

Parashah 40 Balak - בְּלַק
“Waster”



Torah: B'midbar (Numbers) 22:2–25:9

- Aliyah 1 - 22:2 - 12 Balak-King of Mo'av- and leaders of Midyan team up fearing Israel, enlist Bil'am
- Aliyah 2 - 22:13 - 20 Bil'am refuses because Adonai will not allow; upon 2nd request he is allowed
- Aliyah 3 - 22:21 - 38 Bil'am talks donkey, sees the angel, agrees to say only what he is allowed
- Aliyah 4 - 22:39 -23:12 Bil'am/Balak offer 7 bulls/rams; Bil'am blesses-not curses-Israel; Balak upset
- Aliyah 5 - 23:13 - 26 Balak tries same at different location, Bil'am blesses Israel; Balak not happy
- Aliyah 6 - 23:27 -24:13 Same thing at yet another location, and Israel is blessed. Balak is now furious.
- Aliyah 7 - 24:14- 25:9 Bil'am prophesy's Israel future success; Pinchas stops plague with his spear

Haftarah: Mikkah (Micah) 5:6(7)-6:8

B'rit Hadashah: 1Corinthians 1:20-31

1. Who was Balak and of whom was he a descendent? Over what nation was he king? Why was he afraid of the nomadic Israelites? Who was Bi'lam ? Why does Balak seek him out?

2. The Lord had told Bi'lam not to curse Israel, yet he journeys to Mo'av anyway. What changed his mind? What were the motives of Bi'lam's heart? Who was Bi'lam trying to please?

3. How many times did Bi'lam's donkey avoid the Angel of the Lord? To what does this correspond with later in the story? What can we learn from this about obstacles we may encounter in life?

4. What does cruelty to animals reveal about the condition of our hearts? What are some other examples in the Torah regarding the proper treatment of animals? What does Proverbs 12:10 say?

5. Was the talking donkey a miracle, or was God simply restoring something that was lost in Eden? What does the talking donkey foreshadow in the story of Bi'lam?

6. What do we learn about the spiritual realm from the story of Bi'lam? What does this story suggest about animals seeing the spiritual realm? Why don't people see it more often?

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7. How many curses did Bi'lam pronounce over Israel? How many blessings did he pronounce? How many oracles total did he pronounce? What other nations did he pronounce oracles over?
8. Since Balak couldn't defeat Israel militarily, what else did he do to overcome a portion of Israel? How do we see the lure of promiscuity and idolatry/apostasy express itself in the world today?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (22:2) What does the enemy see in your past history? What does God see? What do you see? (Num 21:1-3, 21-32, 33-35, Eph 6:12, Mat 5:14, Jam 4:7, Heb 12:1-3, 1Pe 5:6-9)
2. (22:13) How do you share what God speaks to you? What is your motivation? (Gen 22:3, Jos 8:14, Hos 6:4, 1Ki 22:11-23, Mat 5:37, 12:37, Eph 4:15, 2Th 2:11-12)
3. (22:39) How are you influenced by the company you keep? Do you point fingers or take responsibility for your actions? (1Sa 15:14-20, Pro 28:13, 1Jo 1:8, Exo 32:21-24, 2Sa 12:7-14, Luk 15:21-24)
4. (23:13) Do you experience temptation in the same three-fold pattern used by Balak to curse Israel? (Num 23:9, 19, 21, 23, 24:5-7, Mat 4:5, 8, Mat 26:69, 71, luk 22:59, 1Co 10:13, Eph 6:13, 2Co 11:1-4, Eph 6:10-18)
5. (24:14) What excites you about “the Last Days?” Has the “morning star” arisen in your heart? (Gen 49:10, Num 24:17, Isa 14:26, Mat 2:2, 2Ti 3:1, Rev 22:16, 2Pe 1:19, Zec 14:4, 9:10, Mic 4:2, Hos 3:4-5, Rev 11:15-17)