

Midrash *Balak* (“Balak”)  
Numbers 22:2 – 25:9

**Last Week:** Israel Defeated Amorites (descendants of Ham / Canaan)

Gen 10:6 & 16

**Introduction of *Balak***

**Numbers 22:2-4**

*Balak* (“Devastator”) is King of Moab

*Balak’s* father is Zippor .. where have we heard that name before?

*Moab & Midian* are allies

*Moab* was “in dread” of Israel .... ..so were the Egyptians

Exodus 1:12

***Balak* Sends for *Balaam***

**Numbers 22:5-20**

*Balaam* בְּלַעַם (“Not of the People”) is from *Pethor*

Shortened form of בַּעַל הָאֱהִים *ba'al ha'ahm* “lord of the people”

On the Euphrates River .. in Mesopotamia

Same general area as Abram

*Balaam* is an “Enchanter”

Tradition says he was a descendant of *Laban*

He knows God as יְהוָה ... but also knows all the other gods

*Balak* wants *Balaam* to curse Israel so he can defeat them in battle

God initially forbids *Balaam* to go to *Balak*,

but later allows him to “arise” קוּם (*koom*) and go with (accompany) them ....

and later is angry because he goes הָלַךְ (*halach*) with them (intending to curse)

*Balaam* can speak only that which God permits

God Appears to other Gentiles:

*Abimelech* King of *Gerar* (Abram & Sarai)

Genesis 20:6-7

Pharaoh in dreams

Genesis 41:25

Nebuchadnezzar in dreams & visions

Dan 2 & 4:1-18

Witch at *Endor* (King Saul)

I Samuel 28:7-20

The Magi

Matthew 2:15

***Balaam’s* Donkey**

**Numbers 22:21-35**

*Balaam* is not disturbed when the donkey talks .....?

As a pagan, accustomed to demonic possession of animals:

Satan in the serpent

Genesis 3

Swine of *Gadera*

Matthew 8:28-34

*Balaam* is spiritually blind .. but the donkey is not!

II Kings 6:8-18

If he can’t see the angel, how can he hear from God?

He is actually a sorcerer, not a prophet!

**Balaam**

**Donkey**

*Balak* pushed *Balaam* 3X to curse Israel until stopped by God.

*Balaam* pushed donkey 3X until stopped by God.

Caught between God’s & *Balak’s* commands.

Caught between Angel’s sword and *Balaam’s* stick.

God opened *Balaam’s* mouth

God opened the donkey’s mouth

Similarity between *Balaam* striking his donkey & Moses striking the rock!

***Balak* Greets *Balaam***

**Numbers 22:36-41**

## **Balaam's "Curses"**

**Numbers 23:1–24:25**

*Balaam offers Burnt & Sin Offerings.... but did he offer them in the proper location?*

**Oracle #1: Israel will be Innumerable** (Natural) Genesis 13:16  
"Who can count the dust of Jacob..." **Numbers 23:7-10**  
...they shall be as "the sands of the shore..." Genesis 22:17

**Oracle #2: God Dwells among His People** (Spiritual) **Numbers 23:18-24**  
Israel will rise up as a Lion & devour its prey Genesis 49:8-12  
Jacob's prophecy for Judah

**Oracle #3: Israel will Inherit The Land** **Numbers 23:27-24:14**  
This time it's different; his eyes are open  
"How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob..."  
(The "Ma Tovu" prayer still chanted in synagogues around the world today)  
Greater than Agag, King of Amelkites;  
They shall prevail over all nations

**Oracle #4: Israel's King would Possess Moab & Edom** **Numbers 24:15-19**  
Still different this time:  
Heard God's Words (*EI*)  
Had Knowledge of the Most High (*EI Elyon*)  
Saw the Vision of the Almighty (*EI Shaddai*)

**A Messianic Prophecy: The Star Out of Jacob** **Numbers 24:17**

"I see Him .."	Yeshua appears at His 1 <sup>st</sup> Coming
".. but not now.."	Yeshua "disappears" at His ascension
"I behold Him ..."	Yeshua re-appears at His 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming....
"..but not near..."	Another 3,500 years from 1,500 BC
"A Star out of Jacob.."	A light to the Nations at His 1 <sup>st</sup> Coming
"A Scepter shall rise out of Israel..."	To rule all Tribes & Nations at His 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming
"The Bright and Morning Star..."	Revelation 22:16

Ultimate victory (at His 2nd Coming) over: Psalm 83

<i>Edom</i>	Jordan	
<i>Amalek</i>	"Palestinians"	(Oracle #5)
<i>Kenites</i>	(Midian) N. Saudi Arabia	(Oracle #6)
<i>Asshur &amp; Eber</i>	(Assyria) Syria, N. Iraq & N. Iran	(Oracle #7)

## **The Sin of Ba'al Peor**

**Numbers 25:1-9**

Israel "mingled" with the pagan Moabites (Doctrine of Balaam)  
...bringing a plague that killed 24,000!

Phineas' Zealousness stopped the plague --- to be continued next week!

## **The Doctrine of Balaam**

*Balaam couldn't curse Israel, but he did give Balak some advice.* Numbers 31:16  
Revelation 2:14

"The Way of Balaam" Making religion a source of wealth II Peter 2:15

"The Error of Balaam" Trying to curse Israel Jude 11 & Num 22:12

"The Doctrine of Balaam" Marriage with the world Revelation 2:14

## **Balaam's Fate**

God has spoken through Gentiles in the past Joshua 13:22  
..... and He will again thru Antichrist Daniel 7:8 & 25: 11:36  
Revelation 13:5 & 13

**Haftarah:** Micah 5:6-6:8 The Coming Messiah & Israel's Ultimate Victory

**Brit Chadashah:** Revelation 2:13-17 Yeshua Warns of the Teaching of Balaam