

- 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 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,* 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 הוהי may instruct me." So the Moabite dignitaries stayed with Balaam.
- 9 God came to Balaam and said, "What do these men* 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 הוהי will not let me go 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.
- וַיֵּרָא בָלָק בְּלֹק בְּרַצְפוֹר אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יִשְׂרָאֵל לָאֱמֹרִי:
וַיִּגַּר מוֹאָב מִפָּנֵי הָעָם מֵאֵר כִּי רַב־הָיָה וַיִּקֶּץ מוֹאָב מִפָּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
וַיֹּאמֶר מוֹאָב אֶל־זִקְנֵי מִדְיָן עֹתָהּ יִלְחֲקוּ הַקְהָל אֶת־כָּל־סִבִּיבֹתֵינוּ כָל־חֵד, הַשּׁוֹר אֶת יָרֵק הַשָּׂדֶה וּבֹלֵק בְּרַצְפוֹר מֶלֶךְ לְמוֹאָב בָּעֵת הַהִיא:
וַיִּשְׁלַח מַלְאָכִים אֶל־בִּלְעָם בֶּרֶעֱר* פְּתוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַנָּהָר אֲרָץ בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹ לְקִרְאֵיהֶּם לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה עָם יָצָא מִמִּצְרָיִם הִנֵּה כִסָּה אֶת־עֵינֵי הָאָרֶץ וְהוּא יֵשֵׁב מִמֶּלִּי:
וַעֲתָה לְכֵה־נָא אֶרְהִי־לִי אֶת־הָעָם הַזֶּה כִּי־עֲצוּם הוּא מִלִּנִּי אוֹלֵי אוֹכֵל נִכְהִיבוּ וְאֶנְרָשׁוּ מִן־הָאָרֶץ כִּי יִלְעָתִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר־תִּבְרֹךְ מִבְּרֹךְ, וְאֲשֶׁר תֹּאֲרִי יוֹאֵר:
וַיֵּלְכוּ זִקְנֵי מוֹאָב וּזְקֵנֵי מִדְיָן וַיִּקְסְמוּ בַּיָּדִים וַיָּבֵאוּ אֶל־בִּלְעָם וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלָיו דְּבַר בָּלָק:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם לֵינוּ פֹה הַלַּיְלָה וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי אֶתְכֶם דְּבַר כְּאֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֵלַי וַיִּשְׁבּוּ שְׂרִי־מוֹאָב עִם־בִּלְעָם:
וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־בִּלְעָם וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה עִמָּךְ:
וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְעָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים בָּלָק בְּרַצְפֹּר מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב שֶׁלַּח אֵלַי: הִנֵּה הָעָם הֵיכָּה יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרָיִם וַיִּכַּס אֶת־עֵינֵי הָאָרֶץ עֹתָהּ לִקְהָ קְבֹה־לִי אוֹתוֹ אוֹלֵי אוֹכֵל לְחַלְתָּם בּוֹ וְגִרְשָׁתִּיו:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־בִּלְעָם לֹא תֵלֵךְ עִמָּהֶם לֹא תֹאֵר אֶת־הָעָם כִּי בְרִיךְ הוּא:
וַיָּקָם בִּלְעָם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־שָׂרֵי בָלָק לְכוּ אֶל־אֲרֻצְכֶם כִּי מֵאֵן יְהוָה לַחֲתִי לְהֵלֵךְ עִמָּכֶם:
וַיִּקְוֹמוּ שְׂרֵי מוֹאָב וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בָּלָק וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵאֵן בִּלְעָם הֵלֵךְ עִמָּנוּ:
וַיִּסַּף עוֹד בָּלָק שְׁלֹחַ שְׁלִים רַבִּים וְנִכְבָּדִים מֵאֵלֶּה:

[illegible]

וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִתָּן אֶל־בִּלְעָם הַלּוֹא אֲנִכִּי אֶתְּנֶךָ אֲשֶׁר־רִכַּבְתָּ עָלַי מֵעוֹדָךְ. עַד־הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה תִּהְיֶה סִכְּסֹכָה לְעִשְׂוֹת לָךְ, כִּי נִיאָמַר לֹא:	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.”	וְהָיָה אִישׁ מִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּא וַיִּקְרַב אֶל־אֶחָיו אֶת־הַמִּדְיָנִית לַעֲיִנִּי מִשָּׁה וּלְעִינִי כַל־עֲקֵת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהָמָּה בָלִים פָּתַח אֶהָל מוֹעֵד:	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.
וַיִּגַּל יְהוָה אֶת־עֵינָיו בִּלְעָם וַיֵּרָא אֶת־מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה נֹצֵב בַּדֶּרֶךְ, וַתִּרְבּוּ שַׁלְפָּה בִּידּוֹ וַיִּקְדּוּ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לָאָפִיז:	31	Then uncovered Balaam's eyes, and he saw the messenger of יהוה standing in the way, his drawn sword in his hand; thereupon he bowed right down to the ground.*	וַיָּרָא פִּינְחָס בֶּרֶאֱלֶעָזָר בֶּרֶאֱהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן וַיִּלָּקֶם מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה וַיִּקַּח רֶמֶחַ בְּיָדוֹ:	7	When Phinehas, son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, saw this, he left the assembly and, taking a spear in his hand,
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה עֲלִימָה הִכִּיתָ אֶת־אֶתְנַחֵךְ זֶה שְׁלוֹשׁ רַגְלִים הִנֵּה אֲנִכִּי יִצְאָתִי לִשְׁטֹן כִּי־יִרְט הַדֶּרֶךְ לִנְגֻדִי:	32	The messenger of יהוה 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.	וַיָּבֹא אַחֲרַי אִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־הַקְּלָה וַיִּדְקֹר אֶת־שְׁנֵיתֶם אֶת אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־הָאִשָּׁה אֶל־קִבְּתָהּ וַתַּעֲצֹר הַמִּגְפָּה מִעַל בֶּן־יִשְׂרָאֵל:	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.
וַתִּרְאֶנִּי הָאִתָּן וַתֵּשׁ שֶׁלֶשׁ רַגְלִים אוֹלִי נִטְתָּה מִפְּנֵי כִי עָתָה גַּם־אֶתְּכָה הָרִגְתִּי וְאוֹתָהּ הִחַיִּיתִי:	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.”	וַיַּחֲיוּ הַמֵּתִים בַּמִּגְפָּה אַרְבַּעַה וְעֶשְׂרִים אֲלֶיךָ:	9	Those who died of the plague numbered twenty-four thousand.
וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְעָם אֶל־מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה חֲטָאתִי כִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אַתָּה נֹצֵב לַקְּרָאתִי בַּדֶּרֶךְ וְעַתָּה אֲסִירֶךָ בְּעֵינַיִךְ אֲשׁוּבָה לִי:	34	Balaam said to the messenger of יהוה, “I erred because I did not know that you were standing in my way. If you still disapprove, I will turn back.”			
וַיֹּאמֶר מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה אֶל־בִּלְעָם לֵךְ עִם־הָאֲנָשִׁים וְאַפְסִי אֶת־הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר־אָדַבְּרָה אֵלֶיךָ אֹתוֹ תִּדְבָּר וַיִּלְךְ בִּלְעָם עִם־שָׂרֵי בָלָק:	35	But the messenger of יהוה 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.			
וַיִּשְׁמַע בָּלָק כִּי בָא בִלְעָם וַיֵּצֵא לִקְרָאתוֹ אֶל־עִיר מוֹאָב אֲשֶׁר עַל־גְּבוּל אֲרָנוֹן אֲשֶׁר בְּקִצָּה הַגְּבוּל:	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.			
וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָק אֶל־בִּלְעָם הֲלֹא שְׁלַחְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ לִקְרֹאֲלֶךָ, לָמָּה לֹא־הִלַּכְתָּ אֵלָי הָאֲמַלְם לֹא אוֹכַל כְּבֹדְךָ:	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?”			
וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְעָם אֶל־בָּלָק הִנֵּה־בִּבְאִיתִי אֵלֶיךָ עֹתָהּ הִיכַל אוֹכַל דָּבָר מֵאוֹמָה הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵלֶיהֶם בָּפִי אֹתוֹ אֲדַבֵּר:	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.”			
וַיִּלְךְ בִּלְעָם עִם־בָּלָק וַיָּבֹאוּ קִרְיַת הַחֻצוֹת:	39	Balaam went with Balak and they came to Kiriath-huzoth.			
וַיִּזְבַּח בָּלָק בָּקָר וְצֹאן וַיִּשְׁלַח לְבִלְעָם וּלְשָׂרָיו אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ:	40	Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and had them served to Balaam and the dignitaries with him.			
וַיְהִי בַבֹּקֶר וַיִּקַּח בָּלָק אֶת־בִּלְעָם וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ בְּמֹות בַּעַל וַיֵּרָא מִשָּׁם קִצָּה הָעָם:	41	In the morning Balak took Balaam up to Bamoth-baal. From there he could see a portion of the people.			

16 וַיֵּקֶר יְהוָה אֶל־בִּלְעָם וַיִּשְׁמַע דְּבַר בְּפִיו וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוּב אֶל־בִּלְקָם וְכַה תִּדְבֹּר:

17 וַיָּבֹא אֵלָיו וַהֲנוּ וַהֲנוּ עַל־עַלְתָּלוּ וְשָׂרֵי מוֹאָב אִתּוֹ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ בִּלְקָם מִה־דִּבֶּר יְהוָה:

18 וַיִּשָּׂא מִשְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר קוֹם בִּלְקָם וְשִׁמְעֵה הָאֲזִינוֹה עֲדִי בְנוֹ צֶפֶר:

19 לֹא אִישׁ אֵל יִכָּזֵב וּבְרָאדָם וַיִּתְּנָתָם הֵהוּא אָמַר וְלֹא יַעֲשֶׂה וְדָבָר וְלֹא יִקְיַמְנָה:

20 הִנֵּה הִבְרָךְ לִקְחָתִי וּבִרְךָ וְלֹא אֲשִׁיבָנָה:

21 לֹא־הִבִּיט אָנוּן בַּיַּעֲקֹב וְלֹא־רָאָה עֵמָל בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו עֲמָו וּתְרוּעַת מֶלֶךְ בּוֹ:

22 אֵל מוֹצִיאָם מִמִּצְרָיִם כְּתוֹעַפֶת רָאִם לּוֹ:

23 כִּי לֹא־נָחַשׁ בַּיַּעֲקֹב וְלֹא־קָסַם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כֶּלֶת יֹאמֶר לַיַּעֲקֹב וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל מִה־פַּעַל אֵל:

24 הָרָעַם כְּלִבִּיא יָלוּם וּכְאֹרֶץ יִתְנַשֵּׂא לֹא יִשְׁכַּב עַד־יֵאכַל טָרֶף וְדַם־יִחַלְלִים יִשְׁתֶּה:

25 וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְקָם אֶל־בִּלְעָם גְּסִי־קֵב לֹא תִקְבְּנוּ גְס־בֶּרֶךְ לֹא תִבְרַכְנוּ:

26 וַיַּעַן בִּלְעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־בִּלְקָם הֲלֹא דִּבַּרְתִּי אֵלָיִךְ לֵאמֹר כָּל אֲשֶׁר־יִדְבֹּר יְהוָה אִתּוֹ אֲעֲשֶׂה:

27 וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְקָם אֶל־בִּלְעָם לִכְהִינָא אֶקְחָךְ אֶל־מִקְוֹם אֲחֵר אוֹלֵי יִישׁוּר בְּעִינֵי הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּקְבְּנוּ לִי מִשָּׁם:

28 וַיִּקַּח בִּלְקָם אֶת־בִּלְעָם רֹאשׁ הַפִּעְלוֹר הַנִּשְׁקָף עַל־פְּנֵי הַיְּשִׁימֹן:

29 וַיֹּאמֶר בִּלְעָם אֶל־בִּלְקָם בְּנִדְחֵי לִי בֹהַ שְׂבָעָה מִזִּבְחֹת וַהֲכֵן לִי בֹהַ שְׂבָעָה פָרִים וְשִׁבְעָה אֵילִם:

30 וַיַּעַשׂ בִּלְקָם כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר בִּלְעָם וַיַּעַל פָּר נָאִל כָּרַם מִזִּבְחֹת:

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 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 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 EgyptIs 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!

11 Back with you at once to your own place! I was going to reward יהוה 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,