

PARASHAT
BALAK

פרשת בלק

Numbers 22:2-25:9

by
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& his kids

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion):

- 22:2 Balaam, A Worldly Prophet
- 22:20 YHVH Tests Balaam
- 22:22 The Messenger of YHVH Blocks Balaam's Path
- 22:28 Balaam's Donkey Speaks
- 23:6 Balaam's First Blessing Over Israel
- 23:11 Balak's Anger Over Balaam Blessing and Not Cursing Israel
- 22:18 Balaam's Second Blessing Over Israel
- 22:25 Balak's Anger and His Further Plea for Balaam to Curse Israel
- 24:1 Balaam's Third Blessing
- 24:15 Balaam's Last Prophecy Concerning Israel in the End Days
- 25:1 Balaam's Plot to Destroy Israel Through Sexual Immorality and Idolatry
- 25:7 Phinehas Puts an End to the Sexual Immorality in Israel

Exploring This Week's Parashah:

1 The Dangers in the Wilderness: Public Enemy Number One, Two and Three

As the children of Israel trekked through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land, they faced three on-going enemies. These enemies continually plagued them. It was a never-ending battle from the time the Israelites left Egypt right until the time they entered the Land of Canaan.

The Apostolic Scriptures (New Testament) tell us that what the Israelites went through in their journey is a lesson for you and me (1 Corinthians 10:11). In other words, what they were going through is similar to what we as followers of Yeshua must go through as we journey toward becoming full spiritual children of YHVH in his forever kingdom. So what are these three enemies that both the ancient Israelites and we face? They are the flesh, the world

and the devil (Ephesians 2:2-3; James 3:15). What do we mean by these terms?

Public enemy number one is the flesh. What do we mean by this? The flesh is that part of every human being that wants to do its own thing even if it means disobeying YHVH. It's that rebellious part of our heart and mind that does not want to follow YHVH's commands (the Torah), but finds pleasure in sinning. This enemy is a dangerous one because it lives inside of each of us. With the help of Yeshua's Holy or Set-Apart Spirit in our lives, we must overcome and defeat that enemy. We must learn to follow YHVH instead of our sinful flesh nature.

The world refers to the pagan, ungodly world or society around us that has no interest in following YHVH. In fact, the world is usually against almost everything YHVH and his Word (the Bible) stand for. The world is an enemy of the saint because it has a million ways to lure or tempt people away from serving and obeying YHVH and turning them to a life of sin and rebellion. The world is public enemy number two!

Public enemy number three is the devil. He has been there from the very beginning trying to tempt and lure men away from obeying YHVH. Remember how as a serpent he tempted the very first humans in the Garden of Eden at the Tree of Knowledge to disobey YHVH and to eat the forbidden fruit?

2 The Israelites Face Off Against Public Enemy Number One, Two and Three

YHVH has allowed these three enemies to roam wild, looking for a way to attack us for a reason. They are there to test us and to make us strong—to test us to see if we will follow YHVH or not. YHVH wants his spiritual children to be strong so that they can stand up against their enemies without giving in to them and being defeated. He wants his children to be like strong trees planted by the river of life that can withstand the winds and storms of life, and which will produce much good fruit for him (Psalm 1:1-6). He wants us to be like wise men who will build the house of our life on a rock, instead of like the fool who builds his house on sand. The wise man's house will be able withstand the storms of life, while the fool's house will collapse (Matthew 7:24-27).

YHVH wants children who will love, serve and obey him no matter what. He wants children who have learned to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil, so that when he gives them glorified bodies and eternal life in his forever kingdom, they won't rebel against him. Instead, they will live in peace, harmony and love with him and each other. There can be no peace and love if people are all rebelling against him, fighting each other and each is doing his own thing.

Let's look at some examples we have of the Israelites fighting these three enemies as they journeyed through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. Let's take them one-by-one.

Public Enemy Number One


The flesh is on top of this list of criminals. When the flesh doesn't get its way it likes to complain and bellyache. It is like a little child who throws a temper tantrum and pounds his fists on the ground until he gets his way. The flesh is arrogant, selfish, self-centered and lies to cover up its sin just like a child.

 (a) What are some examples of the Israelites being tempted by public enemy number





The world, the flesh and the devil.

one: the flesh? How did the Israelites give in to their flesh nature and begin acting like complaining children? (Read Exodus 15:24; 17:3; Numbers 11:2, 4, 6-9; 20:2-5; 21:5.)

-  (b) List several of the greatest temptations of the flesh young people face today that will draw them away from YHVH. Think of friends you have had who were good kids, but then began to go down a bad path. What were the things that tempted them the most to go astray?

Public Enemy Number Two


-  (c) The world is second on our list of enemies. How did the pagan world around the Israelites try to tempt them to disobey YHVH's Torah-instructions? (See Numbers 11:4-6; 14:3-4; 25:1-3.)
-  (d) What are some examples of how the world today tries to tempt people to go against YHVH and his Word? What are several of the greatest temptations facing young people to draw them into a worldly lifestyle?

Public Enemy Number Three

The final enemy we need to look at is the devil. The Bible also calls him Satan (the adversary), the serpent, the destroyer and the accuser of the brethren. How did the children of Israel face the devil and overcome this evil enemy? We find an example of this in this week's Torah portion (Parashat Balak) in the person of Balaam, an evil false prophet whose goal it was to destroy the children of Israel by putting a curse on them for the evil King Balak. We see that these evil men were acting on behalf of the devil and that their intentions were to harm Israel (see Numbers 22:5-6).




There are other examples of Israel having to fight against satanic enemies as well. Remember Pharaoh in Egypt? He tried to destroy the people of YHVH. He was a type of Satan. So were the Amalakites who attacked Israel and tried to destroy them (Exodus 17:8-16).

-  (e) What are some examples of the devil's work in our society today? What are some ways the devil tries to tempt people to sin?



3 YHVH's People Can Be Victorious Over All Three Enemies!

Despite all of the attacks against the Israelites, they made it into the Promised Land just as YHVH had promised. He never left them nor forsook them. YHVH was a faithful Father and Shepherd to the Israelites. Yes, the way was not easy. Yes, they had to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil by putting their faith in YHVH and believing in his promises. They had to trust YHVH to help them to defeat their enemies—and by YHVH's help and grace they did. The Israelites were victorious.

-  (f) What happened to the children of Israel's enemies? One-by-one they were defeated. What happened to Pharaoh? (Look at Exodus 14:27-31.) What happened to the Amalakites? (Read Exodus 17:13.) What happened to Balaam? (See Numbers 31:8.)

4 How Do We Overcome Our Enemies?

What does all this have to do with us? Well, we face the same enemies as our ancient forefathers did so long ago. Our enemies are still the world, the flesh and the devil. Can we defeat them in our own strength, or is there a greater One who like a Big Brother fought against and defeated them all FOR US?

- (g) Who defeated death, hell and the grave that we might have victory over these things? (Read Revelation 1:17-18 and 1Corinthians 15:51-57.)
- (h) Who is the One through whom we have victory over the world, the flesh and the devil? What do we have to do to get that victory? (Find the answers in Genesis 3:15; Romans 16:10; Luke 10:19; John 12:30-32; Ephesians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10; Romans 8:1-4, 37; 1John 4:4; 5:4-5; Galatians 2:20; 1Corinthians 15:51-58.)

Only by having a living and active relationship with Yeshua through putting our faith in his death on the cross for our sins and obeying his commands can we have the victory. When we do this, not only does he become our Savior from our enemies, but he gives us the strength and power through his Set-Apart Spirit living in us to go forward and to lead a victorious life. We can continually defeat the world, the flesh and the devil by praying to YHVH for help and strength, by studying and believing his Written Word (the Bible) and all the promises he has made to us in his Word. To remain



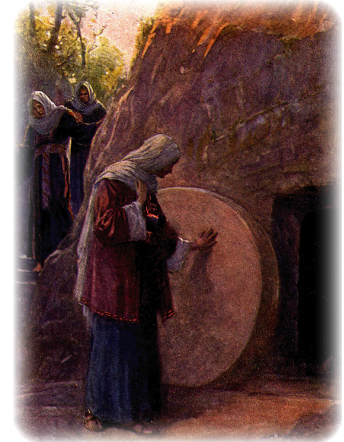
Are you IN Yeshua?

victorious over the flesh, the world and the devil, we must turn away from worldly influences and friends that will drag us down. We must then hang out with those people who love YHVH and will help us to walk righteously before him.

We have given you only a few of the tools available which you can use to live victoriously over our enemies, but they are powerful tools that really work. When we overcome our enemies, it results in our obtaining a high reward in YHVH's kingdom—eternal life in the New Jerusalem in the New Heaven on the New Earth. To let our enemies overcome and defeat us is to become like wicked sinners whose fate will be to suffer the wrath and judgment of Elohim and to be burned up in the lake of fire

- (i) What people are cast into the Lake of Fire? (Turn to Revelation 20:11-15.)

The choice is ours which path we will take: Will it be the highway to eternal life in heaven on earth, or to be burned up in the lake of fire?



The New Jerusalem OR the Lake of Fire???



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| Angel Messenger | Curse This People | Field Of Zophim | Phinehas |
| At Shittim | Daughters Of Moab | Great Fear | Pierced Both |
| Balaam | Destroy The Remnant | Have Dominion | Play The Harlot |
| Balak | Divination | High Places | Scepter Shall Rise |
| Bare Hill | Donkey Said | King Of Moab | Seven Altars |
| Cannot Revoke It | Drawn Sword | Like A Lioness | Three Blessings |
| Careful To Speak | Dwells Apart | Not A Man | Upright |