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בלק Balak

Numbers 22:2-25:9

22

- 2 וַיֵּרָא בָלָק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאֹמְרִי:
3 מִפְּנֵי הָעָם מְאֹד כִּי רַב־הָיָה וַיִּקֶּץ מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
4 וַיֹּאמֶר מוֹאָב לְזִקְנֵי מִדְיָן עַתָּה יֵלַחֲכוּ הַקָּהָל אֶת־כָּל־סִבְיַתֵּינוּ כְּלַחֲךָ
5 עִם יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם הִנֵּה כִסֵּה אֶת־עֵין הָאָרֶץ וְהוּא יִשָּׁב מִמֶּלִּי:
6 מִן־הָאָרֶץ כִּי יִדְעֹתִי אֵת אֲשֶׁר־תִּבְרַךְ מִבְּרַךְ וְאֲשֶׁר תֵּאָר יוֹאֵר:
7 מִן־הָעָם הַזֶּה כִּי־עֲצוֹם הוּא מִמֶּנִּי אוֹלִי אוֹכֵל נֶכֶה־בוּ וְאֶנְרִשְׁנוּ
8 וְעַתָּה לְכֵה־נָא אֶרְה־לִּי
9 מִדְּלִן וּקְסָמִים בְּיָדָם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בָּלָק וַיִּדְבְּרוּ אֵלָיו דְּבָרֵי בָלָק:
10 וַיִּלְכוּ זִקְנֵי מוֹאָב וּזְקֵנֵי
11 דְּבָר בָּאֲשֶׁר יִדְבֹּר יְהוָה אֵלָי וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ שְׁרֵי־מוֹאָב עִם־בָּלָק:
12 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵיהֶם לִינוּ פֹה הַלֵּילָה וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי אִתְּכֶם
13 וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־בָּלָק וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה עִמָּךְ:
14 וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָק אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים בָּלָק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב שְׁלַח אֵלַי:
15 הָאָרֶץ עַתָּה לְכֵה קִבְּה־לִּי אֹתוֹ אוֹלִי אוֹכֵל לְהִלָּחֵם בּוֹ וְגִרְשָׁתִּיו:
16 הִנֵּה הָעָם הֵיכָּא מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶת־עֵין
17 אֶל־בָּלָק לֹא תֵלֶךְ עִמָּהֶם לֹא תֵאָר אֶת־הָעָם כִּי בְרוּךְ הוּא:
18 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים
- 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,*Euphrates Lit. "the River." 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 whomever you bless is blessed indeed, and whomever you curse is cursed."
7 The elders of Moab and the elders of Midian, versed in divination,*versed in divination Lit. "with divination in their power (hand)." 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 יהוה may instruct me." So the Moabite dignitaries stayed with Balaam.
9 God came to Balaam and said, "What do these men*men Lit. "participants whose involvement defines the depicted situation." NJPS "people." See the Dictionary under 'ish. 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 אֶל־שָׂרֵי בָלָק לָכוּ אֶל־אֲרָצְכֶם כִּי מֵאֵן יְהוָה לְתַתִּי לְהֵלֶךְ עִמָּכֶם:
וַיָּקָם בַּלָּעַם בְּבֹקֶר וַיֵּאמֶר
- 14 שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בָּלָק וַיֵּאמְרוּ מֵאֵן בַּלָּעַם הֵלֶךְ עִמָּנוּ:
וַיִּקְוֹמוּ
- 15 וַיִּסָּף עוֹד בָּלָק שְׂלַח שְׂרָיִם רַבִּים וְנִכְבָּדִים מֵאִלֶּה:
- 16 וַיֵּאמְרוּ לוֹ כֹּה אָמַר בָּלָק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר אֶל־נָא תִמְנַע מֵהֵלֶךְ אֵלַי:
וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בַּלָּעַם
- 17 וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־תֹּאמַר אֵלַי אֶעֱשֶׂה וּלְכֶ־נָּא קְבֹה־לִי אֶת הָעָם הַזֶּה:
כִּי־כָבֹד אֲכַבֶּדְךָ מְאֹד
- 18 בָּלָאֻם עָנָה לְבָלָק אֶת־פִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי לַעֲשׂוֹת קִטְנָה אוֹ גְדוֹלָה:
וַיֵּאמֶר אֶל־עַבְדִּי בָלָק אִם־יִתְּנֶלֶךְ בָּלָק מִלֵּא בֵיתוֹ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב
וַיַּעַן בַּלָּעַם
- 19 שִׁבּוּ נָא בֹזֶה גַם־אַתֶּם הַלַּיְלָה וְאֶדְעָה מִה־יִּסָּף יְהוָה דְּבַר עִמִּי:
וְעַתָּה
- 20 קוּם לָךְ אַתָּם וְאֵךְ אֶת־הַדֶּבֶר אֲשֶׁר־אָדְבַר אֵלַיךְ אִתּוֹ תַעֲשֶׂה:
אֱלֹהִים | אֶל־בַּלָּעַם לֵילֵלָה וַיֵּאמֶר לוֹ אִם־לִקְרָא לָךְ בָּאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים
וַיָּבֹא
- 21 וַיָּקָם בַּלָּעַם בְּבֹקֶר וַיַּחְבֹּשׁ אֶת־אַתָּנּוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ עִם־שָׂרֵי מוֹאָב:
- 22 יְהוָה בְּדֶרֶךְ לָשֹׁטֶן לוֹ וְהוּא רָכַב עַל־אַתָּנּוֹ וּשְׁנֵי נַעֲרָיו עִמּוֹ:
וַיַּחֲרֹאֲף אֱלֹהִים כִּי־הוֹלֵךְ הוּא וַיִּתְּצֵב מִלֵּאךְ
- 23 מִן־הַדֶּרֶךְ וַתֵּלֶךְ בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיֵּךְ בַּלָּעַם אֶת־הָאֲתָנּוֹן לְהִטָּתָהּ הַדֶּרֶךְ:
אֶת־מִלְּאָךְ יְהוָה נִצֵּב בְּדֶרֶךְ וַיַּחְרְבוּ שְׁלוּפָה בִּידּוֹ וַתָּט הָאֲתָנּוֹן
וַתָּא הָאֲתָנּוֹן
- 24 וַיַּעֲמֵל מִלְּאָךְ יְהוָה בְּמִשְׁעוֹל הַכֹּרְמִים גֶּדֶר מִזֶּה וּגְדֵר מִזֶּה:
- 25 אֶל־הַלִּיר וַתֵּלַחֵץ אֶת־רִגְלָהּ בַּלָּעַם אֶל־הַקִּיר וַיִּסָּף לְהַכֹּתָהּ:
וַתָּא הָאֲתָנּוֹן אֶת־מִלְּאָךְ יְהוָה וַתֵּלַחֵץ
- Balaam arose in the morning and said to Balak's dignitaries, "Go back to your own country, for יהוה will not let me go with you."
- The Moabite dignitaries left, and they came to Balak and said, "Balaam refused to come with us."
- Then Balak sent other dignitaries, more numerous and distinguished than the first.
- They came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak son of Zippor: Please do not refuse to come to me.
- I will reward you richly and I will do anything you ask of me. Only come and damn this people for me."
- 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 my God יהוה.
- So you, too, stay here overnight, and let me find out what else יהוה may say to me."
- That night God came to Balaam and said to him, "If the agents*agents See note at 13.2; cf. note at Gen. 18.2. have come to invite you, you may go with them. But whatever I command you, that you shall do."
- When he arose in the morning, Balaam saddled his ass and departed with the Moabite dignitaries.
- But God was incensed at his going; so a messenger of יהוה took a position in his way as an adversary. He was riding on his she-ass, with his two servants alongside,
- when the ass caught sight of the messenger of יהוה 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.
- The messenger of יהוה then stationed himself in a lane between the vineyards, with a fence on either side.
- The ass, seeing the messenger of יהוה, pressed herself against the wall and squeezed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he beat her again.

- 26 Once more the messenger of הוה 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 messenger of הוה, she lay down under Balaam; and Balaam was furious and beat the ass with his stick.
- 28 Then הוה opened the ass's mouth, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three 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 הוה uncovered Balaam's eyes, and he saw the messenger of הוה standing in the way, his drawn sword in his hand; thereupon he bowed right down to the ground.*right down to the ground Lit. "and prostrated himself to his nostrils."
- 32 The messenger of הוה 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*obnoxious Precise meaning of Heb. yarar uncertain. 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 messenger of הוה, "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 messenger of הוה said to Balaam, "Go with the men.*men (So NJPS.) See note to v. 9. 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?"
- עבֹר וַיַּעֲמֵד בַּמָּקוֹם צָר אֲשֶׁר אֵין-דֶּרֶךְ לִנְטוֹת יְמִין וּשְׂמֹאלוֹ:
וַיּוֹסֶף מִלֶּאךְ-יְהוָה
- יְהוָה וַתִּרְבֹּץ תַּחַת בִּלְעָם וַיַּחַר־אֵף בִּלְעָם וַיַּךְ אֶת-יְהוָה בַּמֶּקֶל:
וַתֵּרָא הָאֵתוֹן אֶת-מִלְאָךְ
- וַתֹּאמֶר לְבִלְעָם מִה־עָשִׂיתִי לָךְ כִּי הִכִּיתָנִי זֶה שְׁלֹשׁ רָגְלִים:
וַיַּפְתָּח יְהוָה אֶת-פִּי הָאֵתוֹן
- לֵאמֹר לְבִלְעָם כִּי הִתְעַלְלָתָ בִּי לֹא יִשְׁחָרֵב בְּיָדִי כִּי עָתָה הִרְגַּתִּיךְ:
וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְעָם
- עַד-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה הֵחָסֵן הַסִּכַּנְתִּי לַעֲשׂוֹת לָךְ כֹּה וַיֹּאמֶר לָא:
הָאֵתוֹן אֶל-בִּלְעָם הֲלוֹא אֲנֹכִי אֶתְנַלְּ אֲשֶׁר-רִכַּבְתָּ עָלַי מִעוֹדְךָ
וַתֹּאמֶר
- יְהוָה נָצַב בְּדַרְכְּךָ וַחֲרָבָו שְׁלָפָה בְּיָדוֹ וַיִּקַּד וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לְאַפָּיו:
וַיִּגַּל יְהוָה אֶת-עֵינָיו בִּלְעָם וַיֵּרָא אֶת-מִלְאָךְ
- זֶה שְׁלֹשׁ רָגְלִים הִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי יֹצֵאתִי לִשְׁטֹן כִּי-יִרְט הַדֶּרֶךְ לְנִגְדִי:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה עַל-מָה הִכִּיתָ אֶת-אֶתְנַלְּךָ
- אוֹלֵי נִטְתָּה מִפְּנֵי כִּי עָתָה גַּם-אֶתְכָּה הִרְגַּתִּי וְאוֹתָהּ הִחַיִּיתִי:
וַתֵּרָאֵנִי הָאֵתוֹן וַתֵּט לִפְנֵי זֶה שְׁלֹשׁ רָגְלִים
- כִּי אָתָּה נָצַב לְקִרְאָתִי בְּדַרְכְּךָ וְעָתָה אִם-רָע בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֲשׁוּבָה לִי:
וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְעָם אֶל-מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה חֲטֵאתִי כִּי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי
- אֲשֶׁר-אָדְבָר אֵלַיךְ אֹתוֹ תִּדְבָּר וַיִּלֶּךְ בִּלְעָם עִם-שָׂרֵי בָלָק:
וַיֹּאמֶר מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה אֶל-בִּלְעָם לָךְ עִם-הָאֲנָשִׁים וְאַפְסִי אֶת-הַדְּבָר
- לְקִרְאָתוֹ אֶל-עִיר מוֹאָב אֲשֶׁר עַל-גְּבוּל אֲרָנוֹן אֲשֶׁר בְּקֶצֶה הַגְּבוּל:
וַיִּשְׁמַע בָּלָק כִּי בָא בִלְעָם וַיֵּצֵא
- אֵלָיֶךְ לְקִרְאָתְךָ לָמָּה לֹא-הִלַּכְתָּ אֵלַי הָאֲמַלְטָ לֹא אוֹכַל כְּבֹדְךָ:
וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָק אֶל-בִּלְעָם הֲלֹא שָׁלַח שְׁלַחְתִּי

- 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.”
- 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.

23

- 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.*alone Others “to a bare height”; exact meaning of Heb. shephi uncertain.
- 4 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*God Heb El, as often in these poems. 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*dust Cf. Gen. 13.16. of Jacob,Number*Number Lit. “and the number of.” the dust-cloud of Israel?May I die the death of the upright,*upright Heb. yesharim, a play on yeshurun (“Jeshurun” in Deut. 32.15), a name for Israel. May my fate be like theirs!
- 11 Then Balak said to Balaam, “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,*Sedehzophim Or “Lookout Point.” 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 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*King’s A poetic figure; in the ancient Near East, this role ideally represented protection and caring help. acclaim in their midst.
- 22 God who freed them from EgyptIs for them like the horns*horns Lit. “eminences,” used figuratively. of the wild ox.
- אֶת־רֹבֶעַ יִשְׂרָאֵל תִּמָּוֶת נַפְשִׁי מוֹת יִשְׁלִים וְתִהְיֶי אַחֲרִיתִי כִמְהוּ:
מִי מִנָּה עֶפְרָ יַעֲקֹב וּמִסַּפֵּר
- אֶל־בִּלְעָם מָה עָשִׂיתָ לִּי לִקְבֹּ אֵיבִי לְקַחְתִּיךָ וְהִנֵּה בִּרְכַת בְּרַךְ:
וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְקָ
- וַיַּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלֹא אֵת אֲשֶׁר יֵשׁים יְהוָה בְּפִי אֲתוּ אֶשְׁמֶר לְדַבֵּר:
תִּרְאֶנּוּ מִשָּׁם אֶפְסִי קִצְּהוּ תִרְאֶה וְכָלּוּ לֹא תִרְאֶה וְקִבְּנוּ־לִי מִשָּׁם:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו בִּלְקָ (לְדָ) [לִכְה־] [לֹא אֲתִי אֶל־מְקוֹם אַחֵר אֲשֶׁר
- אֶל־רֹאשׁ הַפִּסְגָּה וַיְבִן שִׁבְעָה מִזְבְּחֹת וַיַּעַל פָּר וְאַיִל בְּמִזְבֵּחַ:
וַיִּקְרָהוּ שְׁדֵה צִפִּים
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־בִּלְקָ הִתְיַצֵּב כֹּה עַל־עֲלִיתְךָ וְאִנְכִי אֶקְרָה כֹּה:
אֶל־בִּלְעָם וַיֵּשֶׁם דְּבַר בְּפִיו וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוּב אֶל־בִּלְקָ וְכֹה תְדַבֵּר:
וַיָּקֵר יְהוָה
- נָצַב עַל־עֲלֹתוֹ וּשְׂרָי מוֹאָב אָתּוּ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ בִּלְקָ מַה־דִּבֶּר יְהוָה:
וַיָּבֹא אֵלָיו וְהִנֵּה
- וַיֵּשָׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר קוּם בִּלְקָ וּשְׁמַע הָאֲזִינָה עֲדִי בְנוֹ צִפּוֹר:
וּבְרֹאדָם וַיִּתְּנָחֶם הָהוּא אָמַר וְלֹא יַעֲשֶׂה וּדְבַר וְלֹא יִקְמְנָה:
לֹא אִישׁ אֵל וַיִּכְאֹב
- הִנֵּה בְרַךְ לְקַחְתִּי וּבִרְךָ וְלֹא אֲשִׁיבָנָה:
וְלֹא־רָאָה עֹמֵל בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיו עִמּוֹ וּתְרוּעַת מְלֶךְ בּוֹ:
לֹא־הָבִיט אֲנִי בַּיַּעֲקֹב
- אֵל מוֹצִיאֵם מִמִּצְרַיִם כְּתוּעַפֶּת רֶאֱם לוֹ:

- 23 ולא־קסם בישראל כלת יאמר ליעקב ולישראל מה־פעל אל:
כי לא־נחש ביעקב
- 24 ובארי יתנשא לא ישכב עד־יאכל טרף ודם־חללים ישנה:
הינעם כלביא יקום
- 25 ויאמר בלק אל־בלעם גִּם־קב לא תקבנו גִּם־ברך לא תברכנו:
- 26 הלא דברתי אליך לאמר כל אשר־ידבר יהוה אתו אעשה:
ויען בלעם ויאמר אל־בלק
- 27 אל־מקום אחר אולי יישל בעיני האלהים וקבתו לי משם:
וִיאֲמַר בִּלְק אֶל־בִּלְעָם לְכֵה־נָא אֶקְחֶךָ
- 28 ויקח בלק את־בלעם ראש הפעור הנשקף על־פני הישימן:
- 29 בזה שבעה מזבחת והכן לי בזה שבעה פרים ושבעה אילים:
וִיאֲמַר בִּלְעָם אֶל־בִּלְק בְּנֵה־לִי
- 30 ויעש בלק כאשר אמר בלעם ויעל פר ואיל במזבח:

24

- 1 ולא־הלך כפעם־בפעם לקראת נחשים וישת אלהימדבר פניו:
וִיֵּרָא בִלְעָם כִּי טוֹב בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה לְבָרֵךְ אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל
- 2 וירא את־ישראל שכן לשבטיו ותהי עליו רוח אלהים:
וַיֵּשָׂא בִלְעָם אֶת־עֵינָיו
- 3 וישא משלו ויאמר נאם בלעם בנו בער ונאם הנבר שתם העין:
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: *Some of the poetic portions of this chapter are unclear. Word of Balaam son of Beor, Word of the man *man Heb. gevev; more precisely, a man who makes his presence felt. whose eye is true, *whose eye is true Others “whose eye is (or, eyes are) open”; meaning of Heb. uncertain.

- נֶאֱמַר שְׁמַע אֲמַר־יָאֵל אֲשֶׁר מִחֲזֵה שְׁדֵי יַחֲזֶה נֶפֶל וְגִלּוֹי עֵינָיו: 4 Word of one who hears God's speech, Who beholds visions from the Almighty, Prostrate, but with eyes unveiled:
- מִה־טָבוֹ אֹהֲלֶיךָ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל: 5 How fair are your tents, O Jacob, Your dwellings, O Israel!
- נָטְיוּ כִּנְנֹת עָלֵי נָהָר כְּאֹהֲלִים נָטַע יְהוָה כְּאֲרִזִּים עַל־מַיִם: 6 Like palm-groves that stretch out, Like gardens beside a river, Like aloes planted by הוֹדִי, Like cedars beside the water;
- מִדְּלִילֹ וְזָרְעוּ בְּמַיִם רַבִּים וְיָרֵם מֵאֲנָג מִלְכּוֹ וְתִנְשָׂא מַלְכָּתוֹ: 7 Their boughs drip with moisture, Their roots* Their roots Lit. "and its seed." have abundant water. Their ruler shall rise above Agag, Their sovereignty shall be exalted.
- רֵאִם לוֹ יֵאָכֵל גּוֹיִם צִרְיוֹ וְעִצְמֹתֵיהֶם יִגְרֹם וְחִצָּיו יִמְחֹץ: 8 God who freed them from Egypt Is for them like the horns* horns See note at 23.22. of the wild ox. They shall devour enemy nations, Crush their bones, And smash their arrows.
- שָׁכַב כְּאֶרֶץ וּכְלָבִיא מִי יְקִימֵנוּ מִבְּרִכְיָךְ בְּלוֹךְ וְאֲרִיךְ אַרְוִיר: 9 They crouch, they lie down like a lion, Like a lioness; *lioness Heb. lavi'; NJPS "king of beasts." See the first note at 23.24. who dares rouse them? Blessed are they who bless you, Accursed they who curse you!
- לָקַב אִיבִי קִרְאֲלֶיךָ וְהִנֵּה בִּרְכָתְךָ בְּרֹךְ זֶה שְׁלֹשׁ פְּעָמִים: 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!
- בִּלְק אֶל־בִּלְעָם וַיִּסְפֹּק אֶת־כַּפָּיו וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְק אֶל־בִּלְעָם וַיְחַרְאֶף 11 Back with you at once to your own place! I was going to reward you richly, but הוֹדִי has denied you the reward."
- אֶל־מִקוֹמְךָ אִמְרָתִי כִּבְדֹּ אֶכְבֹּדְךָ וְהִנֵּה מִנְעֶךָ יְהוָה מִכְּבוֹד: 12 Balaam replied to Balak, "But I even told the messengers you sent to me,
- אֶל־בִּלְק הָלָא גַם אֶל־מַלְאָכֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר־שְׁלַחְתָּ אֵלַי דְּבַרְתִּי לֵאמֹר: 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 הוֹדִי's command. What הוֹדִי says, that I must say.'
- יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת טוֹבָה אִם רָעָה מִלְכִּי אֲשֶׁר־יְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אִתּוֹ אֲדַבֵּר: 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."
- אִם־יִתְּנֵנִי בִלְק מְלֵא בֵיתוֹ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב לֹא אוּכַל לַעֲבֹר אֶת־פִּי 15 He took up his theme, and said: Word of Balaam son of Beor, Word of the man* man See note at v. 3. whose eye is true,
- לֵכָה אִיעֲצֶךָ אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה הָעָם הַזֶּה לְעַמְּךָ בְּאַחֲרִית הַיָּמִים: 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:
- וַיֵּשֶׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר נֶאֱמַר בִּלְעָם בְּנוֹ בְּעֹר וְנֶאֱמַר הַגִּבֹּר שְׁתֵּם הָעֵין: 17
- אֲמַר־יָאֵל וַיִּדַּע דַּעַת עֲלִיוֹן מִחֲזֵה שְׁדֵי יַחֲזֶה נֶפֶל וְגִלּוֹי עֵינָיו: 18
- נֶאֱמַר שְׁמַע 19

- 17 וְקִם שֹׁבֵט מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וּמַחֲזֵל פָּאֲתָי מוֹאָב וְקִרְקַר כָּל־בְּנֵי־שֵׁת׃
אֶרְאֶנּוּ וְלֹא עֲתִידָה אֲשׁוּרֵנּוּ וְלֹא קְרוֹב הָרֶךְ כּוֹכֵב מִיַּעֲקֹב
- 18 וְהָיָה אֲדוֹם יְרֵשָׁה וְהָיָה יְרֵשָׁה שְׁעִיר אֵיבָיו וְיִשְׂרָאֵל עָשָׂה חַיִּל׃
- 19 וַיֵּרֶד מִיַּעֲקֹב וְהָאֶבְיֵד שָׂרִיד מֵעִיר׃
- 20 וַיֵּשֶׂא מְשָׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר רֹאשִׁית גּוֹיִם עָמְלָק וְאַחֲרֵיתוֹ עַדִּי אָבֵד׃
וַיֵּרָא אֶת־עָמְלָק
- 21 אֶת־הַקֵּינִי וַיֵּשֶׂא מְשָׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵיתָן מוֹשְׁבֶךָ וְשֵׁים בְּסֻלַּע קִנָּה׃
וַיֵּרָא
- 22 כִּי אִם־יִהְיֶה לְבָעֵר קִין עַד־מָה אֲשׁוּר תִּשְׁבֶּךָ׃
- 23 וַיֵּשֶׂא מְשָׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֹי מִי יִחְיֶה מִשְׁמֹו אֵל׃
- 24 וַצִּיִּם מִיַּד כְּתִים וַעֲנֹו אֲשׁוּר וַעֲנֹו־עֶבֶר וְגַם־הוּא עַדִּי אָבֵד׃
- 25 וַיָּקָם בָּלָעַם וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיֵּשֶׁב לְמִקְמֹו וְגַם־בָּלָק הָלַךְ לְדַרְכּוֹ׃
- 17 What I see for them is not yet,What I behold will not be soon:A star rises from Jacob,A scepter comes forth from Israel;It smashes the brow of Moab,The foundation of*The foundation of Samaritan “the pate of,” cf. Jer. 48.45; others “breaks down.” 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 JacobTo 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*Kain I.e., the Kenites mentioned in v. 21. 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.

25

- 1 וַיֵּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשֹׁטִים וַיַּחֲזֵל הָעָם לְזָנוֹת אֶל־בָּנוֹת מוֹאָב׃
- 2 וַתִּקְרְאוּן לָעָם לְזִבְחֵי אֱלֹהֵיהֶן וַיֹּאכַל הָעָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ לֵאלֹהֵיהֶן׃
- 3 וַיִּצְמַד יִשְׂרָאֵל לְבָעַל פְּעֹור וַיַּחֲרֹ־אָף יְהוָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל׃
- 4 וַהּוֹקֵעַ אוֹתָם לִיהוָה נִגַּד הַשְׁמָשׁ וַיֵּשֶׁב חֲרוֹן אַף־יְהוָה מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל׃
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה קַח אֶת־כָּל־רֹאשֵׁי הָעָם
- 1 While Israel was staying at Shittim, the menfolk*menfolk NJPS “people”; cf. Exod. 14.6, Num. 21.33. See the Dictionary under ‘am. profaned themselves by whoring*profaned themselves by whoring Others “began to commit harlotry.” 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 הוהי was incensed with Israel.
- 4 הוי said to Moses, “Take all the ringleaders*ringleaders Lit. “heads of the people.” and have them publicly*publicly Others “in face of the sun.” impaled before הוהי, so that הוהי’s wrath may turn away from Israel.”

- אֶל־שַׁפְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הָרְגוּ אִישׁ אֶנְשֵׁיוֹ הַנִּצְמָדִים לְבָעַל פְּעֹר:
וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה
- 5 So Moses said to Israel's officials, "Each of you slay those of his men*his men I.e., those under each official's command when the militia is mustered. Lit. "his [salient] participants." See the Dictionary under 'ish. who attached themselves to Baal-peor."
- וְלִעֲנֵי כָל־עֵדֻת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהָמָּה בָּכִים פָּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד:
מִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּא וַיִּקְרַב אֶל־אֶחָיו אֶת־הַמְדִּילִית לְעֵינַי מִשָּׁה
וְהָיָה אִישׁ
- 6 Just then a certain Israelite man*man Lit. "participant whose involvement defines the depicted situation." 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.
- בֶּן־אֱלֶעָזָר בֶּן־אֶהָרֹן הַכֹּהֵן וַיִּקֶּם מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה וַיִּקַּח רֶמַח בְּיָדוֹ:
וַיֵּרָא פִּינְחָס
- 7 When Phinehas, son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, saw this, he left the assembly and, taking a spear in his hand,
- וְאֶת־הָאִשָּׁה אֶל־קִבְתָּהּ וַתַּעֲצֹר הַמַּגֵּפָה מֵעַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
אִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־הַקֶּבֶה וַיִּדְקֹר אֶת־שִׁנְיָהֶם אֶת אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל
וַיָּבֹא אַחֲרָיו
- 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.
- וַיְהִיו הַמֵּתִים בַּמַּגֵּפָה אַרְבָּעָה וָעֶשְׂרִים אָלֶף:
- 9 Those who died of the plague numbered twenty-four thousand.