

Shabbat Balak

12 July 2025 16 Tammuz 5785

Torah Reading

במדבר כ"ב:ב-כ'

Numbers 22:2-20

(ב) וַיֵּרָא בָלָק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר אֶת כָּל־
אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאֹמְרִי: (ג)
וַיִּגַּר מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי הָעָם מְאֹד כִּי
רַב־הוּא וַיִּקְחַן מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי־
יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ד) וַיֹּאמֶר מוֹאָב אֶל־
זִקְנֵי מִדְיָן עַתָּה יִלְחֲכוּ הַקָּהָל
אֶת־כָּל־סְבִיבֵיתֵינוּ כִּלְחֹךְ הַשּׁוֹר
אֶת יֶרֶק הַשָּׂדֶה וּבָלָק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר
מֶלֶךְ לְמוֹאָב בָּעֵת הַהוּא: (ה)
וַיִּשְׁלַח מְלָאכִים אֶל־בִּלְעָם בֶּן־
בְּעֹר פְּתוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַנָּהָר אֶרֶץ
בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹ לִקְרֹא־לּוֹ לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה
עָם יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם הֵנָּה כְּסֶה אֶת־
עֵין הָאָרֶץ וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב מִמֶּלִּי: (ו)
וְעַתָּה לְכֵה־נָּא אֶרְהֶלִי אֶת־הָעָם
הַזֶּה כִּי־עֲצוּם הוּא מִמֶּנִּי אוֹלִי
אוּכַל נִכְה־בּוֹ וְאֶגְרֹשׁנוּ מִן־הָאָרֶץ
כִּי יָדַעְתִּי אֶת אֲשֶׁר־תְּבַרֵךְ מְבֹרָךְ
וְאֲשֶׁר תְּאָר יוֹאֵר: (ז) וַיִּלְכוּ זִקְנֵי
מוֹאָב וְזִקְנֵי מִדְיָן וְקֹסְמִים בִּידֵם
וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בִּלְעָם וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלָיו
דְּבָרֵי בָלָק: (ח) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם
לִינוּ פֹה הַלַּיְלָה וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי אֶתְכֶם

(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 יהוה may

דִּבֶּר כַּאֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֵלַי
 וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שְׂרֵי־מוֹאָב עִם־בָּלָעַם: (ט)
 וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־בָּלָעַם וַיֹּאמֶר
 מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה עִמָּךְ: (י)
 וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָעַם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים בִּלְק
 בְּנִצְפֹר מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב שְׁלַח אֵלַי:
 (יא) הִנֵּה הָעַם הַיֵּצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם
 וַיִּכַּס אֶת־עֵינָיו הָאָרֶץ עֲתִידָה לִּכְה
 קְבֹה־לִּי אֹתוֹ אוֹלֵי אוֹכַל לְהִלָּחֵם
 בּוֹ וַיִּגְרֹשׁוּהוּ: (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים
 אֶל־בָּלָעַם לֹא תֵלֵךְ עִמָּהֶם לֹא
 תֵאָר אֶת־הָעַם כִּי בְרוּךְ הוּא: (יג)
 וַיָּקָם בָּלָעַם בִּבְקָר וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־
 שְׂרֵי בִלְק לָכוּ אֶל־אַרְצְכֶם כִּי
 מֵאֵן יְהוָה לִתְתִּי לְהִלָּךְ עִמָּכֶם:
 (יד) וַיִּקְוֹמוּ שְׂרֵי מוֹאָב וַיָּבֹאוּ
 אֶל־בִּלְק וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵאֵן בָּלָעַם הִלָּךְ
 עִמָּנוּ: (טו) וַיִּסָּף עוֹד בִּלְק שְׁלַח
 שָׂרִים רַבִּים וְנִכְבָּדִים מֵאֲלֵה:
 (טז) וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בָּלָעַם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ
 כֹּה אָמַר בִּלְק בְּנִצְפֹר אֶל־נָא
 תִּמְנַע מִהִלָּךְ אֵלַי: (יז) כִּי־כִבֵּד
 אֶכְבֶּדְךָ מְאֹד וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־תֹּאמַר
 אֵלַי אֶעֱשֶׂה וּלְכֵה־נָא קְבֹה־לִּי
 אֶת הָעַם הַזֶּה: (יח) וַיַּעַן בָּלָעַם
 וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־עֲבָדָי בִּלְק אִם־יִתֵּן־לִי
 בִלְק מְלֵא בֵיתוֹ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב לֹא
 אוֹכַל לַעֲבֹר אֶת־פִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי
 לַעֲשׂוֹת קִטְנָה אוֹ גְדוֹלָה: (יט)
 וְעֲתָה שָׁבוּ נָא בְּזֶה גַם־אֲתֶם

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 יהוה 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. (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 my God יהוה. (19) So you, too, stay here overnight, and let me find out what else יהוה may say to me.” (20) That

הַלַּיְלָה וַאֲדָעָה מִה־יֵּסֶף יְהוָה
דִּבֶּר עִמִּי: (כ) וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים |
אֶל־בָּלָעַם לֵיָּלָה וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אִם־
לְקַרְא לְךָ בָּאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים קוֹם לְךָ
אַתָּם וְאַךְ אֶת־הַדִּבָּר אֲשֶׁר־אָדְבַר
אֵלַיךְ אַתָּה תַעֲשֶׂה:

night God came to Balaam and said to him, "If the agents have come to invite you, you may go with them. But whatever I command you, that you shall do."

במדבר כ"ב:ב'-כ'

(ב) וַיֵּרָא בָלָק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר אֶת כָּל־
אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאֹמְרֵי: (ג)
וַיִּגַּר מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי הָעָם מְאֹד כִּי
רַב־הוּא וַיִּקְּץ מוֹאָב מִפְּנֵי בְנֵי־
יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ד) וַיֹּאמֶר מוֹאָב אֶל־
זִקְנֵי מִדְיָן עֲתָה יִלְחֲכוּ הַקָּהָל
אֶת־כָּל־סִבְיַתֵּינוּ כְּלַחֵךְ הַשּׁוֹר
אֶת יֶרֶק הַשָּׂדֶה וּבָלָק בֶּן־צִפּוֹר
מֶלֶךְ לְמוֹאָב בָּעֵת הַהוּא: (ה)
וַיִּשְׁלַח מְלָאכִים אֶל־בָּלָעַם בֶּן־
בְּעֹר פְּתוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַנָּהָר אֶרֶץ
בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹ לְקַרְאֵלּוֹ לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה
עָם יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם הִנֵּה כֶּסֶה אֶת־
עֵין הָאָרֶץ וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב מִמֶּלִּי: (ו)
וְעַתָּה לְכֵה־נָא אָרֶה־לִּי אֶת־הָעָם
הַזֶּה כִּי־עֲצוֹם הוּא מִפְּנֵי אוֹלֵי
אוֹכַל נֶכֶה־בּוֹ וַאֲגַרְשֵׁנוּ מִן־הָאָרֶץ
כִּי יֵדַעְתִּי אֵת אֲשֶׁר־תְּבָרֵךְ מְבֹרָךְ
וְאֲשֶׁר תֹּאֵר יוֹאֵר: (ז) וַיֵּלְכוּ זִקְנֵי
מוֹאָב וְזִקְנֵי מִדְיָן וַקְּסָמִים בְּיָדָם
וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בָּלָעַם וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלָיו

Numbers 22:2-20

(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

דְּבַרִּי בִלְקִי: (ח) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֵיהֶם
 לֵינוּ פֹה הַלַּיְלָה וְהִשְׁבַּתִּי אִתְּכֶם
 דְּבַר כְּאֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֵלַי
 וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שְׂרֵי־מוֹאָב עִם־בָּלָעַם: (ט)
 וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־בָּלָעַם וַיֹּאמֶר
 מִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה עִמָּךְ: (י)
 וַיֹּאמֶר בָּלָעַם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים בִּלְקִי
 בֶן־צֶפֶר מֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב שְׁלַח אֵלַי:
 (יא) הִנֵּה הָעָם הֵיצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם
 וַיִּכֶּסּוּ אֶת־עֵינֵי הָאָרֶץ עֲתִידָה לָכֶּה
 קְבֹה־לִּי אֹתוֹ אוֹלֵי אוֹכַל לְהִלָּחֵם
 בּוֹ וַיִּגְרֹשׁוּהוּ: (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים
 אֶל־בָּלָעַם לֹא תֵלֵךְ עִמָּהֶם לֹא
 תֵאָר אֶת־הָעָם כִּי בָרוּךְ הוּא: (יג)
 וַיָּקָם בָּלָעַם בִּבְקֹר וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־
 שְׂרֵי בִלְקִי לָכוּ אֶל־אַרְצְכֶם כִּי
 מֵאֵן יְהוָה לְתַתִּי לְהֵלֵךְ עִמָּכֶם:
 (יד) וַיִּקְוֹמוּ שְׂרֵי מוֹאָב וַיָּבֹאוּ
 אֶל־בִּלְקִי וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵאֵן בָּלָעַם הֵלֵךְ
 עִמָּנוּ: (טו) וַיִּסָּף עוֹד בִּלְקִי שְׁלַח
 שָׂרִים רַבִּים וְנִכְבָּדִים מֵאֲלֵהֶם:
 (טז) וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בָּלָעַם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ
 כֹּה אָמַר בִּלְקִי בֶן־צֶפֶר אֶל־נָא
 תִּמְנַע מִהֵלֵךְ אֵלַי: (יז) כִּי־כִבֹּד
 אֶכְבֹּדְךָ מְאֹד וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־תֹּאמַר
 אֵלַי אֶעֱשֶׂה וּלְכֵה־נָא קְבֹה־לִּי
 אֶת הָעָם הַזֶּה: (יח) וַיַּעַן בָּלָעַם
 וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־עֲבָדָי בִּלְקִי אִם־יִתֵּן־לִי
 בִלְקִי מְלֵא בֵיתוֹ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב לֹא
 אוֹכַל לָעֲבֹר אֶת־פִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי

Balak's message. (8) He said to them, "Spend the night here, and I shall reply to you as יְהוָה 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 יְהוָה 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. (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 my God

לַעֲשׂוֹת קִטְנָה אִן גְּדוּלָּה: (יט)
 וְעַתָּה שְׁבוּ נָא בָּזָה גַּם־אַתֶּם
 הַלַּיְלָה וְאַדְלָעָה מִה־יִּסְכֵּף יְהוָה
 דִּבֶּר עָמִי: (כ) וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים |
 אֶל־בִּלְעָם לֵימֹר וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אִם־
 לִקְרָא לְךָ בָּאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים קוּם לְךָ
 אַתָּם וְאֵךְ אֶת־הַדִּבֶּר אֲשֶׁר־אָדַבֵּר
 אֵלֶיךָ אַתָּה תַעֲשֶׂה:

יהוה. (19) So you, too, stay here
 overnight, and let me find out what
 else יהוה may say to me.” (20) That
 night God came to Balaam and said
 to him, “If the agents have come to
 invite you, you may go with them.
 But whatever I command you, that
 you shall do.”

Haftarah Balak

Micah 5:6-6:8

(6) The remnant of Jacob shall be, In the midst of the many peoples, Like dew from GOD, Like droplets on grass— Which do not look to anybody Nor place their hope in mortals. (7) The remnant of Jacob Shall be among the nations, In the midst of the many peoples, Like a lion among beasts of the wild, Like a fierce lion among flocks of sheep, Which tramples wherever it goes And rends, with none to deliver. (8) Your hand shall prevail over your foes, And all your enemies shall be cut down! (9) In that day —declares GOD— I will destroy the horses in your midst And wreck your chariots.

(10) I will destroy the cities of your land And demolish all your fortresses. (11) I will destroy the sorcery you practice, And you shall have no more soothsayers. (12) I will destroy your idols And the sacred pillars in your midst; And no more shall you bow down To the work of your hands. (13) I will tear down the sacred posts in your midst And destroy your cities. (14) In anger and wrath Will I wreak retribution On the nations that have not obeyed. (1) Hear what GOD is saying: Come, present [My] case before the mountains, And let the hills hear you pleading. (2) Hear, you mountains, GOD's case— You firm foundations of the earth! For GOD has a case against this covenanted people— A suit against Israel. (3) "My people! What wrong have I done you? What hardship have I caused you? Testify against Me. (4) In fact, I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage, And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. (5) "My people, Remember what Balak king of Moab Plotted against you, And how Balaam son of Beor Responded to him. [Recall your passage] From Shittim to Gilgal— And you will recognize GOD's gracious acts."

(6) With what shall I approach GOD, Do homage to God on high? Shall I approach with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? (7) Would GOD be pleased with thousands of rams, With myriads of streams of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, The fruit of my body for my sins? (8) "You have been told, O mortal, what is good, And what GOD requires of you: Only to do justice And to love goodness, And to walk modestly with your God;