

Balak, Torah

Numbers 22:2-38

(2) Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. (3) Moab was alarmed because that people was so numerous. Moab dreaded the Israelites, (4) and Moab said to the elders of Midian, "Now this horde will lick clean all that is about us as an ox licks up the grass of the field." Balak son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, (5) sent messengers to Balaam son of Beor in Pethor, which is by the Euphrates, in the land of his kinsfolk, to invite him, saying, "There is a people that came out of Egypt; it hides the earth from view, and it is settled next to me. (6) Come then, put a curse upon this people for me, since they are too numerous for me; perhaps I can thus defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that he whom you bless is blessed indeed, and he whom you curse is cursed." (7) The elders of Moab and the elders of Midian, versed in divination, set out. They came to Balaam and gave him Balak's message. (8) He said to them, "Spend the night here, and I shall reply to you as the LORD may instruct me." So the Moabite dignitaries stayed with Balaam. (9) God came to Balaam and said, "What do these people want of you?" (10) Balaam said to God, "Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent me this message: (11) Here is a people that came out from Egypt and hides the earth from view. Come now and curse them for me; perhaps I can engage them in battle and drive them off." (12) But God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them. You must not curse that people, for they are blessed." (13) Balaam arose in the morning and said to Balak's dignitaries, "Go back to your own country, for the LORD will not let me go

במדבר כ"ב:ב-ל"ח

(ב) וַיֵּרָא בָלָק בְּנֹ-צִפּוֹר אֶת
כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאֹמְרֵי: (ג) וַיִּגַּר
מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי הָעָם מְאֹד כִּי רַב-הוּא וַיִּקְץ
מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ד) וַיֹּאמֶר מוֹאָב
אֶל-זִקְנֵי מִדְיָן עִתָּה יִלְחֲכוּ הַקְּהָל
אֶת-כָּל-סִבִּיבֹתֵינוּ כַּלְחָד הַשּׁוֹר אֶת יֶרֶק
הַשָּׂדֶה וּבָלָק בְּנֹ-צִפּוֹר מָלֵךְ לְמוֹאָב בָּעֵת
הַהוּא: (ה) וַיִּשְׁלַח מְלָאכִים אֶל-בְּלָעַם
בְּנֹ-בְעֹר פְּתוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר עַל-הַנָּהָר אֲרָץ
בְּנֵי-עַמּוֹ לְקִרְאֵ-לוֹ לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה עִם יֵצֵא
מִמִּצְרַיִם הַגֵּה כֶסֶף אֶת-עֵינֵי הָאָרֶץ וְהוּא
יִשָּׁב מִמְּלִי: (ו) וְעִתָּה לְכֵה-נָא אֶרְהֶ-לִּי
אֶת-הָעָם הַזֶּה כִּי-עֲצוּם הוּא מִמֶּנִּי אוּלַי
אוּכַל נִכְהַ-בּוֹ וַאֲגַרְשֶׁנוּ מִן-הָאָרֶץ כִּי
יִדְעֵתִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר-תִּבְרָךְ מִבְּרוּךְ וְאֲשֶׁר תֹּאֵר
יוֹאֵר: (ז) וַיִּלְכוּ זִקְנֵי מוֹאָב וְזִקְנֵי מִדְיָן
וּקְסָמִים בְּיָדָם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בְּלָעַם וַיְדַבְּרוּ
אֵלָיו דְּבָרֵי בָלָק: (ח) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם לֵינוּ
פֹה הַלַּיְלָה וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי אִתְּכֶם דָּבָר כַּאֲשֶׁר
יִדְבֹר יְהוָה אֵלַי וַיִּשְׁבוּ שְׂרֵי-מוֹאָב
עִם-בְּלָעַם: (ט) וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בְּלָעַם
וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה עִמָּךְ: (י) וַיֹּאמֶר
בְּלָעַם אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים בָּלָק בְּנֹ-צִפּוֹר מָלֵךְ
מוֹאָב שָׁלַח אֵלָי: (יא) הִנֵּה הָעָם הַיֵּצֵא
מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיִּכַּס אֶת-עֵינֵי הָאָרֶץ עִתָּה לְכֵה
קְבֵה-לִּי אֹתוֹ אוּלַי אוּכַל לְהִלָּחֵם בּוֹ
וַאֲגַרְשֶׁתִּיו: (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בְּלָעַם
לֹא תֵלֵךְ עִמָּהֶם לֹא תֹאֵר אֶת-הָעָם כִּי
בְרוּךְ הוּא: (יג) וַיָּקָם בְּלָעַם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיֹּאמֶר
אֶל-שְׂרֵי בָלָק לְכוּ אֶל-אַרְצְכֶם כִּי מֵאֵן
יְהוָה לְתַתִּי לְהִלָּךְ עִמָּכֶם: (יד) וַיִּקְוּמוּ שְׂרֵי

with you.” (14) The Moabite dignitaries left, and they came to Balak and said, “Balaam refused to come with us.” (15) Then Balak sent other dignitaries, more numerous and distinguished than the first. (16) They came to Balaam and said to him, “Thus says Balak son of Zippor: Please do not refuse to come to me. (17) I will reward you richly and I will do anything you ask of me. Only come and damn this people for me.” (18) Balaam replied to Balak’s officials, “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 the LORD my God. (19) So you, too, stay here overnight, and let me find out what else the LORD may say to me.” (20) That night God came to Balaam and said to him, “If these men have come to invite you, you may go with them. But whatever I command you, that you shall do.” (21) When he arose in the morning, Balaam saddled his ass and departed with the Moabite dignitaries. (22) But God was incensed at his going; so an angel of the LORD placed himself in his way as an adversary. He was riding on his she-ass, with his two servants alongside, (23) when the ass caught sight of the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. The ass swerved from the road and went into the fields; and Balaam beat the ass to turn her back onto the road. (24) The angel of the LORD then stationed himself in a lane between the vineyards, with a fence on either side. (25) The ass, seeing the angel of the LORD, pressed herself against the wall and squeezed Balaam’s foot against the wall; so he beat her again. (26) Once more the angel of the LORD moved forward and stationed himself on a spot so narrow that there was no room to swerve right or left. (27) When the ass now saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; and Balaam was furious and beat the ass with his stick. (28) Then the LORD opened the ass’s mouth, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three

מוֹאָב וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בָּלָק וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵאֵן בְּלָעַם הֲלֹךְ עִמָּנוּ: (טו) וַיֹּסֶף עוֹד בָּלָק שְׁלַח שָׂרִים רַבִּים וְנִכְבְּדִים מֵאֵלֶּה: (טז) וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בְּלָעַם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ כֹּה אָמַר בָּלָק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר אֶל־נָא תִמְנַע מֵהֲלֹךְ אֵלַי: (יז) כִּי־כַבֵּד אֶכְבְּדֶךָ מְאֹד וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־תֹּאמֶר אֵלַי אֶעֱשֶׂה וּלְכֵה־נָא קִבֵּה־לִי אֶת הָעַם הַזֶּה: (יח) וַיַּעַן בְּלָעַם וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־עַבְדֵי בָלָק אִם־יִתְּנוּ־לִי בָלָק מְלֵא בֵיתוֹ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב לֹא אוֹכַל לַעֲבֹר אֶת־פִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי לַעֲשׂוֹת קִטְנָה אוֹ גְדוֹלָה: (יט) וַעֲתָה שָׁבוּ נָא בְּזֵה גַם־אַתֶּם הַלֵּילָה וְאֲדַעֶה מֶה־יִּסְּף יְהוָה דְּבַר עִמִּי: (כ) וַיָּבֹאוּ אֱלֹהִים אֶל־בְּלָעַם לֵילָה וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אִם־לִקְרָא לְךָ בָּאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים קוּם לְךָ אִתָּם וְאֵךְ אֶת־הַדְּבַר אֲשֶׁר־אֲדַבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ אַתּוֹ תַעֲשֶׂה: (כא) וַיָּקָם בְּלָעַם בַּבֶּקֶר וַיַּחֲבֹשׂ אֶת־אַתְּנֹו וַיִּלְךָ עִם־שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב: (כב) וַיִּחַר־אַף אֱלֹהִים כִּי־הוֹלֵךְ הוּא וַיִּתְּיָצֵב מִלְּאֹךְ יְהוָה בַּדֶּרֶךְ לְשַׁטֵּן לוֹ וְהוּא רֹכֵב עַל־אַתְּנֹו וּשְׁנֵי נְעָרָיו עִמּוֹ: (כג) וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת־מִלְּאֹךְ יְהוָה נֹצֵב בַּדֶּרֶךְ וַחֲרָבוֹ שְׁלוּפָה בִידּוֹ וַתַּט הָאֲתוֹן מוֹהֲדֶרֶךְ וַתִּלְךָ בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיֵּךְ בְּלָעַם אֶת־הָאֲתוֹן לְהַטֵּתָה הַדֶּרֶךְ: (כד) וַיַּעֲמֵד מִלְּאֹךְ יְהוָה בְּמִשְׁעוֹל הַכֶּרְמִים גָּדַר מוֹה וְגָדַר מוֹה: (כה) וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת־מִלְּאֹךְ יְהוָה וַתִּלְחֹץ אֶל־הַקִּיר וַתִּלְחֹץ אֶת־רַגְלָהּ בְּלָעַם אֶל־הַקִּיר וַיֹּסֶף לְהַכְתֶּה: (כו) וַיֹּסֶף מִלְּאֹךְ־יְהוָה עָבוֹר וַיַּעֲמֵד בְּמִקוֹם צָר אֲשֶׁר אִין־דֶּרֶךְ לְנִטּוֹת יָמִין וּשְׂמֹאל: (כז) וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת־מִלְּאֹךְ יְהוָה וַתִּרְבֵּץ תַּחַת בְּלָעַם וַיִּחַר־אַף בְּלָעַם וַיֵּךְ אֶת־הָאֲתוֹן בַּמַּקֵּל: (כח) וַיִּפְתַּח יְהוָה אֶת־פִּי הָאֲתוֹן וַתֹּאמֶר לְבָלָעַם מֶה־עָשִׂיתִי לְךָ כִּי הִכִּיתַנִּי זֶה שְׁלַשׁ רַגְלִים: (כט) וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעַם לְאֲתוֹן כִּי הִתְעַלְלַת בִּי לוֹ יִשְׁחָרֵב בְּיָדֵי כִּי עָתָה הִרְגַתִּיךְ: (ל) וַתֹּאמֶר הָאֲתוֹן אֶל־בְּלָעַם הֲלוֹא אֲנִכִּי אֲתָנֶךָ אֲשֶׁר־רָכַבְתָּ עָלַי מֵעוֹדֶךָ

times?” (29) Balaam said to the ass, “You have made a mockery of me! If I had a sword with me, I’d kill you.” (30) The ass said to Balaam, “Look, I am the ass that you have been riding all along until this day! Have I been in the habit of doing thus to you?” And he answered, “No.” (31) Then the LORD uncovered Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, his drawn sword in his hand; thereupon he bowed right down to the ground. (32) The angel of the LORD said to him, “Why have you beaten your ass these three times? It is I who came out as an adversary, for the errand is obnoxious to me. (33) And when the ass saw me, she shied away because of me those three times. If she had not shied away from me, you are the one I should have killed, while sparing her.” (34) Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, “I erred because I did not know that you were standing in my way. If you still disapprove, I will turn back.” (35) But the angel of the LORD said to Balaam, “Go with the men. But you must say nothing except what I tell you.” So Balaam went on with Balak’s dignitaries. (36) When Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at Ir-moab, which is on the Arnon border, at its farthest point. (37) Balak said to Balaam, “When I first sent to invite you, why didn’t you come to me? Am I really unable to reward you?” (38) But Balaam said to Balak, “And now that I have come to you, have I the power to speak freely? I can utter only the word that God puts into my mouth.”

עַד־הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה הֵסִיפּוּ הַסּוֹכְנֵי לַעֲשׂוֹת לָךְ
כָּה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא: (לא) וַיִּגַּל יְהוָה אֶת־עֵינָיו
בְּלֶעָם וַיֵּרָא אֶת־מְלֶאךָם יְהוָה נֹצֵב בְּדַרְךָ
וַחֲרָבוֹ שָׁלַפָּה בְּיָדוֹ וַיִּקְדּוּ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ לְאִפְיוֹ:
(לב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מְלֶאךָם יְהוָה עַל־מָה
הַכִּיתָ אֶת־אֲתָנָךְ זֶה שְׁלוֹשׁ רַגְלִים הִנֵּה
אֲנִי יֵצְאָתִי לְשָׁטֹן כִּי־יִרַט הַדָּרָךְ לְנַגְדִּי:
(לג) וַתֵּרָאֲנִי הָאֲתוֹן וַתֵּט לְפָנָי זֶה שָׁלַשׁ
רַגְלִים אוֹלִי נָטַתָּה מִפָּנָי כִּי עָתָה
גַּם־אֲתַכָּה הַרְגָתִי וְאוֹתָהּ הַחַיִּיתִי: (לד)
וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלֶעָם אֶל־מְלֶאךָם יְהוָה חֲטָאתִי כִּי
לֹא יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אַתָּה נֹצֵב לְקִרְאָתִי בְּדַרְךָ
וְעָתָה אִם־רַע בְּעֵינָיִךְ אֲשׁוּבָה לִּי: (לה)
וַיֹּאמֶר מְלֶאךָם יְהוָה אֶל־בְּלַעַם לָךְ
עַם־הַאֲנָשִׁים וְאַפְסֵם אֶת־הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר־אָדַבְרָה
אֵלֶיךָ אֲתוֹ תְּדַבֵּר וַיִּלֶּךְ בְּלַעַם עִם־שָׂרֵי
בָּלָק: (לו) וַיִּשְׁמַע בָּלָק כִּי בא בְּלַעַם וַיֵּצֵא
לְקִרְאָתוֹ אֶל־עֵיר מוֹאָב אֲשֶׁר עַל־גְּבוּל
אֲרָנוֹן אֲשֶׁר בְּקֶצֶה הַגְּבוּל: (לז) וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָק
אֶל־בְּלַעַם הֲלֹא שָׁלַח שְׁלַחַתִּי אֵלֶיךָ
לְקִרְאָתְךָ לָמָּה לֹא־הִלַּכְתָּ אֵלַי הָאֲמַנְם
לֹא אוּכַל כְּבַדְךָ: (לח) וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלַעַם
אֶל־בָּלָק הִנֵּה־בָאתִי אֵלֶיךָ עָתָה הֲיִכַל
אוּכַל דְּבַר מְאוּמָה הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁמִים
אֱלֹהִים בְּפִי אֲתוֹ אָדַבְרָה:

