

Balak: Shabbat Triennial year 2

[Numbers]

(22)2: Balak the son of Tzippor saw all that Yisrael had done to the Emorites.

3: Moav was sore afraid of the people,

because they were many; and Moav was distressed because of the children of Yisrael.

4: Moav said to the elders of Midyan, Now will this multitude lick up all that is round about us,

as the ox licks up the grass of the field.

Balak the son of Tzippor was king of Moav at that time. 5: He sent messengers to Bilam 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 surface of the earth, and they abide against me.

6: Please come now therefore curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me:

peradventure I shall prevail, that we may strike them, and that I may drive them out of the land;

for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.

7: The elders of Moav and the elders of Midyan departed with divinations in their hand;

and they came to Bilam, and spoke to him the words of Balak.

8: He said to them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you back word,

as the LORD shall speak to me: and the princes of Moav abode with Bilam.

9: God came to Bilam, and said, What men are these with you?

10: Bilam said to God,

Balak the son of Tzippor, king of Moav, has sent to me: 11: Behold, the people that is come out of Egypt,

וַיִּרְא בַלַּק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר אֶת

כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאֹמְרָי: וַיִּגַּר מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי

הָעַם מְאֹד כִּי רַב־הוּא וַיִּקְץ מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

וַיֹּאמֶר מוֹאָב אֶל־זִקְנֵי מִדְיָן עַתָּה יִלְחַכּוּ הַקְּהָלִי

אֶת־כָּל־סְבִיבֹתֵינוּ כַּלְחָךְ הַשּׁוֹר אֶת יֶרֶק הַשָּׂדֶה

וּבַלַּק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר מֶלֶךְ לְמוֹאָב בָּעֵת הַהִוא: וַיִּשְׁלַח

מִלְאָכִים אֶל־בְּלָעַם בֶּן־בְּעוֹר פֶּתוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר עַל־

הַנָּהָר אֶרֶץ בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹ לְקַרְא־לוֹ לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה עַם

יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם הִנֵּה כֶסֶה אֶת־עֵינַי הָאָרֶץ וְהוּא יֵשֵׁב

מִמְּלִי: וְעַתָּה לְכֹה־נָא אָרְה־לִּי אֶת־הָעַם הַזֶּה כִּי־

עָצוּם הוּא מִמֶּנִּי אִוְלִי אוֹכֵל נֹכַח־בּוֹ וַאֲגַרְשֵׁנוּ מִן־

הָאָרֶץ כִּי יִדְעֵתִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר־תְּבַרַךְ מְבֹרָךְ וְאֲשֶׁר

תְּאָר יוֹאָר: וַיִּלְכוּ זִקְנֵי מוֹאָב וְזִקְנֵי מִדְיָן וַיִּסְמְּוּ

בִּידָם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בְּלָעַם וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלָיו דְּבָרֵי בַלַּק:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם לִינוּ פֹה הַלַּיְלָה וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי אֶתְכֶם

דָּבָר כַּאֲשֶׁר יִדְבַר יְהוָה אֵלַי וַיָּשְׁבוּ שְׂרֵי־מוֹאָב

עִם־בְּלָעַם: וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־בְּלָעַם וַיֹּאמֶר מִי

הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה עִמָּךְ: וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעַם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים

בַּלַּק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב שְׁלַח אֵלַי: הִנֵּה הָעַם

and it covers the surface of the earth: now, come curse me them;

peradventure I shall be able to fight against them, and shall drive them out.

12: God said to Bilam, You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people;

for they are blessed. 13: Bilam rose up in the morning,

and said to the princes of Balak, Get you into your land; for the LORD refuses

to give me leave to go with you. 14: The princes of Moav rose up, and they went to Balak,

and said, Bilam refuses to come with us. 15: So Balak yet again

sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they. 16: They came to Bilam,

and said to him, Thus says Balak the son of Tzippor, Please do not hold yourself back from coming to me:

17: for I will promote you to very great honor, and whatever you say to me I will do.

Please come therefore, and curse for me this people.

18: Bilam answered the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold,

I could not transgress the word of the LORD my God,

to do anything small or great. 19: Now therefore, please wait also here this night,

that I may know what the LORD will speak to me more.

20: God came to Bilam at night, and said to him,

If the men are come to call you, rise up, go with them;

but only the word which I speak to you, that shall you do.

21: Bilam rose up in the morning, and saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moav.

22: God's anger was kindled because he was going; and an angel of the LORD stood in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding on his donkey,

הִיצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיִּכַּס אֶת-עֵינַי הָאָרֶץ עֲתָה לְכֹה
קָבֵה-לִּי אֹתוֹ אוֹלֵי אוֹכַל לְהִלָּחֵם בּוֹ וַיִּגְרֹשׁוּן
וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בְּלָעָם לֹא תֵלֵךְ עִמָּהֶם לֹא
תֹאמַר אֶת-הַעָם כִּי בְרוּךְ הוּא׃ וַיִּקָּם בְּלָעָם בַּבֹּקֶר
וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-שָׂרֵי בָלָק לָכוּ אֶל-אַרְצְכֶם כִּי מֵאֵן
יְהוָה לְתַתִּי לְהֵלֵךְ עִמָּכֶם׃ וַיִּקְוּ וּמוֹ שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב וַיָּבֹאוּ
אֶל-בָּלָק וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵאֵן בְּלָעָם הֵלֵךְ עִמָּנוּ׃ וַיִּסָּף עוֹד
בָּלָק שְׁלַח שָׂרִים רַבִּים וְנִכְבָּדִים מֵאֵלֶּה׃ וַיָּבֹאוּ
אֶל-בְּלָעָם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ כֹּה אָמַר בָּלָק בֶּן-צִפּוֹר אֶל-
נָא תִמְנַע מִהֵלֵךְ אֵלַי׃ כִּי-כָבֵד אֶכְבְּדְךָ מְאֹד וְכָל
אֲשֶׁר-תֹּאמַר אֵלַי אֶעֱשֶׂה וּלְכֹה-נָא קָבֵה-לִּי אֶת
הָעָם הַזֶּה׃ וַיַּעַן בְּלָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-עֲבָדַי בָּלָק אִם-
יִתֵּן-לִּי בָלָק מְלֵא בֵיתוֹ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב לֹא אוֹכַל לַעֲבֹר
אֶת-פִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי לַעֲשׂוֹת קִטְטָנָה אוֹ גְדוֹלָה׃ וַיַּעֲתָה
שְׁבוּ נָא בְּזֶה גַם-אַתֶּם הַלַּיְלָה וְאֲדַעְהָ מִה־יִּסָּף יְהוָה
דְּבַר עִמִּי׃ וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בְּלָעָם לַיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר
לוֹ אִם-לִקְרָא לְךָ בָּאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים קוּם לְךָ אִתָּם
וְאָךְ אֶת-הַדְּבַר אֲשֶׁר-אָדַבְרָ אֵלֶיךָ אֹתוֹ תַעֲשֶׂה׃
וַיִּקָּם בְּלָעָם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיַּחֲבֹשׁ אֶת-אַתְנֹו וַיֵּלֶךְ עִם-
שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב׃ וַיִּחַר-אַף אֱלֹהִים כִּי-הוֹלֵךְ הוּא וַיִּתִּיצֵב
מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה בַּדֶּרֶךְ לְשֹׁטֵן לוֹ וְהוּא רֹכֵב עַל-אַתְנֹו

and his two servants were with him. 23: The donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand; and the donkey turned aside out of the way,

and went into the field: and Bilam struck the donkey, to turn her into the way.

24: Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards,

a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side.

25: The donkey saw the angel of the LORD,

and she thrust herself to the wall, and crushed Bilam's foot against the wall:

and he struck her again. 26: The angel of the LORD went further,

and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

27: The donkey saw the angel of the LORD, and she lay down under Bilam:

and Bilam's anger burned, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

28: The LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Bilam, What have I done to you,

that you have struck me these three times? 29: Bilam said to the donkey,

Because you have mocked me, were there a sword in my hand,

surely now I would have killed you. 30: The donkey said to Bilam, Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day?

was I ever wont to do so to you? and he said, No.

31: Then the LORD opened the eyes of Bilam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way,

with his sword drawn in his hand; and he bowed his head, and prostrated himself on his face.

32: The angel of the LORD said to him, Why have you struck your donkey

these three times? behold, I am come forth for an adversary,

וּשְׁנֵי נְעָרָיו עִמּוֹ׃ וַתֵּרָא^{1:23} הָאֲתוֹן אֶת־מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה
נֹצֵב בַּדֶּרֶךְ וַחֲרָבוֹ שְׁלוּפָה בְיָדוֹ וַתֹּט הָאֲתוֹן מִן־
הַדֶּרֶךְ וַתֵּלֶךְ בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיִּךְ בְּלִעַם אֶת־הָאֲתוֹן לְהַטֵּתָהּ
הַדֶּרֶךְ׃ וַיַּעֲמֵד^{1:24} מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה בְּמִשְׁעוֹל הַכְּרָמִים
גֹּדֵר מְזֵה וְגֹדֵר מְזֵה׃ וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת־מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה
וַתִּלְחֹץ אֶל־הַקִּיר וַתִּלְחֹץ אֶת־רַגְלָא בְּלִעַם אֶל־
הַקִּיר וַיִּסֹּף לְהַכֹּתָהּ׃ וַיֹּסֶף^{1:26} מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה עֲבוּר
וַיַּעֲמֵד בְּמָקוֹם צָר אֲשֶׁר אֵין־דֶּרֶךְ לְנִטּוֹת יָמִין
וּשְׁמָאוֹל׃ וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת־מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה וַתִּרְבֵּץ
תַּחַת בְּלִעַם וַיַּחֲרֵאֲף בְּלִעַם וַיִּךְ אֶת־הָאֲתוֹן בַּמַּקֵּל׃
וַיִּפְתַּח יְהוָה אֶת־פִּי הָאֲתוֹן וַתֹּאמֶר לְבִלְעָם מַה־
עֲשִׂיתִי לָךְ כִּי הִכִּיתָנִי זֶה שָׁלַשׁ רַגְלִים׃ וַיֹּאמֶר^{1:29}
בְּלִעַם לְאֲתוֹן כִּי הִתְעַלְלָתְּ בִּי לֹא יִשְׁחָרְבֵנִי בְיָדִי
כִּי עָתָה הִרְגִיתִיךָ׃ וַתֹּאמֶר הָאֲתוֹן אֶל־בְּלִעַם הֲלוֹא^{1:30}
אֲנֹכִי אֲתַנְּךָ אֲשֶׁר־רָכַבְתָּ עָלַי מִעוֹדְךָ עַד־הַיּוֹם
הַזֶּה הֲהִסָּכַן הִסְכַּנְתִּי לַעֲשׂוֹת לָךְ כֹּה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא׃
וַיִּגַּל יְהוָה אֶת־עֵינָיו בְּלִעַם וַיִּרְא אֶת־מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה^{1:31}
נֹצֵב בַּדֶּרֶךְ וַחֲרָבוֹ שְׁלֹפָה בְיָדוֹ וַיִּקַּד וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ
לְאַפָּיו׃ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה עַל־מַה הִכִּיתָ אֶת־
אֲתַנְּךָ זֶה שְׁלוֹשׁ רַגְלִים הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי יֹצֵאתִי לְשִׁטּוֹן

because your way is perverse before me: 33: and the donkey saw me, and turned aside before me these three times:

if not that she had turned aside from me, surely now I would have even slain you, and saved her alive.

34: Bilam said to the angel of the LORD, I have sinned;

for I didn't know that you stood in the way against me:

now therefore, if it displease you, I will return me back again. 35: The angel of the LORD said to Bilam,

Go with the men; but only the word that I shall speak to you, that you shall speak.

So Bilam went with the princes of Balak.

36: When Balak heard that Bilam was come, he went out to meet him to the City of Moav,

which is on the border of the Arnon, which is in the utmost part of the border.

37: Balak said to Bilam, Didn't I earnestly send to you to call you?

why didn't you come to me?

am I indeed not able to honor you? 38: Bilam said to Balak,

Behold, I have come to you: have I now any power at all to speak anything?

the word that God puts in my mouth, that shall I speak.

כִּי־יִרְט הַדֶּרֶךְ לְנַגְדִּי׃³³ וַתִּרְאֵנִי הָאֲתוֹן וַתֵּט לְפָנַי זֶה
שְׁלֹשׁ רַגְלָיִם אוֹלֵי נִטְתָּה מִפְּנֵי כִי עֲתָה גַם־אֲתָכֶה
הֲרַגְתִּי וְאוֹתָהּ הִחַיִּיתִי׃³⁴ וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלַעַם אֶל־מַלְאָךְ
יְהוָה חִטָּאתִי כִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי כִי אַתָּה נֹצֵב לְקַרְאֲתִי
בַּדֶּרֶךְ וְעַתָּה אִם־רָע בְּעֵינַיִךְ אֲשׁוּבָה לִּי׃³⁵ וַיֹּאמֶר
מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה אֶל־בְּלַעַם לֵךְ עִם־הָאֲנָשִׁים וְאָפֶס אֶת־
הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר־אָדַבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ אֲתוּ תִדְבֹר וַיֵּלֶךְ בְּלַעַם
עִם־שָׂרֵי בָלָק׃³⁶ וַיִּשְׁמַע בָּלָק כִּי בָא בְלַעַם וַיֵּצֵא
לְקַרְאֲתוֹ אֶל־עִיר מוֹאָב אֲשֶׁר עַל־גְּבוּל אַרְנוֹן אֲשֶׁר
בְּקִצֵּה הַגְּבוּל׃³⁷ וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָק אֶל־בְּלַעַם הֲלֹא שְׁלַח
שְׁלַחְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ לְקַרְאֲלֶךָ לָמָּה לֹא־הִלַּכְתָּ אֵלַי
הֲאִמְנָם לֹא אוּכַל כַּבֶּדְךָ׃³⁸ וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלַעַם אֶל־בָּלָק
הִנֵּה־בָאתִי אֵלֶיךָ עַתָּה הֲיִכַל אוּכַל דַּבֵּר מֵאוֹמָה
הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר יִשְׂם אֱלֹהִים בְּפִי אֲתוּ אֲדַבֵּר׃

(Reading continues with a later verse:)

7: When Pinechas, the son of Elazar, the son of Aharon the priest, saw it,

he rose up from the midst of the congregation, and took a spear in his hand; 8: and he went after the man of Yisrael into the pavilion, and thrust both of them through, the man of Yisrael,

and the woman through her body. So the plague was stayed

from the children of Yisrael. 9: Those who died by the plague were

וַיִּקָּם מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה וַיִּקַּח רֶמַח בְּיָדוֹ׃⁷⁽²⁵⁾ וַיֵּבֵא אַחֵר
אִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־הַקְּבֵה וַיִּדְקֹר אֶת־שְׁנֵיהֶם אֶת
אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־הָאִשָּׁה אֶל־קְבֻתָּהּ וַתַּעֲצֹר
הַמַּגֵּפָה מֵעַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל׃⁹ וַיְהִיֹּם הַמֵּתִים בַּמַּגֵּפָה

twenty-four thousand.

אַרְבַּעַת וְעֶשְׂרִים אָלֶף: