

Balak (Balak) Torah Portion 40 Numbers 22:2-25:9

Background: This Torah portion begins after the Torah portion about the cleansing of the Red Heifer. The First generation had almost completely died off including Miriam and Aaron. This was the 40th year and the time was approaching for the new generation to cross the Jordan and go into the land.

In the year 2004 one of the Presbyterian church denominations (3 million people) voted to side with the Palestinians against Israel. The year 2006 in this same week the Anglican church in England (35 million people) have done the same thing. Both did this during the week of the Torah portion of Balak, the portion about a sorcerer and the Moabites who tried to destroy Israel by tempting them with sexual sin.

Balak (בלק) = Balak (destroyer)

Events in this Torah portion:

- Balak king of Moab feared Israel and sent for Balaam to curse them
- Balaam was told by Elohim not to go with the messengers
- The messengers returned to Balak and said Balaam would not come
- Balak kept sending other messengers and offering rewards to Balaam
- **יהוה** told Balaam to go, but to only say what He commanded
- **יהוה's** anger flared against Balaam and sent an angel to kill him
- Balaam's donkey went into the field so that Balaam was not killed
- The angel then stood in the way and the donkey pressed Balaam's foot against the wall
- The angel then stood in a narrow place and the donkey crouched under Balaam
- Balaam's anger flared and beat the donkey and **יהוה** opened the mouth of the donkey
- Balaam's eyes were opened and he saw the angel with the sword
- Balaam said he had sinned and would return home but El told him to go but only say what Elohim commanded him to say
- Balak met him and took him to the heights of Baal that overlooked part of the camp of Israel
- Seven altars were built and seven bulls and seven rams were offered
- **יהוה** gave Balaam a word to Balak "Israel will not be reckoned among the nations"
- They went to the field of the lookouts and built seven altars, **יהוה** said He would not curse because He perceived **no iniquity in them** and a **shofar blast of a King is in them**
- Balak took Balaam to the summit of the heights and built seven more altars
- Balaam gave the word "how goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel"
- Balak was angry with Balaam and sent him away, but Balaam told him what Israel will do to his people in the End of Days and how to turn them away from their source of help
- Israel allowed the women of Moab to turn them away from following **יהוה**
- **יהוה** said to hang the leaders of the people to stop the plague He had sent
- A man and a Midianite woman entered a tent in the sight of all Israel
- Phinehas took a spear and killed them both and stopped the plague, but 24,000 people had already been killed by it

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Balak sends for Balaam to curse Israel

Numbers 22:2-6 And **Balak** the son of **Zippor** saw all that Israel had done to the **Amorites**. 3 And Moab was very afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel. 4 And Moab said to the elders of Midian, Now shall this multitude lick up all that is round about us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time. 5 And he sent messengers to **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 that have come out from Egypt: see, they cover the face of the earth, and they camp over near me: 6 come now therefore, I ask you, curse this people for me; for they are too mighty for me: perhaps I shall prevail, that we may strike them, and that I might drive them out of the land: for I know that one who you bless is blessed, and he who you curse is cursed.

Balak = devastator (s#01111 בלק) (baw-lawk)

Zippor = sparrow (s#06834 צפור) (tsip-pore)

Amorites = slayer (s#0567 אמרי) (em-o-ree)

Balaam = not of the people (s#01109 בלעם) (bill-awm)

Beor = burning (s#01160 בעור) (beh-ore)

Pethor = soothsayer (s#06604 פתור) (pet-ore)

Comment: Balak the son of Zippor (devastator son of sparrow) This brings to mind **Revelations chapter 9 verse eleven (911)**. The destroyer (**Abaddon**) comes out of the smoke along with the **locusts**. Sparrows swarm like locusts and this chapter in Revelations talks about the destroyer (king) coming out of the locusts just as Balak came from his father Zippor. Psalms 78 shows us that the Torah is a parable, and that the Exodus is an example to us of how the future or Greater Exodus will be.

Related Scripture: The Destroyer

Revelations 9:1-11 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of Elohim in their foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment *was* as the torment of a scorpion, when he strikes a man. 6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. 7 And the shapes of the locusts *were* like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads *were* as it were crowns like gold, and their faces *were* as the faces of men. 8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as *the teeth* of lions. 9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings *was* as the sound of

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chariots of many horses running to battle. 10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power *was* to hurt men five months. 11 And they had a **king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.**

Abaddon = destroying angel (s#G0003 Αβαδδων) (ab-ad-dohn)

Apollyon = destroyer, Satan (s#G0623 Απολλυων) (ap-ol-loo'-ohn)

In the past Moab and Midian had been enemies, but now they came together to come against their common enemy Israel. The king of Moab sent for Balaam who was known for his abilities to put a curse on enemies.

Stone Edition Chumash (page 857) **Ramban** holds that Balaam was a descendant of Laban who was from Aram and that he had taught him in the arts of the occult.

יהוה Refused to let Balaam go to curse Israel

Numbers 22:7-14 And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of **divination** in their hand; and they came to Balaam, and spoke to him the words of Balak. 8 And he said to them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as **יהוה** shall speak to me: and the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam. 9 And Elohim came to Balaam, and said, What men are these with you? 10 And Balaam said to Elohim, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, *saying*, 11 Behold, the people that has come out of Egypt, it covers the face of the earth: now, come **curse** them for me; perhaps I shall be able to fight against them, and shall drive them out. 12 And Elohim said to Balaam, You shall not go with them; **you shall not curse the people: for they are blessed**. 13 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said to the princes of Balak, Get into your land: for **יהוה** refuses to give me leave to go with you. 14 And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went to Balak, and said, Balaam refused to come with us.

Divination = divination (including its fee), oracle: reward of divination, divine sentence, witchcraft (s#07080 קסם) (keh'-sem)

Curse = a primitive root; to scoop out, that is (figuratively) to malign or execrate (that is, stab with words), curse (s#06895 קבב) (kaw-bab')

Stone Edition Chumash (page 857,858) **Rashi** says Balak sent charms (קסמים), the tools and implements that Balaam would need to place curses.

Balaam used a milder word for curse than Balak did he said, "I cannot transgress the word of **יהוה**, my Elohim" --- Balaam implied that he followed Elohim and was His spokesman. This would lead those sent to get him to look at him with greater honor. The honor of a dedicated prophet like Moses, but he was not that.

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Balaam was allowed to go but only speak what he is told

Numbers 22:15-20 And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honorable than they. 16 And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus says Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, hinder you from coming to me: 17 for I will promote you to very great honor, and whatever you say to me I will do: come therefore, I ask you, curse this people for me. 18 And Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of **יהוה** my Elohim, to do less or more. 19 Now therefore, I ask you, tarry also here this night, that I may know what **יהוה** will speak to me more. 20 And Elohim came to Balaam at night, and said to him, If the men came to call you, rise up, go with them; but only the word which I speak to you, that shall you do.

An Angel stands to kill Balaam but his donkey saves him

Numbers 22:21-28 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab. 22 And Elohim's **anger** was kindled because he went: and the **angel** of **יהוה** placed himself in the way for an **adversary** against him. Now he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. 23 And the donkey saw the angel of **יהוה** 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 Balaam **struck** the donkey, to turn her into the way. 24 Then the angel of **יהוה** stood in a hollow way between the vineyards, a fence being on this side, and a fence on that side. 25 And the donkey saw the angel of **יהוה**, and she pressed herself to the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he struck her again. 26 And the angel of **יהוה** went further, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 And the donkey saw the angel of **יהוה**, and she lay down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. 28 And **יהוה** opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?

Anger = nostril, face, anger (s#0639 **אף**) (aph)

Angel = from an unused root meaning to despatch as a deputy; messenger; specifically of God, that is an angel(also a prophet, priest or teacher) ambassador, king(s#04397 **מלאך**) (mal-awk')

Adversary = an opponent; especially Satan, the arch enemy of good (s#07854 **שטן**) (saw-tawn')

Sword = from (s# 2717) drought; also a cutting instrument(from its destructive effect) as a knife, sword, or other sharp implement:-axe, dagger, mattock, tool (s#02719 **חרב**) (kheh'-reb)

Struck = primitive root to strike- beat, cast forth, clap give wounds, kill, punish slaughter, slay, strike, stripes, wound (s#05221 **נכה**) (naw-kaw')

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Comment: Balaam had יהוה's permission to go but to only say what יהוה commanded him to say. Once he got permission he was very eager to receive wealth and honor. יהוה knew he was trying to manipulate Him and intended to stay right on the line before going into rebellion against יהוה. He needed an attitude adjustment.

Number Pairs (3-1) Three (3) times the angel blocked the way. The fourth (4) time he saw the angel and he was now prepared to bless Israel and follow יהוה's instructions. We will see these same number pairs later when he builds the three altars and then sees the Messiah the fourth time he blesses Israel.

Schottenstein Edition Interlinear Chumash (page 980)

He appeared as a fool. He pretended to be able to destroy an entire nation with a curse from his mouth, but he needed a sword to deal with his donkey.

Balaam is allowed to see the angel with a sword

Numbers 22:29-35 And Balaam said to the donkey, Because you have mocked me: I would there were a sword in my hand, for now I would have killed you. 30 And the donkey said to Balaam, Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long until this day? had I ever done this to you? And he said, No. 31 Then יהוה opened Balaam's eyes and he saw the angel of יהוה standing in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed his head, and fell on his face. 32 And the angel of יהוה said to him, Why have you struck your donkey these three times? behold, I came for an **adversary**, because your way is **perverse** before me: 33 and the donkey saw me, and turned aside before me these three times: unless she had turned aside from me, surely by now I would have slain you, and saved her alive. 34 And Balaam said to the angel of יהוה, I have sinned; for I did not know that you stood in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease you, I will turn back again. 35 And the angel of יהוה said to Balaam, Go with the men: but only speak the word that I shall speak to you, that you shall speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Adversary = an opponent; especially Satan, the arch enemy of good (שטן #07854) (saw-tawn')

Perverse = push headlong, drive, reckless (ירט #03399) (yaw-rat)

Comment: Balaam was shown that he had no great gift, even a donkey could see into the spiritual world if יהוה desired for them too. He too could see only what יהוה allowed him to see. יהוה allowed him to come to Balak so that he could bless Israel and put fear in the hearts of the enemies of Israel.

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Balaam comes to Balak

Numbers 22:36-41 And when Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to meet him to the City of Moab, which is on the border of Arnon, which is in the remote part of the border. 37 And Balak said to Balaam, Did I not earnestly send to call you? why did you not come to me? am I not **able** to promote you to honor? 38 And Balaam said to Balak, behold, I am come to you: have I now any power at all to speak anything? *only* the word that Elohim put in my mouth, that I shall speak. 39 And Balaam went with Balak, and they came to **Kiriath-huzoth**. 40 And Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that were with him. 41 And it came to pass in the morning, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up to the **high places** of Baal, and he saw from there the most part of the people.

Able = prevail, overcome, endure (s#03201 יכל) (yaw-kole')

Kiriath-huzoth = city of streets, place in Moab (s#07155 קרית חצות) (qiryath chu tso)

High places = high place, cultic platform (s#01116 במה) (bam-maw')

Comment: Balaam made it clear that he is not able to speak anything against Israel. He knows that if he even hints at a curse, his life will be taken. The angel with the sword in his hand is a vivid memory in his mind. **High places** or heights of Baal may have been a small round stage that was built near the highest place of the mountain. These high places were not always the highest place on a hill or mountain. There is a **bam-maw** or high place that can be seen today at Megiddo in Israel. It is a round area made of stones and made smooth with plaster. It was used for pagan rituals/sacrifices. This was not the highest place in the area. In fact there were higher parts of the mountain of Megiddo only a few hundred feet away from this area. It was only about two feet above the surrounding area. It could more be compared to a small stage.

Related Scripture: High places will be destroyed

Leviticus 26:30 And I will destroy your **high places**, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and My soul shall abhor you.

Seven altars are built and יהוה speaks to Balaam (seven altars)

Numbers 23:1-5 And Balaam said to Balak, Build for me here seven **altars**, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams. 2 And Balak did as Balaam had spoken; and Balak and Balaam offered on every altar a bull and a ram. 3 And Balaam said to Balak, Stand by your burnt offering, and I will go; perhaps יהוה will come to meet me: and whatever he shows me I will tell you. And he went to a bare height. 4 And Elohim met Balaam: and he said to him, I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered up a bull and a ram on every altar. 5 And יהוה put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return to Balak, and this you shall speak.

Altar = altar (s#04196 מזבח) (miz-bay'-akh)

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Balaam returns with a word from יהוה

Numbers 23:6-12 And he returned to him, and, behold, he stood by his burnt offering, he, and all the princes of Moab. 7 And he took up his parable, and said, From Aram has Balak brought me, The king of Moab from the mountains of the East: Come, **curse(a)** for me Jacob, And come, defy Israel. 8 How shall I **curse(b)**, whom Elohim has not **cursed(b)**? And how shall I **defy**, who יהוה has not defied? 9 For **from the top of the rocks I see Him**, And from the hills I behold Him: behold, **it is a people that dwell alone**, And **shall not be reckoned among the nations**. 10 Who can count the **dust** of Jacob, Or number the **fourth part** of Israel? Let me **die** the **death** of the righteous, And let my last end be like his! 11 And Balak said to Balaam, What have you done to me? I brought you to **curse(b)** my enemies, and, behold, you have blessed them altogether. 12 And he answered and said, I must take heed to speak that which יהוה has put in my mouth?

Curse(a) = a primitive root; to execrate; bitterly curse (s#0779 ארר) (aw-rar')

Curse(b) = curse, utter a curse against (s#06895 קבב) (kaw-bab)

Defy = denounce, be indignant, be angry, foam at the mouth (s#02194 צעם) (zaw-am)

Reckoned = to think, plan, esteem, invent, count (s#02803 חשב) (Khaw-shab)

Dust = dust(as powdered or gray) clay, earth, mud, ashes, earth (s#06083 עפר) (aw-fawr')

Number = number, tale (s#04557 מספר) (mis-pawr)

quarter = 1/4th part (s#07255 רבע) (ro'-bah)

Die = die, kill, have executed (s#04191 מות) (mooth)

Death = death dying, realm of the dead, death by violence (s#04194 מות) (maw'-veth)

Let my last = after part, issue, latter time (prophetic) (s#0319 אחרית) (akh-ar-eeth))

Comment: Israel is not and **will not be like all the other nations** of the earth. Prime Minister Rabin made the statement before he was assassinated that Israel was like all the other nations and had to get along and live like the other nations did. Derrick Prince repeated his quote and said that Israel is not like all the other nations. It is a unique nation that יהוה has taken for Himself. Rabin was killed because he was trying to give away the land to terrorists. He was the one who shook Yasher Arifats hand in the Oslo Accords that started the deal of land for peace that has brought so much death to the people of Israel. **"Who has counted the dust of Jacob or numbered a quarter of Israel? Dust of Jacob** -may refers to the great number of the descendants of Jacob. **One fourth of Israel** may point to one of the four formations each of which is composed of three tribes. This is again an illusion to the **number set 3 - 1**. The term **quarter of Israel** also points to one of the four directions from the Tabernacle in the camp of Israel. Three tribes were camped in each of the four directions. **Balaam said "May my soul die the death of the upright"** - יהוה is with them even through death. Notice he did not say may I live the life they live. Is this an illusion to the reward of the righteous after their death during the tribulation?

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Related Scripture: Abraham's descendants (Number of Israel)

Genesis 15:3-6 And Abram said, Behold, to me You have given no seed: and, behold, one born in my house is my heir. 4 And, behold, the word of יהוה came to him, saying, This shall not be your heir; but he that shall come forth out of your own body shall be your heir. 5 And He brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and **tell the stars, if you be able to number them**: and He said to him, So shall your seed be. 6 And he believed in יהוה; and He counted it to him for righteousness.

Seven more altars are built and יהוה speaks to Balaam (total 14 altars)

Numbers 23:13-26 And Balak said to him, Come, with me to another place, from where you may see them; you shall see but the utmost part of them, and shall not see them all: and **curse(b)** them from there. 14 And he took him to the field of **Zophim**, to the top of **Pisgah**, and built seven altars, and offered up a bull and a ram on every altar. 15 And he said to Balak, Stand here by your burnt offering, while I meet יהוה over there. 16 And יהוה met Balaam, and put a **word** in his mouth, and said, Return to Balak, and this shall you speak. 17 And he came to him, and, behold, he stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said to him, What has יהוה spoken? 18 And he took up his parable, and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; Harken to me, you son of Zippor: 19 **Elohim is not a man(a), that He should lie**; Neither the **son of man(b)**, that He should repent: Has he said, and shall he not do it? Or has he spoken, and shall he not make it good? 20 Behold, I have received *commandment* to bless: And he has **blessed**, and I cannot reverse it. 21 **He has not beheld iniquity in Jacob**, Neither has he seen perverseness in Israel: יהוה his Elohim is with him, And the **shout of a king is among them**. 22 Elohim brings them forth out of Egypt; He has as it were the **strength** of the wild-ox. 23 Surely there is no enchantment with Jacob, Neither is there any divination with Israel: Now shall it be said of Jacob and of Israel, What has Elohim wrought! 24 Behold, the people **rise up** as a lioness, And as a lion does he lift himself up: He shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, And drink the blood of the slain. 25 And Balak said to Balaam, Neither **curse(b)** them at all, nor **bless** them at all. 26 But Balaam answered and said to Balak, did I not tell you, saying, All that יהוה speaks, that I must do?

Zophim = watchers, place east of the Jordan (s#06839 צפִים) (tso-feem')

Pisgah = cleft, mountain east of Jordan (s#06449 פִּסְגָה) (pis-gaw')

Word = spoken word, cause, message, thing (s#01697 דָּבָר) (daw-baw')

Man(a) = man, champion, good great or mighty man (s#0376 אִישׁ) (iysh)

Son = son as builder of family name, branch, worthy (s#01121 בֶּן) (bane)

Man(b) = human being, mankind, common sort (s#0120 אָדָם) (adam)

Bless = bless, to kneel, a benefit, praise, congratulate (s#01288 בָּרַךְ) (baw-rak')

Strength = speed, plenty or strength (s#08443 תוֹעֵפָה) (to-aw-faw') from (s#03286 יָעַף) (yaw-af') to tire as from wearisome flight, faint, cause to fly

Rise up = to rise up, get up, make good, to be lifted up (s#6965 קוּם) (koom)

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Elohim is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of a man that He should relent. יהוה has blessed (Abraham) and He will not change His mind, He will do what He has said. He made a covenant and He will be careful to honor it.

We see a hint of יהוה the Father and יהוה/Yeshua the son

Related Scripture: Father - Son

Proverbs 30:4 Who has ascended up into heaven, or descended? who has gathered the wind in his fists? who has bound the waters in a garment? who has established all the ends of the earth? **what is His name, and what is His son's name**, if you can tell?

Related Scripture: Keeping Covenant

Genesis 12:1-3: Now יהוה had said to Abram, Get you out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you: 2: And **I will make of you a great nation**, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing: 3: And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Seven more altars are built and יהוה speaks to Balaam (total 21 altars)

Numbers 23:27-30 And Balak said to Balaam, Come now, I will take you to another place; perhaps it will please Elohim that you may curse them from there for me. 28 And Balak took Balaam to the top of **Peor**, that looks down on the desert. 29 And Balaam said to Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven bulls and seven rams. 30 And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered up a bull and a ram on every altar.

Peor = a mountain east of Jordan, also a deity worshipped (s#06465 פֵּעוֹר) (peh-ore')

Numbers 23: 21 He perceived no iniquity in Jacob and saw no perversity in Israel. יהוה his Elohim is with him and **the shout/shofar blast of the King is in him.**

Comment: יהוה allowed Balaam to see Yeshua the Messiah in the future when He would be King of all the earth. When He will descend with a shout and the shofar blast of יהוה.

Shout of a King = shofar blast, jubilee, sound alarm, shout (s#08643 תְּרוּעָה) (ter-oo-aw')

Related Scripture:

I Thessalonians 4:15-18 For this we say to you by the word of Adonai, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of Adonai shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For Adonai Himself shall descend from heaven with a **shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of Elohim:** and the dead in Messiah shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet Adonai in the air: and so shall we ever be with Adonai. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words

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The Chumash tries to say that this word that is normally translated **teruah** or the sound of a shofar should be translated "**friendship**." This is not correct but it is a clear prophecy of the coming of Messiah in the End of Days.

Balak took Balaam to the summit of the height that over looks the face of the wastelands.

Stone Edition Chumash (page 869) **Summit of the height** Balak like Balaam was a sorcerer, and he foresaw that Israel would suffer a tragedy that would emanate from the height known as Peor; he hoped that the tragedy would be Balaam's curse and he was partly right. Practitioners of sorcery often see things superficially, without understanding them (Rashi)

Balaam speaks blessings over Israel

Numbers 24:1-13 And when Balaam saw that it pleased **יהוה** to bless Israel, he did not go, as at the other times, to meet with enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness. 2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel dwelling according to their tribes; and the spirit of Elohim came on him. 3 And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor says, And the man whose eye was closed says: 4 He said, which hears the words of Elohim, Which sees the **vision** of the Almighty, **Falling** down, and having his **eyes** open: 5 **How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, Your tabernacles, O Israel!** 6 As **valleys** are they **spread forth**, As **gardens** by the **river** side, As **lign-aloes** which **יהוה** has planted, As **cedar trees** beside the waters. 7 Water shall flow from his **buckets**, And **his seed** shall be in many waters, And his king shall be higher than Agag, And **his kingdom** shall be **exalted**. 8 Elohim brings him **forth** out of Egypt; He has as it were the **strength** of the wild-ox: He shall eat up the nations his adversaries, And shall break their bones in pieces, And strike *them* through with his arrows. 9 He couched, he lay down as a **lion**, And as a **great lion**; who shall rouse him up? **Blessed be everyone that blesses**, anger was kindled against Balaam, and he struck his hands together: and Balak said to Balaam, I called you to **curse** my enemies, and, behold, you have altogether **blessed** them these three times. 11 Therefore now flee to your place: I thought to promote you to great honor; but, behold, **יהוה** has kept you back from honor. 12 And Balaam said to Balak, I Spoke to your messengers which you sent to me, saying, 13 If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of **יהוה**, to do either good or bad of my own mind; what **יהוה** speaks, that I will speak?

Vision = (s#04236 **מחזה**) (makh-az-eh') from (s#02372 **חזה**) a vision, to gaze at, to perceive, contemplate (with pleasure), prophesy

Falling = to fall, cast down, die, fail, inferior, lie down, perish, slay, (s#05307 **נפל**) (naw-fal')

Eyes = eye, a fountain, affliction, knowledge, look, resemblance (s#05869 **עין**) (ah'-yin)

Valleys = a stream espec. a winter torrent, narrow valley, a shaft (s#05158 **נחלה**) (nakh'-law)

Spread forth = to stretch, spread out, bend away (s#05186 **נטה**) (naw-taw')

Gardens = garden (s#01593 **גנה**) (gan-naw')

Balak (Balak) Torah Portion 40 Numbers 22:2-25:9

Rivers = a stream, sea, flood, fig. prosperity (s#05104 נהר) (naw-hawr')

Trees of lign aloes = aloe wood (s#0174 הלי) (a-haw-leem')

Cedar Trees = cedar tree from the tenacity of its roots (s#0730 ארוז) (eh-rez')

Buckets = a pail or jar for drawing water (s#01805 דלי) (del-ee')

His seed = seed, fruit, plant, sowing-time, posterity (s#02233 זרע) (zeh'-rah)

(shall be) many = abundant, captain, elder, great, master (s#07227 רב) (rab)

His Kingdom = kingdom, kingly, realm, reign (s#04438 מלכו) (mal-koo')

Exalted = to lift, arise, exalt, furnish, forgive, honorable, marry, receive (s#05375 נסה) (naw-saw')

Brought forth = to go out, bring forth, exact, grow, be risen, shoot forth (s#03318 יצא) (yaw-tsaw')

Strength = weariness, toil, speed, plenty, strength (s#08443 תועפה) (to-aw-faw')

Lion = sense of violence, a young lion (s#0738 ארי) (ar-ee)

Great lion = to roar, lioness as fiercer although not a roarer, fall (s#03833 כלביא) (law-bat')

Cursed = execrate, bitter curse (s#0779 ארר) (aw-rar')

Blessed = to kneel, to bless, adoration, praise, thank (s#01288 ברך) (baw-rak')

How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel:

Paul Wilbur's song "How lovely are your tents O Jacob, your Tabernacles O Israel."

This Scripture is used in many services of both Messianic and Orthodox services. The words given by יהוה through a false prophet, one who desired to curse Israel but could not because יהוה would not allow him to.

Balak (Balak) Torah Portion 40 Numbers 22:2-25:9

Balaam tells Balak to lead Israel into Idol worship

Numbers 24:14-25 And now, behold, I go to my people: come, *and* I will advise you what this people shall do to your people in the **latter days**. 15 And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor says, And the man whose eye was closed says: 16 He said, which hears the words of Elohim, And knows the knowledge of the Most High, Which sees the vision of the Almighty, Falling down, and having his eyes open: 17 **I see Him, but not now**: I behold Him, but not near: There shall come forth a **star out of Jacob**, And a **scepter shall rise out of Israel**, And shall **strike** through the **corners** of Moab, And destroy all the children of **Seth**. 18 And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession, *which were* His enemies; While Israel does **valiantly**. 19 And **out of Jacob shall One have dominion**, And shall destroy the remnant from the city. 20 And he looked on Amalek, and took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations; But his latter end shall come to destruction. 21 And he looked on the Kenite, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is your dwelling place, And your nest is set in the rock. 22 Nevertheless Kain shall be wasted, Until Asshur shall carry you away captive. 23 And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when Elohim does this? 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 And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

Later = the last or end, future, posterity, remnant (s#0319 אחרית) (akh-ar-eeth')

Days = a day, to be hot, a space of time (s#03117 יום) (yom)

Star = a star (as round and shining), fig. a prince (s#03556 כוכב) (ko-kawb')

Scepter = to branch off, a stick (for punishing, writing, fighting, ruling, walking) (s#07626 שבט) (shay'-bet)

Rise = abide, accomplish, get up, make good, confirm, continue, raise, succeed, stand (s#06965 קום) (koom)

Strike = to dash, crush, smash, subdue, destroy (s#04272 מחץ) (maw-khats')

Corners = mouth (in fig sense), region, extremity, corner, end, side (s#06285 פאה) (pay-aw')

Seth = from 7896 substituted, third son of Adam (s#08352 שת) (shayth)

Valiantly = a force, army, wealth, virtue, valor, strength (s#02428 חיל) (khah'-yil)

I shall see Him but not now, Balaam see the coming of Messiah

Star out of Jacob He sees the bright and morning star of Messiah the Promised One

Scepter shall rise out of Israel The Scepter represents power of the Kingdom of Messiah

children of Seth. - The children of Seth is a reference to the third son of Adam. This name means "appointed" but it is also associated with "briars" Brad Scott says this means that the destruction of all those who are associated with Esau. Esau is associated with briars/tares as in the parable of the wheat and the tares. This prophecy is that the tares would be completely burned when Yeshua returns in the last days.

Balak (Balak) Torah Portion 40 Numbers 22:2-25:9

Related Scripture: The Sower and the Wheat and Tares

Matthew 13:18-23 Hear you therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand, then the wicked one comes and takes away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20 But he that received the seed on stony places, the same is he that hears the word, and anon with joy receives it; 21 Yet **he has no root in himself**, but endures for a while: for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that hears the word; and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that hears the word, and understands *it*; which also bears fruit, and brings forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Related Scripture: The Parable of the Wheat and Tares

Matthew 13:24-30 Another parable He put forth to them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares (**seth**) among the wheat, and went his way. 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said to him, Sir, did you sow good seed in your field? from where then has it tares? 28 He said to them, An enemy has done this. The servants said to him, Will you then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, No; lest while you gather up the tares, you root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **Gather together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them:** but gather the wheat into my barn.

Comment: יהוה will be at war with Amalek forever. The final battle to be fought will be when Messiah comes to fight with Amalek. He alone will fight and destroy Amalek completely.

Related Scripture: War with Amalek foreshadows the last battle

Exodus 17:9-16 And Moses said to Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of יהוה in my hand. 10: So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11: And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12: But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur held up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. 13: And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. 14: And יהוה said to Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for **I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.** 15: And Moses built an Altar, and called the name of it Yahovah-nissi: 16: For he said, Because יהוה has sworn that יהוה will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Balak (Balak) Torah Portion 40 Numbers 22:2-25:9

Related Scripture: Messiah returns and destroys Amalek

Isaiah 63:1-8 Who is this that comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in His apparel, travelling in the greatness of His strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2 Why *are You* red in Your apparel, and Your garments like him that treads in the winevat? 3 **I have trodden the winepress alone**; and of the people *there was* none with Me: for **I will tread them in My anger**, and trample them in My fury; and **their blood shall be sprinkled on My garments**, and I will stain all My raiment. 4 For the day of vengeance *is* in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. 5 And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore My own arm brought salvation to Me; and My fury, it upheld Me. 6 And I will tread down the people in My anger, and make them drunk in My fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth. 7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of **יהוה**, and the praises of **יהוה**, according to all that **יהוה** has bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, and according to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses. 8 For He said, Surely they *are* My people, children *that* will not lie: so He was their Savior.

Israel is drawn into Idol worship by the women of Moab

Numbers 25:1-3 And Israel camped in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab: 2 for they called the people to the sacrifices of their gods; and the people ate, and bowed down to their gods. 3 And Israel joined himself to Baal-peor: and the anger of **יהוה** was kindled against Israel.

Comment: It is believed that Balaam counseled Balak in how to weaken Israel. Balaam saw the strength that Israel had was due to the purity they had before **יהוה**. He knew as long as they were obeying **יהוה** He would protect them, so he advised Balak to send the daughters of Midian into the camp of Israel and invite the men, especially the leaders to come to feasts of their gods. Balaam knew that **יהוה** would not tolerate them worshiping other gods and that He would no longer protect them and even possibly destroy them Himself.

Balak (Balak) Torah Portion 40 Numbers 22:2-25:9

יהוה told Moses to kill all the leaders, but Phinehas stopped the plague

Numbers 25:4-9 And יהוה said to Moses, Take all the chiefs of the people, and hang them up to יהוה before the sun, that the fierce anger of יהוה may turn away from Israel. 5 And Moses said to the judges of Israel, Slay you everyone his men that have joined themselves to Baal-peor. 6 And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought to 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. 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 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent, 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 And those that died by the plague were twenty and four thousand.

Phinehas' acts saved others

Yeshua's acts saved many

The violent death of evil brought about salvation for thousands	Yeshua died a violent death to save the world.
He followed them into the tent	Messiah came to where the sinners were
Salvation came through a wooden spear that was used to impale	Yeshua was impaled by a wooden Roman spear when He was on the tree bringing salvation
One of many who were involved in evil were killed	All had sinned but the innocent one died
Blood was spilled in a tent or tabernacle	Yeshua came into the Tabernacle in Heaven to place His blood on the Altar Zechariah 3
This act caused him and his family to be made eternal Priests	When Yeshua ascended to heaven and He became our High Priest forever
He will be before יהוה forever	He will be before יהוה forever

Balak (Balak) Torah Portion 40 Numbers 22:2-25:9

One of Israel was destroyed who was covered by gross sin	Yeshua of the Tribe of Judah of the nation of Israel was covered by the sins of the world when He was seen in the garden, before He ascended to the Father.
Thousands of others who were also in the same sin were saved	While we were yet in sin Yeshua died for us, that we might be saved
יהוה's wrath was turned away	יהוה's wrath was turned away
יהוה made a eternal covenant of peace with him and his descendants	יהוה made Yeshua the eternal Prince of peace

Note: See the chart of the family tree of Levi at the end of Torah portion Korach to see Phinehas lineage.

Phinehas' Reward

Numbers 25:10-13 And יהוה spoke to Moses, saying, 11 Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned My wrath away from the children of Israel, in that he was jealous with My jealousy among them, so that I consumed not the children of Israel in My jealousy. 12 Therefore say, Behold, I give to him My **Covenant of Peace**: 13 and it shall be to him, and to his seed after him, the Covenant of an Everlasting Priesthood; because he was jealous for his Elohim, and made atonement for the children of Israel.