

Nosh & Learn with Mindy, Parshat Chukat-Balak, TBH-BE, 7/2/2020

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְעֲסוֹק בְּדִבְרֵי תוֹרָה.

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav
v'tzivanu laasok b'divrei Torah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot,
commanding us to engage with words of Torah.

Chukat - Numbers 19:1-22:1

Balak - Numbers 22:2-25:9

#1 Numbers 23:7-10

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!

How can I damn whom God has not damned, How doom when the LORD has not
doomed?

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,

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!

#2 Numbers 23: 18-24

And he took up his theme, and said: Up, Balak, attend, Give ear unto me, son of
Zippor!

God is not man to be capricious, Or mortal to change His mind. Would He speak
and not act, Promise and not fulfill?

My message was to bless: When He blesses, I cannot reverse it.

No harm is in sight for Jacob, No woe in view for Israel. The LORD their God is
with them, And their King's acclaim in their midst.

God who freed them from Egypt Is for them like the horns of the wild ox.

Lo, there is no augury in Jacob, No divining in Israel: Jacob is told at once, Yea Israel, what God has planned.

Lo, a people that rises like a lion, Leaps up like the king of beasts, Rests not till it has feasted on prey And drunk the blood of the slain.

#3 Numbers 24: 1-9

Now Balaam, seeing that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, did not, as on previous occasions, go in search of omens, but turned his face toward the wilderness.

As Balaam looked up and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the spirit of God came upon him.

Taking up his theme, he said: Word of Balaam son of Beor, Word of the man whose eye is true,

Word of him who hears God's speech, Who beholds visions from the Almighty, Prostrate, but with eyes unveiled:

How fair are your tents, O Jacob, Your dwellings, O Israel!

Like palm-groves that stretch out, Like gardens beside a river, Like aloes planted by the LORD, Like cedars beside the water;

Their boughs drip with moisture, Their roots have abundant water. Their king shall rise above Agag, Their kingdom shall be exalted.

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.

They crouch, they lie down like a lion, Like the king of beasts; who dare rouse them? Blessed are they who bless you, Accursed they who curse you!

And into the End of Days and the coming of Moshiach... Numbers 24: 15-24

He took up his theme, and said: Word of Balaam son of Beor, Word of the man whose eye is true,

Word of him who hears God's speech, Who obtains knowledge from the Most High, And beholds visions from the Almighty, Prostrate, but with eyes unveiled:

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 all children of Seth.

Edom becomes a possession, Yea, Seir a possession of its enemies; But Israel is triumphant.

A victor issues from Jacob To wipe out what is left of Ir.

He saw Amalek and, taking up his theme, he said: A leading nation is Amalek; But its fate is to perish forever.

He saw the Kenites and, taking up his theme, he said: Though your abode be secure, And your nest be set among cliffs,

Yet shall Kain be consumed, When Asshur takes you captive.

He took up his theme and said: Alas, who can survive except God has willed it!

Ships come from the quarter of Kittim; They subject Asshur, subject Eber. They, too, shall perish forever.

Micah6:8, the Haftorah Finale

(הַגִּיד לְךָ אֲדָם מִה־טוֹב וּמִה־רָע דְּרֹשׁ מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי אִם־עֲשׂוֹת מִשְׁפָּט וְאַהֲבַת חֶסֶד וְהִצַּנְעַ לְכַת עִם־אֱלֹהֶיךָ:

“He has told you, O man, what is good, And what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice And to love goodness, And to walk modestly with your God;

The Rebbe's Proverb by Danny Siegel

If you always assume
the person sitting next to you
is the Messiah
waiting for some simple human kindness —
You will soon come to weigh your words
and watch your hands.
And if the person chooses
Not to be revealed
In your time —
It will not matter.