֵה-נָא אֶרֶה-לִּי אֶת-הָעָם הַזֶּה כִּי-עֲצוּם הוּא מִפְּנֵי אוֹלִי אוֹכֵל נֶכֶד-בּוֹ וְאֶגְרֹשֶׁנּוּ מִן-הָאָרֶץ כִּי יִדְעֵתִי אֶת 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. וַיֵּלְכוּ וְקִנְי מוֹאָב וְקִנְי מִדְיָן וְקִסְמִים בְּיָדָם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בָּלָעָם 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 לִינוּ פֹה הַלַּיְלָה וְהִנֵּשְׁבֹתִי אֶתְכֶם דָּבָר כַּאֲשֶׁר יִדְבֹר יְהוָה אֵלַי וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ שָׁרֵי-מוֹאָב עִם-בָּלָעָם:

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-בָּלָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה עִמָּךְ:

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

10. וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָעָם אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים בָּלָק בֶּן-צִפּוֹר מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב שָׁלָח 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 וַיִּכַּס אֶת-עֵין הָאָרֶץ עַתָּה לְכֵה קִבָּה-לִּי אֹתוֹ אוֹלִי אוֹכֵל לְהַלְוֹם 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-בָּלָעָם לֹא תִלָּךְ 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 (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. וַיִּקָּם בַּלְעָם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-שָׂרֵי בָלָק לֵכוּ אֶל-אֲרֻצְכֶם כִּי מֵאֵן

יְהוָה לָתֵתִי לַהֲלֹךְ 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-בָּלָק וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵאֵן בַּלְעָם הָלֹךְ עִמָּנוּ:

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

15. וַיִּסֹּף עוֹד בָּלָק שְׂלֹז שָׂרִים רַבִּים וְנִכְבָּדִים מֵאֵלֶּה:

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

16. וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בַּלְעָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ כֹּה אָמַר בָּלָק בֶּן-צְפּוֹר אֶל-גָּא תִמְנָע

בְּיַדְךָ 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-כִבְדֹּד אֶכְבְּדְּךָ מְאֹד וְכָל 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-יֵתֶן-לִּי בְּלָקָה מְלֵא בֵּיתוֹ כֶּסֶף  
וְהָיָה לִּי אוֹכֵל לְעֹבֵר אֶת-פִּי יִהְיֶה אֲלֵהֶם לַעֲשׂוֹת קִטְנָה אוֹ גְּדוֹלָה:

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 וְאִדְעָה מַה-יִּסְקֶה יְהוָה דְּבַר עַמִּי:

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 קוֹם לְךָ אִתָּם וְאֵךְ אֶת-הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר-אֶדְבַּר 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 (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 וַיַּזְכֵּשׂ אֶת-אֲתוֹנוֹ 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-אֲתוֹנוֹ 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 הָאֲתוֹן אֶת-מִלְאֶף יְהוָה נָצַב בַּדֶּרֶךְ וַיּוֹרְבוּ שְׁלוֹפָה בְּיָדוֹ וַתֵּט הָאֲתוֹן מִן-הַדֶּרֶךְ וַתֵּלֶךְ בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיִּךְ בַּלְעָם אֶת-הָאֲתוֹן 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 מִלְאֶף 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-רֶגְלָהּ בְּלֶעָם 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 לְנָטוֹת 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 תַּזוֹת בְּלֶעָם וַיּוֹר-אָף בְּלֶעָם 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. וַיִּפְתְּחוּ 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 אֶתְנָךְ 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  
שֹׁכְפָה בִּידּוֹ וַיִּקְדֹּר וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לָאֲפִיו:

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-מִהַּ הִכִּיתָ אֶת-אַתְנָךְ זֶה שְׂלוֹשׁ רָגְלִים  
הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי יֹצֵאתִי לְשֹׁטָן כִּי-יִרְטֵ הַדֶּרֶךְ לְנִגְדִי:

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. וַתֵּרָאֵנִי הָאֲתוֹן וַתֵּט לִפְנֵי זֶה שְׂלֹשׁ רָגְלִים אוֹלִי נִטַּתָּה מִפְּנֵי כִי עֲתָה  
גַּם-אַתְכָּה הִרְגֵּתִי וְאוֹתָהּ הִוֵּייתִי:

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 וּזָטָאתִי כִּי לֹא יִדְעָתִי כִּי אַתָּה נֹצֵב  
לִקְרָאתִי בַּדֶּרֶךְ וְעֲתָה 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-אָדַבְר אֵלֶיךָ אֲתוּ תַדְבֵּר וַיֵּלֶךְ בִּלְעָם עִם-שְׁרֵי 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 בִלְעָם וַיֵּצֵא לִקְרָאתוֹ אֶל-עִיר מוֹאָב אֲשֶׁר עַל-  
גְּבוּל אֲרֹנָן אֲשֶׁר בְּקֶצֶה הַנָּבוֹל:

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 הָאֲמָנָם לֹא אוֹכַל כְּבָרְךָ:

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 הַזֹּצוֹת:

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 בְּלָעָם אֶל-בָּלָק בְּנֵה-לִּי בָזָה שִׁבְעָה מִזְבְּחוֹת וְהִכֵּן לִי בָזָה שִׁבְעָה פָרִים וְשִׁבְעָה אִילִּים:

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 בְּלָעָם וַיַּעַל בָּלָק וּבְלָעָם פֶּר 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 בְּלָעָם לְבָלָק הִתְיַצֵּב עַל-עֹלֹתֶיךָ וְאֶלְכָה אוֹלִי וְקָרָה יְהוָה לְקָרְאֹתִי וְדִבֶּר בִּי-יְרֵאָנִי וְהִגִּידֵנִי לָךְ 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-בְּלָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֶת-שִׁבְעַת הַמִּזְבְּחוֹת עֲרֹכְתִי וְאָעַל פֶּר 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 בְלָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוּב אֶל-בָּלָק וְכֹה תִדְבָּר:

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

6. וַיָּשָׁב אֵלָיו וְהִנֵּה נֶצֶב 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 לָכֵה אֶרֶץ-לִי יַעֲקֹב וְלָכֵה אֶעֱמָה 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 עָרִים אֶרְאֶנּוּ וּמִגְבְּעוֹת אֲשׁוּרֵינוּ הֵן-עִם לְבַדָּר יִשְׁכֹּן וּבְגוֹיִם לֹא יִתְחַשֵּׁב:

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 וְתִהְיֶי 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 בְּלִקְיָאֵל-בְּלָעָם מִה עָשִׂיתָ לִּי לְקַבֵּל אִיְבֵי לְקוֹזְתֶּיךָ וְהִנֵּה בִרְכָתָה 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 יְשָׁעִים 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 אֲחֵר תִּרְאֵנוּ מִשָּׁם אֶפְסָ קִצָּהוּ תִרְאֶה 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 שִׁדָּה 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 דָּבָר 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-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 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 וַיִּתְּנוּזֹם הֵהוּא אָמַר וְלֹא יַעֲשֶׂה וְדָבָר וְלֹא יְקִימֶנָה:

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 לְקוֹזֹתַי וּבָרַךְ וְלֹא אֲשִׁיבֶנָה:

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

21. לֹא-הִבִּיט אֶוֶן בִּיעֲקֹב וְלֹא-רָאָה עֲמֹל בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו עִמּוֹ וַיִּתְרוּעֶת 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 בִּיעֲקֹב וְלֹא-קָסָם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כָּעֵת יֹאמַר 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 כָּלְבִּיא יָהִיִּם וּכְאֵרִי 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-קֹב 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 אֹנִי יִישָׁר  
בְּעֵינֵי 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. וַיִּקַּח בָּלָק אֶת-בַּלְעָם רֹאשׁ הַפְּעוּר הַנִּשְׁקָף עַל-פְּנֵי הַיַּשְׁיבוֹן:

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 פָּר 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-הִלֵּךְ 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 וְהָיָה 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 נָאִים בַּלְעָם בָּנוּ בְּעֵר וַנֹּאִים 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. נָאִים שִׁמְעֵ אֲמַר־אֵל אֲשֶׁר מוֹחֲזָה שְׂדֵי יוֹחֲזָה נָפַל וְגָלְיָ 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-טֹּבוּ אֹהֲלֶיךָ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֹתֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל:

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

6. כְּנֹחָלִים נָפְיוּ כְּגִזַּת עָלִי נָהָר כְּאֹהֲלִים נָטַע יְהוָה כְּאֲרָזִים עָלִי-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 מִדְּלִי וְזָרְעוּ בְּבָמִים רַבִּים וְיָרֵם מֶלֶךְוּ וְתִנְשֵׂא מַלְכָּתוֹ:

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 כְּתוּעָפֹת רֵאִים לוֹ יֹאכֵל גּוֹיִם עָרְיוּ וְעַצְמוֹתֵיהֶם יִגְרֹם

וְזָרְעוֹ 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 מִבְּרַכִּיָּה בָרוּךְ וְאֶרְרִיָּה 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 בִּרְכָתָ 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. 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 אֲתוֹ 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 שִׁתָּם 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 וַיֵּדַע דָּעַת עֲלִיוֹן מִחוּזָה שִׁדִּי יוֹזָה נָפַל 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 כּוֹכַב מִיַּעֲקֹב וְקָם שִׁבְטִי  
מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וּבְמוֹזֵץ פָּאֲתֵי 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 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. וַיִּרֶד בְּמִעְקֶב וְהָאֶבִיר שָׁרִיד בְּמַעֲרָה:

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

20. וַיֵּרָא אֶת-עַמְּלִק וַיֵּשֶׂא מִשְׁלָו וַיֹּאמֶר רֵאשִׁית גִּזְיֹם עַמְּלִק וְאַזְזָרִיתוֹ עֲרִי

אֶבֶר:

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-הַקֵּינִי וַיֵּשֶׂא מִשְׁלָו 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-בָּהּ אֲשִׁיר תִּשְׁבָּךָ:

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

23. וַיֵּשֶׂא מִשְׁלָו וַיֹּאמֶר אֹי בִּי יוֹזִיָּה מִשְׁמוֹ אֵל:

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

24. וְצִים בְּיַד כְּתִים וְעָנֹו אֲשִׁיר וְעָנֹו-עֶבֶר וְגַם-הוּא עֲרִי אֶבֶר:

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 וַיֵּכַף 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 וַיִּזְוַל הָעָם לְזִנוֹת אֵל-בְּנוֹת מוֹאָב:

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

2. וַתִּהְיֶינָה לָעָם לְזִבּוֹת אֱלֹהֵיהֶן וַיֹּאכַל הָעָם וַיִּשְׁתַּזְזוּ לֹאֱלֹהֵיהֶן:

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-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-רָאשֵׁי הָעָם וְהוֹקֵעַ אוֹתָם לַיהוָה

נִגְדָה הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֵּשֶׁב זֶרֶחַן אִתָּהּ-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 הַנִּצְבּוּדִים 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

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 אִזְוִר אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-הַקְּבֹה וַיִּדְקֹר אֶת-שְׁעִיָּהֶם אֶת אִישׁ

יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת-הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-קְבֹתָהּ 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 הַיּוֹמָהּ בַּמּוֹצָאֵה אֶרְבָּעָה וְעֶשְׂרִים אָלֶף:

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

(פפפ)

- End of Parasha -