

DAF TSAFON

12 July 2025
19 Tamuz 5785

Parashat Balak
ArtScroll 856 Hertz 669



“He sent messengers to Bilam, the son of Beor”

(22:5)

“IF YOU ASK“, comments Rashi, “WHY DID THE HOLY ONE LET HIS DIVINE Presence rest upon so wicked a heathen? [I reply that] it was in order that the heathen nations should have no excuse to say, ‘If we had prophets, we would have changed for the better.’ [The Holy One] therefore established a prophet for them, yet this [prophet] broke down the [moral] fence of the world.” This is difficult to understand, noted R’Simchah Bunim of P’shischa. For the heathens could still claim that while the Jews had a righteous prophet such as Moshe, their prophet was full of conceit, envy, and wickedness. Had Hashem given then a prophet like Moshe, they could assert, they would have repented. If so, of what use was it to give them a prophet such as Bilam?

“To answer this question”, said R’Simchah Bunim, “I will tell you a story that once happened to me: I once developed an eye illness, so I sought an expert doctor to treat it. I was advised to see a certain doctor who cured every illness by utilizing segulot (spiritual remedies).

“When I heard that”, continued the rebbe, “I thought the following: Ideally, any Jew that is stricken with an ailment should go exclusively to his rebbe and request that he pray for his complete recovery. However, Chazal have expounded on the verse, ‘And he shall provide for healing’ – ‘From here we see that a doctor was given permission to heal.’ It is therefore permissible to go to the doctor. Now, the verse is speaking about a regular doctor, one who treats his patients with standard medical procedures. But if somebody is prepared to visit a doctor who treats his patients with segulot, then the person would do better by going to the tzaddik of the generation, such as the Maggid of Koznitz, and asking him to supplicate to Hashem on his behalf.

“The nations of the world”, concluded R’Simchah Bunim, “believed in neither Hashem nor His servant, Moshe; He therefore gave them a prophet from their own people whom they would believe. Since they did believe in Bilam, they were no longer able to contend that they did not believe in Moshe; for once they believed in Bilam, they were certainly better off believing in Moshe.”



If only there were a sword in my hand I would have killed you now!”
(22:29)

To what can this be compared? Asks the Midrash – To a doctor who had become famous for his ability to cure any illness with divinations and incantations.

He once received an emergency call, requesting him to come to the aid of an individual who had been bitten by a snake. Along the way, he spotted a lizard standing on the road, and he searched for a stick in order to kill it. The bystanders who witnessed the doctor’s actions began to laugh heartily, and they said mockingly, “If you cannot overpower a lizard without the help of a stick, then how will you be able to cure a snakebite with your tongue?”

So, said the she-donkey to Bilam; “If you are unable to kill me without wielding a sword in your hand, then how will you be able to uproot an entire nation with your tongue?”

Shabbat Shalom

Haftarah -

ArtScroll 1189

Hertz 682

THE MESSIANIC AGE

Micah V, 7-VI

Micah speaks of the Messianic Age when the faithful remnant of Israel will refresh the nations by spreading God’s message among them. All instruments of war, idolatry and superstition, on which man relies, will be destroyed and those who disregard His teachings will be punished. Why asks God, do the people neglect Him? Did He not bring them out of Egypt and provide leaders to guide them? Remember now what Balak, king of Moab planned and what Balaam, the son of Beor answered him (ie: with blessings and not curses). The people, in reply, ask how can they show their gratitude? The prophet answers simply – all that God requires is ‘to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God’.

מזל טוב

Wedding anniversary

Paul and Margot Janks

מזל טוב

Bar and Bat Mitzvah anniversaries

Kai Bortz
Arnold Green
Roi Teichtahl

Zoe Budai

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

The North Shore Synagogue

will be held in the Upper Victor Smith Hall
on

Monday, 4 August at 7.45pm

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Saturday, 19 July** - Shabbat Mevarachim – Sit Down Kiddush. Guest speaker: Colonel Michael Scott CSC, GAICD who will share an important discussion about Israel and Antisemitism.
- **Saturday, 2 August** – Tisha B'av Service & Movie Night
- **Sunday, 10 August** – Songs for Heroes
Featuring the Cantors and Choirs of the Central Synagogue, Great Synagogue, Kadima, Kehillat Masada, The North Shore Synagogue and the Borowsky Chazanut Singers and more!

**Our congregation acknowledges the following
yahrzeit anniversaries and wishes long life to those
who are commemorating a yahrzeit
during the coming week.**

חיים ארוכים

Alec Bank

uncle of Leonard Bank and
Allan Bank

Stanley Roy Been

brother of Michael Been

Yetta Bregman

mother of Rodney Bregman

Hilde Dreyfus

grandmother of Danny Dreyfus

Anita Gerson

mother-in-law of Netty Rosenthal

Rose Hart

grandmother of Danny Dreyfus

Helen Isenberg

mother-in-law of Peter Nash,

grandmother of Elana Traurig

Zelda Kirsch

mother of Leonard Kirsch

Hanna Liffmann

grandmother of Jonathan Herrman

Amanda Olga Lipman

daughter of Robert and Susan Lipman

Bruce Menzies

husband of Eva Robey-Menzies

Hilliard Miller

uncle of Wendy Penn

Rachel Miller

grandmother of Wendy Penn

Julie Morris

mother of Robyn Lenn OAM

Gladys Myers

mother of Mark Myers

Mai Ruth Rapken

mother of Sarah Zukerman,

grandmother of Zara Zukerman,

Leah Kirsner and Lana Oxnam

Vivian Sandler

father of Jennifer Jodeikin

Maree Tofler

mother of Stephen Tofler,

grandmother of Kai Tofler

Freda White

mother of Susan Moses