

# Num 22:2 - 25:9 Balak

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## Introduction

- Starting new Parasha, show this off at MHB
  - <http://www.myhebrewbible.com/Parasha/IndexOneYear>
  - <http://www.myhebrewbible.com/ParashaOneYear/42/balak-numbers-22-2-to-25-9>
  - The name of the Parasha is Balak, but the main character of the story is Balaam (he gets most of the press anyway).
- Review of Last Week.
  - [Num 21:27-30](#). Was it a wise thing to taunt Moab ([Num 21:29](#))? Was the fear of Moab a rational fear because of this taunting? Which caused them (Balak) to conspire with the Midianites, hire Balaam and all the tragedies that resulted?
    - "Woe [H188 oy](#) to thee, Moab! thou art undone, [H6 abad](#) perished/destroyed ..."
  - Num 21:30: "We have shot at them..." Does we include YHVH? Does YHVH sanction this taunting?
  - [Num 22:2-3](#). There is no mention in the scripture of a representative of Israel that was dispatched to Moab to enter into a peace agreement (e.g. with Esau [Num 20:14-19](#) or Sihon king of the Amorites [Num 21:21](#)). Maybe Israel had no need for them i.e. they weren't in their path to enter the promised land. Would have this sent the Moabites into an a panic?

## Questions

- Who is Balaam? Where did he come from, Who hired him, and to do what? Was he a false prophet? what was his demise?
- **Aleph Tav**
  - Numbers chapter 22...
    - [Num 22:2](#), [Num 22:4](#), [Num 22:6](#) & [Num 22:17](#).
  - Num 23:12; see last page
- JERRY'S QUESTION: Why do you think God relented and let Balaam to go to Moab
  - It was in Balaam's heart to do this and at the end of the day at some point YHVH has to respect that. Having said that, YHVH will use him to do what the Creator of the Universe will do with His creation, which in this case will be to verbalize a blessing from an adversary of Israel and this blessing is witnessed by another adversary Moab.
- Phinehas was the hero in the end (and literally at the end). What was he rewarded with?
- How would you defend the actions of Phinehas, by what authority did he act?
  - Glenn McWilliams Commentary: When Zimri, an Israelite of the tribe of Simeon, transgressed the boundary of the Tabernacle with *Cozbi*, the Midianite woman, Phinehas (a Kohen) was well within his rights to exercise his sacred duty and put the trespassers to death. In matters such as this, there is no expectation of a trial. The defilement of the Tabernacle is an

instant death sentence; therefore, Phinehas needed no other authority than that which YHWH had given him as a protector of the Tabernacle. Later in the Scriptures we are informed that Phinehas was, in fact, the chief of the gatekeepers of the Tabernacle. See [1Ch 9:19-20](#).

○

- **Looking forward to Numbers 31** How did Moses feel about YHVH telling him to avenge Israel of the Midianites ... and then afterwards he would “be gathered up to his people”? Num 31:1-2. “kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him” Num 31:17

## References

- Standalone-Aleph-Tav-Num-25-8-Phinehas-aka-Pinchas **254/255**
  - Word Study of Curse and Belly; H6897 qobah belly & H6895 qabab curse
- Balaam-a-Prophet-Numbers-chapters-22-to-25 **320/321** **NOT COMPLETED**
- Standalone Aleph Tavs in the book of **Ruth 318/319**
  - A timely document because of Shavuot, but not connected to our studies.

## Principle Players

- **Moab:** The Moabites were of Semitic stock and of kin to the Hebrews, as is indicated by their descent from Lot, the nephew of Abraham ([Gen 19:30-37](#), the other being Amon)
  - Notable Moabites are **Ruth**.
  - There not on the list of the people to destroy.
  - Encounter with the Amorites (Gen 10:16, first mention conquered by Nimrod)
- **Amorites:** One of the Kingdoms to be disposed by Israel (et. al. Canaanites, Hittites, and the Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites,
  - Israel offered to pass through their land (like they did with the Edomites) but they refused and attacked Num 21:21-31).
- **Midian:** The Midianites were from the son of Abraham by his concubine *Keturah* ([Gen 25:-2](#), H4080).
- **Balaam:** I would have sworn that he was an Edomite, but I can't find anything to back it up.
- **Phinehas:**

## Num 23:12 HSB

H853 אַתְּ H3808 ha·Lo, not הֲלֵא H559 vai·yo·Mar, and said וַיֹּאמֶר H6030 vai·Ya·an And he answered וַיַּעַן  
 H3068 Yah·weh that which the LORD יְהוָה H7760 ya·Sim hath put יָשָׁם H834 'a·Sher what אֲשֶׁר 'et  
 H1696 lê·dab·Ber. לְדַבֵּר: H8104 'esh·Mor Must I not take heed אֲשַׁמֵּר H853 o·To אֶתְּ H6310 be·Fi, according  
 to speak

## Homework Assignments – Follow up Questions

Here are some of my notes after I facilitated the Tuesday night class on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015. As homework assignments, I have added **tasks** and have included some helpful verses to assist.

Early on in the class I asked the question if Balaam was a prophet and whether charge of him being a false prophet was inaccurate.

Devination

Task 1: Do a word study on Divination

**Num 22:7 KJV** And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.

**Task 1:** What is the definition of a Prophet? Give examples of prophet Moses, Yeshua, Jonah, Jer/Isa/Eze and compare to the claim that Balaam is a one. PC answers are unacceptable. Give examples that compare and contrast.

What's the distinction between a messenger and a prophet.

### Deu 18:15-20 KJV – Prophecy of The Prophet HaNaVi

<sup>15</sup> The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; <sup>16</sup> According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. <sup>17</sup> And the LORD said unto me, They have well *spoken that* which they have spoken. <sup>18</sup> I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. <sup>19</sup> And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require *it* of him. <sup>20</sup> But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

### Deu 13:1-10 KJV – False Prophets

<sup>1</sup> If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup> And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; <sup>3</sup> Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>4</sup> Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. <sup>5</sup> And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn *you* away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee. <sup>6</sup> If thy

brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which *is* as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; <sup>7</sup> *Namely*, of the gods of the people which *are* round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth; <sup>8</sup> Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: <sup>9</sup> But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. <sup>10</sup> And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Charlla asked that it didn't make sense that Balak went to a prophet to have him curse Israel. She asked why would the God of Israel curse Israel that seems oxymoronic. My first thought was why should we expect any rational thought of someone who is not acting in Righteous to begin with. I.e. that's a question that you need to ask Balak. An answer that I came up later was why didn't Balak act righteously in a proactive way i.e. why didn't he call on a Prophet of YHVH, e.g. Balaam, with a request not to curse my enemy but bless me and my people?

### **Num 23:19 KJV - God is not a man**

<sup>19</sup> God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

God is not a man. I pointed out the depending on where you put the emphasis a theological argument could be made against Rabbinical Judaism which says God is comparing himself to man. i.e. He doesn't say God is not an angel, God is not a Giraffe, his comparison is to man. Followers of Christianity would say that Yeshua is both a man and God. A deeper issue is that as bond servant of YHVH (for me it is through Yeshua) I bear his name and am acting as his agent. The agents must reflect the character of YHVH. Like the point I stated above where the necessity of having a solid definition of what a Prophet is and does, a solid definition is what is a lie and/or a solid biblical definition of what Truth is.

### **Joh 10:33-38 – Ye Are Gods**

<sup>33</sup> The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, *Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?*<sup>1</sup> <sup>35</sup> *If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;* <sup>36</sup> *Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?* <sup>37</sup> *If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.* <sup>38</sup> *But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father *is* in me, and I in him.*

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<sup>1</sup> Psa 82:6 KJV I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.

## Deu 19:15 - Vat Is Truth

<sup>15</sup> One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.<sup>2</sup>

Significance of 3 blessings. This begs the question what is the significance of Three. Three times, the words that came out of the mouth of Balaam where blessings put upon the nation of Israel and each time they were made it was done with not only two witnesses, but two hostile witnesses which, by the way, are the best kind if a question of their veracity is asked. Question. In the three times that Balaam blessed Israel did Balak ever dispute that they were blessings? In our introduction to Balaam, as Israelites one must ask, do we like Balaam? Is it wise to have a knee jerk negative reaction to who he is? If my analysis above is correct Does it behoove us to attack his character and creditability? Compare and contrast what Balaam did with his blessings with what Moses did when he struck the rock?

ToDo: create an article with a title that is something like “Balaam’s Legal Defense Counsel”

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<sup>2</sup> See also Deu 17:6, Num 35:30, Mat 18:16, Joh 8:17, 2Co 13:1, 1Ti 5:19, Heb 10:28