

Torah Cycle 2018-19

Parshah: Balak

(Numbers 22:2 – 25:9)

Outline of: *Balak*

- Ch. 22** – Balak's Invitation to Balaam
God opposes Balaam
- Ch. 23** – Balaam curses Israel (Oops!)
Balaam tries again
- Ch. 24** – Third time's charm? NOT
Balaam's fourth failure
- Ch. 25** – Balaam's successful plot

Talking Animals

The **Serpent** = 26 Words (Two Phrases)

The **Donkey** = 3 Actions + 23 Words (Two Phrases)

Donkey Wisdom in Action

1. – Change of Direction (v.23)

Life isn't going the direction I want

2. – Experiencing Pain (v.25)

Pain & Health issues

3. – Forward Progress Stops (v.27)

I'm stuck!

Anger



Fury
or
Depression

Balaam's motto:

THIS is not about THAT

Pirkei Avot 5:22

Whoever has the following three qualities is a disciple of **Abraham** our Father. But if he has three “other” qualities, he is a disciple of the wicked **Balaam**.

If he has a **good eye**,
a **humble spirit**, and
a ^{generous} ~~greedy~~ **soul** –
he is a disciple of **Abraham** our father.

But if he has an **evil eye**, = Lust
an **arrogant spirit**, and = No Fear of God
a **greedy soul** – = Love of Money
he is a disciple of the wicked **Balaam**.

24:25 – 25:6

Balaam's Four Prophecies

- A. The Wilderness Period (23:7-10)
 - B. Conquest of the Land & Enemies (23:18-24)
 - C. Settling the Land (24:3-9)
 - D. The Messianic Era (24:15-24)
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1 – The WAY of Balaam

2 Peter 2:15-16

Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression. A speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

The **WAY** of Balaam = **Love of Money**

2 – The ERROR of Balaam

Jude 11-13

Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korach's rebellion.

The **ERROR** of Balaam = **No Fear of God**

3 – The **TEACHING** of Balaam

Revelation 2:14

*“But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the **teaching of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.”*

Numbers 31:16

*“Behold, these caused the children of Israel, **through the counsel of Balaam**, to commit trespass against Adonai in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of Adonai.”*

The TEACHING of Balaam
= Who needs Righteousness?

OR

“It's just sex”

Numbers 31:7-8

So they made war against Midian, just as Adonai had commanded Moses, and they killed every male. They killed the kings of Midian along with the rest of their slain: Evi and Rekem and Zur and Hur and Reba, the five kings of Midian. **They also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword.**

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that **our** fathers were **all** under the cloud and **all** passed through the sea, and **all** were immersed into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and **all** ate the same spiritual food, and **all** drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Messiah.

Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased for they were laid low in the wilderness. **Now these things happened as examples for us**, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

- a) **Do not be idolaters**, as some of them were; as it is written, *“The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play.”*

- b) **Nor let us indulge in sexual immorality**, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

- c) **Nor let us test Messiah**, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.

- d) **Nor grumble**, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

Now these things happened to them as an example, and **they were written for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. No test has overtaken you but such as is common to man, and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tested beyond what you are able, but with the test will provide the way through also, so that you will be able to endure it.