

## Balak, Torah, July 12, 2025

Numbers 22:39-25:9

(39) Balaam went with Balak and they came to Kiriath-huzoth. (40) Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and had them served to Balaam and the dignitaries with him. (41) In the morning Balak took Balaam up to Bamoth-baal. From there he could see a portion of the people. (1) Balaam said to Balak, "Build me seven altars here and have seven bulls and seven rams ready here for me." (2) Balak did as Balaam directed; and Balak and Balaam offered up a bull and a ram on each altar. (3) Then Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here beside your offerings while I am gone. Perhaps יהוה will grant me a manifestation, and whatever is revealed to me I will tell you." And he went off alone. (4)

במדבר כ"ב:ל"ט-כ"ה:ט'

(לט) וַיֵּלֶךְ בָּלָעַם עִם-בָּלָק וַיָּבֹאוּ  
קִרְיַת חֻצוֹת: (מ) וַיִּזְבַּח בָּלָק בָּקָר  
וַצֹּאן וַיִּשְׁלַח לְבָלָעַם וּלְשָׂרָיו אֲשֶׁר  
אִתּוֹ: (מא) וַיְהִי בַבֹּקֶר וַיִּקַּח בָּלָק  
אֶת-בָּלָעַם וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ בַּמֹּת בַּעַל וַיֵּרָא  
מִשָּׁם קֶצֶה הָעָם: (א) וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָעַם  
אֶל-בָּלָק בְּנֵה-לִּי זֶבֶחַ שְׁבַעַה  
מִזְבְּחֹת וְהִכֵּן לִי זֶבֶחַ שְׁבַעַה פָּרִים  
וּשְׁבַעַה אֵילִים: (ב) וַיַּעַשׂ בָּלָק  
כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר בָּלָעַם וַיַּעַל בָּלָק  
וּבָלָעַם פָּר וְאַיִל בַּמִּזְבֵּחַ: (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר  
בָּלָעַם לְבָלָק הֲתִיצֵב עַל-עֹלֹתֶיךָ  
וְאֹלֶכָה אוֹלִי יִקְרָה יְהוָה לְקִרְאָתִי  
וְדִבֶּר מִה-יִרְאֵנִי וְהִגִּדְתִּי לְךָ וַיֵּלֶךְ  
שָׁפִי: (ד) וַיִּקָּר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בָּלָעַם  
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֶת-שְׁבַעַת הַמִּזְבְּחֹת  
עָרֹכְתִי וְאָעַל פָּר וְאַיִל בַּמִּזְבֵּחַ: (ה)

God became manifest to Balaam, who stated, "I have set up the seven altars and offered up a bull and a ram on each altar." (5) And יהוה put a word in Balaam's mouth and said, "Return to Balak and speak thus." (6) So he returned to him and found him standing beside his offerings, and all the Moabite dignitaries with him. (7) He took up his theme, and said: From Aram has Balak brought me, Moab's king from the hills of the East: Come, curse me Jacob, Come, tell Israel's doom! (8) How can I damn whom God has not damned, How doom when יהוה has not doomed? (9) As I see them from the mountain tops, Gaze on them from the heights, There is a people that dwells apart, Not reckoned among the nations, (10) Who can count the dust of Jacob, Number the dust-cloud of Israel? May I die the death of the upright, May my fate be like theirs! (11) Then Balak said to Balaam,

וַיֵּשֶׁם יְהוָה דְּבַר בְּפִי בָלָעַם וַיֹּאמֶר  
שׁוּב אֶל-בָּלָק וְכֹה תִדְבֹּר: (ו) וַיָּשָׁב  
אֵלָיו וַהֲנִי נֹצֵב עַל-עֲלֹתָיו הֲוָא  
וְכָל-שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב: (ז) וַיִּשָּׂא מִשָּׁלוֹ  
וַיֹּאמֶר מִן-אַרְם יִנְחֵנִי בָלָק  
מֶלֶךְ-מוֹאָב מֵהַרְרֵי-קָדִם לְכֹה  
אָרֶה-לִּי יַעֲקֹב וְלִכְהָ זַעֲמָה  
יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ח) מָה אֶקְבֹּל לֹא קִבֵּה  
אֵל וּמָה אֶזְעֹם לֹא זַעַם יְהוָה: (ט)  
כִּי-מֶרְאֵשׁ צָרִים אָרְאֵנִי וּמִגִּבְעוֹת  
אֲשׁוּרֵנוּ הֶן-זֶעַם לְבַדָּד יִשְׁכֹּן וּבִגְוִים  
לֹא יִתְחַשֵּׁב: (י) מִי מָנָה עֶפְרַיִם  
יַעֲקֹב וּמִסִּפּוֹר אֶת-רִבְעֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
תָּמַת נַפְשֵׁי מוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל וַתִּהְיֶה  
אַחֲרֵיתִי כָמֹהוּ: (יא) וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָק  
אֶל-בָּלָעַם מָה עָשִׂיתָ לִּי לְקַבֵּל אִיבִי  
לְקַחְתִּיךָ וַהֲנִי בִּרְכָתָ בְּרַךְ: (יב)  
וַיַּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלֹא אַתָּה אֲשֶׁר יֹשֵׁם  
יְהוָה בְּפִי אֲתוֹ אֶשְׁמֵר לְדִבְרִי: (יג)  
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו בָּלָק (לד)[לְכֹה-]נָא  
אֲתִי אֶל-מָקוֹם אַחֵר אֲשֶׁר תִּרְאֶנִּי

“What have you done to me? Here I brought you to damn my enemies, and instead you have blessed them!” (12) He replied, “I can only repeat faithfully what יהוה puts in my mouth.” (13) Then Balak said to him, “Come with me to another place from which you can see them—you will see only a portion of them; you will not see all of them—and damn them for me from there.” (14) With that, he took him to Sedehzophim, on the summit of Pisgah. He built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. (15) And [Balaam] said to Balak, “Stay here beside your offerings, while I seek a manifestation yonder.” (16) יהוה became manifest to Balaam and put a word in his mouth, saying, “Return to Balak and speak thus.” (17) He went to him and found him standing beside his offerings, and the Moabite dignitaries with him. Balak asked him, “What did יהוה

מִשֵּׁם אָפֶס קָצָהוּ תִּרְאֶה וְכָלוּ לֹא  
 תִּרְאֶה וְקִבְּנוּ-לִי מִשֵּׁם: (יד) וַיִּקְחֵהוּ  
 שָׂדֶה צִפִּים אֶל-רֹאשׁ הַפְּסִגָּה וַיִּבֶן  
 שִׁבְעָה מִזְבְּחֹת וַיַּעַל פָּר וְאֵיל  
 בַּמִּזְבֵּחַ: (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-בָּלָק  
 הִתִּיצֵב כֹּה עַל-עֲלֹתֶיךָ וְאַנְכִּי אֶקְרָה  
 כֹּה: (טז) וַיִּקָּר יהוה אֶל-בְּלָעָם  
 וַיֵּשֶׁם דָּבָר בְּפִיו וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוּב  
 אֶל-בָּלָק וְכֹה תִּדְבֹּר: (יז) וַיָּבֹא  
 אֵלָיו וְהֵנּוּ נֹצֵב עַל-עֲלֹתוֹ וְשָׂרֵי  
 מוֹאָב אִתּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ בָּלָק  
 מִה־דָּבָר יהוה: (יח) וַיֵּשָׂא מִשָּׁלוֹ  
 וַיֹּאמֶר קוּם בָּלָק וְשִׁמְעֵה הַאֲזִינָה  
 עָדִי בְּנֹו צֶפֶר: (יט) לֹא אִישׁ אֵל  
 וַיִּכְּזֹב וּבֶן-אָדָם וַיִּתְּנָחֵם הֵהוּא  
 אָמַר וְלֹא יַעֲשֶׂה וְדָבָר וְלֹא  
 יִקְיָמָנָה: (כ) הִנֵּה בָרֶךְ לִקְחֹתִי  
 וּבָרֶךְ וְלֹא אֲשִׁיבָנָה: (כא) לֹא-הֶבִיט  
 אָוֶן בִּי-עֶקֶב וְלֹא-רָאָה עָמֶל  
 בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יהוה אֱלֹהָיו עִמּוֹ וְתִרְוַעַת  
 מִלֶּךְ בּוֹ: (כב) אֵל מוֹצִיאָם

say?" (18) And he took up his theme, and said: Up, Balak, attend, Give ear unto me, son of Zippor! (19) God is not human to be capricious, Or mortal to have a change of heart. Would [God] speak and not act, Promise and not fulfill? (20) My message was to bless: When [God] blesses, I cannot reverse it. (21) No harm is in sight for Jacob, No woe in view for Israel. Their God יהוה is with them, And their King's acclaim in their midst. (22) God who freed them from Egypt Is for them like the horns of the wild ox. (23) Lo, there is no augury in Jacob, No divining in Israel: Jacob is told at once, Yea Israel, what God has planned. (24) Lo, a people that rises like a lioness, Leaps up like a lion, Rests not till it has feasted on prey And drunk the blood of the slain. (25) Thereupon Balak said to Balaam, "Don't curse them and don't bless them!" (26) In reply, Balaam said to

מִמְצָרִים כְּתוּעַפֶּת רְאֵם לוֹ: (כג) כִּי  
 לֹא-נִחַשׁ בִּיעֲקֹב וְלֹא-קָסַם  
 בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כָּעֵת יֹאמֶר לִיעֲקֹב  
 וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל מִה-פָּעַל אֵל: (כד)  
 הֲוָעִם כָּל־בִּיָּא יָקוֹם וְכֹאֲרִי יִתְנַשֵּׂא  
 לֹא יִשְׁכַּב עַד-יֵאכֹל טָרֶף  
 וְדָם-חִלְלִים יִשְׁתֶּה: (כה) וַיֹּאמֶר  
 בָּלָק אֶל-בְּלָעָם גַּם-קָב לֹא תִקְבְּנוּ  
 גַּם-בָּרֶךְ לֹא תִבְרַכְנוּ: (כו) וַיַּעַן  
 בְּלָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-בָּלָק הֲלֹא  
 דִּבַּרְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ לֵאמֹר כָּל אֲשֶׁר-יִדְבָּר  
 יְהוָה אֲתוֹ אֶעֱשֶׂה: (כז) וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָק  
 אֶל-בְּלָעָם לֵכָה-נָא אֶקְחֶךָ  
 אֶל-מָקוֹם אֲחֵר אוֹלֵי יִישָׁר בְּעֵינַי  
 הָאֱלֹהִים וְקִבְּתוּ לִי מִשָּׁם: (כח)  
 וַיִּקַּח בָּלָק אֶת-בְּלָעָם רֹאשׁ הַפָּעוֹר  
 הַנִּשְׁקָף עַל-פָּנָי הַיְשִׁימֹן: (כט)  
 וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָעָם אֶל-בָּלָק בְּנֵה-לִי  
 בָּזָה שִׁבְעָה מִזְבְּחֹת וְהִכֵּן לִי בָזָה  
 שִׁבְעָה פָרִים וְשִׁבְעָה אֵילִם: (ל)  
 וַיַּעַשׂ בָּלָק כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר בְּלָעָם

Balak, "But I told you: Whatever יהוה says, that I must do." (27) Then Balak said to Balaam, "Come now, I will take you to another place. Perhaps God will deem it right that you damn them for me there." (28) Balak took Balaam to the peak of Peor, which overlooks the wasteland. (29) Balaam said to Balak, "Build me here seven altars, and have seven bulls and seven rams ready for me here." (30) Balak did as Balaam said: he offered up a bull and a ram on each altar. (1) Now Balaam, seeing that it pleased יהוה to bless Israel, did not, as on previous occasions, go in search of omens, but turned his face toward the wilderness. (2) As Balaam looked up and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the spirit of God came upon him. (3) Taking up his theme, he said: Word of Balaam son of Beor, Word of the man whose eye is true, (4) Word of one who hears God's speech, Who

וַיַּעַל פֶּר וְאֵיל בְּמִזְבֵּחַ: (א) וַיֵּרָא  
בְּלִעָם כִּי טוֹב בְּעֵינַי יְהוָה לְבָרֶךְ  
אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא־הָלֹךְ כְּפַעַם־בְּפַעַם  
לְקַרְאֵת נְחָשִׁים וַיֵּשֶׁת אֶל־הַמִּדְבָּר  
פָּנָיו: (ב) וַיֵּשֶׂא בְלִעָם אֶת־עֵינָיו  
וַיֵּרָא אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל שֹׁכֵן לְשִׁבְטָיו  
וַתְּהִי עָלָיו רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים: (ג) וַיֵּשֶׂא  
מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר נָאִם בְּלִעָם בְּנֹו בְעוֹר  
וְנָאִם הַגִּבֹּר שְׁתֵּם הָעֵין: (ד) נָאִם  
שָׁמַע אִמְרֵי־אֵל אֲשֶׁר מַחֲזִה שְׂדֵי  
יַחֲזִה נִפְל וְגִלּוֹי עֵינָיִם: (ה)  
מִה־טָבוֹ אֶהְיֶה יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכַּנְתִּיהֶ  
יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ו) כְּנַחֲלִים נָטִיו כְּגִנַּת עֲלִי  
נֶהָר כְּאֶהָלִים נָטַע יְהוָה כְּאֶרְזִים  
עַל־יַמִּים: (ז) יוֹל־מַיִם מִדְּלִי וְזָרְעוּ  
בְּמַיִם רַבִּים וַיֵּרָם מֵאֲגַג מֶלֶכּוֹ  
וַתֵּנֶשֶׂא מֶלֶכְתּוֹ: (ח) אֵל מוֹצִיאֹ  
מִמִּצְרַיִם כְּתוּעַפֶּת רֵאִם לוֹ יֹאכֹל  
גּוֹיִם צָרָיו וְעַצְמֹתֵיהֶם יִגְרֵם וְחֻצָּיו  
יִמְחָץ: (ט) כָּרַע שָׁכַב כְּאֶרֶץ  
וּכְלָבִיא מִי יִקְיָמוּנוּ מִבְּרַכְיָה בְרוּךְ

beholds visions from the Almighty,  
 Prostrate, but with eyes unveiled:  
 (5) How fair are your tents, O  
 Jacob, Your dwellings, O Israel! (6)  
 Like palm-groves that stretch out,  
 Like gardens beside a river, Like  
 aloes planted by יהוה, Like cedars  
 beside the water; (7) Their boughs  
 drip with moisture, Their roots  
 have abundant water. Their ruler  
 shall rise above Agag, Their  
 sovereignty shall be exalted. (8)  
 God who freed them from Egypt Is  
 for them like the horns of the wild  
 ox. They shall devour enemy  
 nations, Crush their bones, And  
 smash their arrows. (9) They  
 crouch, they lie down like a lion,  
 Like a lioness; who dares rouse  
 them? Blessed are they who bless  
 you, Accursed they who curse you!  
 (10) Enraged at Balaam, Balak  
 struck his hands together. "I called  
 you," Balak said to Balaam, "to  
 damn my enemies, and instead you  
 have blessed them these three times!

וְאַרְרִיךְ אֲרוּר: (י) וַיַּחֲרֹאף בָּלָק  
 אֶל-בִּלְעָם וַיְסַפֵּק אֶת-כַּפָּיו וַיֹּאמֶר  
 בָּלָק אֶל-בִּלְעָם לָקֵב אֵיבִי קְרָאתִיךָ  
 וְהִנֵּה בִּרְכָתָ בְּרֹךְ זֶה שְׁלֹשׁ  
 פַּעַמִּים: (יא) וַעֲתָה בִּרְחֹלְךָ  
 אֶל-מְקוֹמָךְ אֲמַרְתִּי כְּבֹד אֲכַבְּדֶךָ  
 וְהִנֵּה מְנַעַךְ יְהוָה מִכְבוֹד: (יב)  
 וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְעָם אֶל-בָּלָק הֲלֹא גַם  
 אֶל-מִלְאָכֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר-שָׁלַחְתָּ אֵלַי  
 דִּבַּרְתִּי לֵאמֹר: (יג) אִם-יִתֶּן-לִי בָלָק  
 מָלֵא בֵיתוֹ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב לֹא אוּכַל  
 לַעֲבֹר אֶת-פִּי יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת טוֹבָה  
 אוֹ רָעָה מִלְּבִי אֲשֶׁר-יִדְבֹּר יְהוָה  
 אֹתוֹ אֲדַבֵּר: (יד) וַעֲתָה הִנְנִי הוֹלֵךְ  
 לַעֲמִי לִכְהֹן אִיעֲצֶךָ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה  
 הָעָם הַזֶּה לַעֲמֶךָ בְּאַחֲרִית הַיָּמִים:  
 (טו) וַיֵּשָׂא מִשָּׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר נָאִם  
 בִּלְעָם בְּנֹו בְעֹר וְנָאִם הַגָּבֵר שְׁתֵּם  
 הָעֵיִן: (טז) נָאִם שְׁמַע אֲמַר־יָאֵל  
 וַיִּדַּע דָּעַת עֲלִיּוֹן מִחֲזָה שְׁדֵי יַחֲזֶה  
 נִפְל וּגְלוֹי עֵינָיִם: (יז) אֲרָאנֹו וְלֹא

(11) Back with you at once to your own place! I was going to reward you richly, but יהוה has denied you the reward.” (12) Balaam replied to Balak, “But I even told the messengers you sent to me, (13) ‘Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not of my own accord do anything good or bad contrary to יהוה’s command. What יהוה says, that I must say.’ (14) And now, as I go back to my people, let me inform you of what this people will do to your people in days to come.” (15) He took up his theme, and said: Word of Balaam son of Beor, Word of the man whose eye is true, (16) Word of one who hears God’s speech, Who obtains knowledge from the Most High, And beholds visions from the Almighty, Prostrate, but with eyes unveiled: (17) What I see for them is not yet, What I behold will not be soon: A star rises from Jacob, A scepter

עֲתָה אֲשׁוּרְנוּ וְלֹא קָרוֹב דֶּרֶךְ כּוֹכֵב  
מֵיעֶקֶב וְקָם שֵׁבֶט מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וּמַחֲזִן  
פָּאֲתַי מוֹאֵב וְקִרְקֹר כָּל־בְּנֵי־שֵׁשׁ:  
(יח) וְהָיָה אֲדוֹם יִרְשָׁה וְהָיָה יִרְשָׁה  
שְׁעִיר אִיבֵיו וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל עָשָׂה חָלִל:  
(יט) וַיֵּרֶד מֵיעֶקֶב וְהָאֲבִיד שָׂרִיד  
מַעִיר: (כ) וַיֵּרָא אֶת־עַמְלִק וַיִּשָּׂא  
מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר רֵאשִׁית גּוֹיִם עַמְלִק  
וְאַחֲרֵיתוֹ עַדִּי אֲבִיד: (כא) וַיֵּרָא  
אֶת־הַקִּינִי וַיִּשָּׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אִיתָן  
מוֹשֶׁכֶךָ וְשִׁים בַּסֵּלַע קִנְיָה: (כב) כִּי  
אִם־יִהְיֶה לְבַעַר קִין עַד־מָה אֲשׁוּר  
תִּשְׁכַּב: (כג) וַיִּשָּׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר  
אֹי מִי יַחֲסֶה מִשְׁמוֹ אֵל: (כד) וְצִים  
מִיַּד כְּתִים וְעֲנוּ אֲשׁוּר וְעֲנוּ־עֶבֶר  
וְגַם־הוּא עַדִּי אֲבִיד: (כה) וַיִּקָּם  
בְּלָעָם וַיִּלֶּךְ וַיָּשָׁב לְמִקְמוֹ וְגַם־בִּלְק  
הָלַךְ לְדֶרֶכוֹ: (פ) {א} וַיָּשָׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל  
בְּשָׂטִים וַיַּחֲלֵ הָעָם לְזָנוֹת אֶל־בָּנוֹת  
מוֹאָב: (ב) וַתִּקְרְאוּ לָעָם לְזִבְחֵי  
אֱלֹהֵיהֶן וַיֹּאכֵל הָעָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ



comes forth from Israel; It smashes the brow of Moab, The foundation of all children of Seth. (18) Edom becomes a possession, Yea, Seir a possession of its enemies; But Israel is triumphant. (19) A victor issues from Jacob To wipe out what is left of Ir. (20) He saw Amalek and, taking up his theme, he said: A leading nation is Amalek; But its fate is to perish forever. (21) He saw the Kenites and, taking up his theme, he said: Though your abode be secure, And your nest be set among cliffs, (22) Yet shall Kain be consumed, When Asshur takes you captive. (23) He took up his theme and said: Alas, who can survive except God has willed it! (24) Ships come from the quarter of Kittim; They subject Asshur, subject Eber. They, too, shall perish forever. (25) Then Balaam set out on his journey back home; and Balak also went his way. (1) While Israel was staying at Shittim, the menfolk profaned

לְאֱלֹהֵיהֶן: (ג) וַיִּצְמַד יִשְׂרָאֵל לְבַעַל  
פְּעֹר וַיַּחַרְאֶף יְהוָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: (ד)  
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה קַח  
אֶת־כָּל־רֵאשֵׁי הָעָם וְהוֹקֵעַ אוֹתָם  
לִיהוָה נִגַּד הַשָּׁמַשׁ וַיָּשֶׁב חֲרוֹן  
אִפִּי־יְהוָה מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל: (ה) וַיֹּאמֶר  
מֹשֶׁה אֶל־שַׁפְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הָרְגוּ אִישׁ  
אֲנָשָׁיו הַנִּצְמָדִים לְבַעַל פְּעֹר: (ו)  
וְהִנֵּה אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּא וַיִּקְרַב  
אֶל־אֶחָיו אֶת־הַמְּדִינִית לְעֵינֵי מֹשֶׁה  
וּלְעֵינֵי כָל־עֵדֶת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהִמָּה  
בָּכִים פָּתַח אֶהָל מוֹעֵד: (ז) וַיֵּרָא  
פִּינְחָס בֶּן־אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן־אֶהֱרֹן הַכֹּהֵן  
וַיָּקָם מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה וַיִּקַּח רֶמֶחַ  
בְּיָדוֹ: (ח) וַיָּבֹא אַחֵר אִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל  
אֶל־הַקִּבְּהָ וַיִּדְקַר אֶת־שְׁנֵיהֶם אֶת  
אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־הָאִשָּׁה  
אֶל־קִבְּתָהּ וַתַּעֲצֹר הַמַּגִּפָּה מֵעַל  
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ט) וַיְהִי הַמִּתִּים  
בַּמַּגִּפָּה אַרְבַּעַה וְעֶשְׂרִים אָלֶף: {פ}



themselves by whoring with the Moabite women, (2) who invited the menfolk to the sacrifices for their god. The menfolk partook of them and worshiped that god. (3) Thus Israel attached itself to Baal-peor, and יהוה was incensed with Israel. (4) יהוה said to Moses, "Take all the ringleaders and have them publicly impaled before יהוה, so that יהוה's wrath may turn away from Israel." (5) So Moses said to Israel's officials, "Each of you slay those of his men who attached themselves to Baal-peor." (6) Just then a certain Israelite man came and brought a Midianite woman over to his companions, in the sight of Moses and of the whole Israelite community who were weeping at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. (7) When Phinehas, son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, saw this, he left the assembly and, taking a spear in his hand, (8) he followed the Israelite man into the

chamber and stabbed both of them,  
the Israelite man and the woman,  
through the belly. Then the plague  
against the Israelites was checked.

(9) Those who died of the plague  
numbered twenty-four thousand.