

Children's Torah Portion



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Balak

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Balak, king of Moab, was afraid because all of the cities around had been destroyed by the Yisraelites. He sent messengers to the prophet Balaam.

He wanted Balaam to curse the Yisraelites. Balaam told the messengers to spend the night there and told them that he would ask YHWH about it.

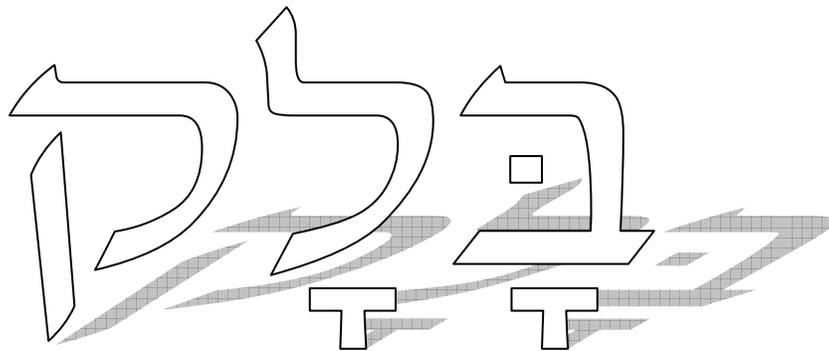
YHWH told him not to curse the people because they were blessed, so in the morning, Balaam told the messengers to return and that he could not go with them. When they returned and told Balak, he sent out even more messengers. He told them to stay also. That night, YHWH told Balaam to go, but he had to do *only* what YHWH told him to do.

In the morning, Balaam saddled his donkey and went with them, but this angered YHWH and He sent a messenger that stood in the road with a sword in His hand. The donkey saw Him and turned aside, into a field. Balaam didn't see Him, though, and beat the donkey.

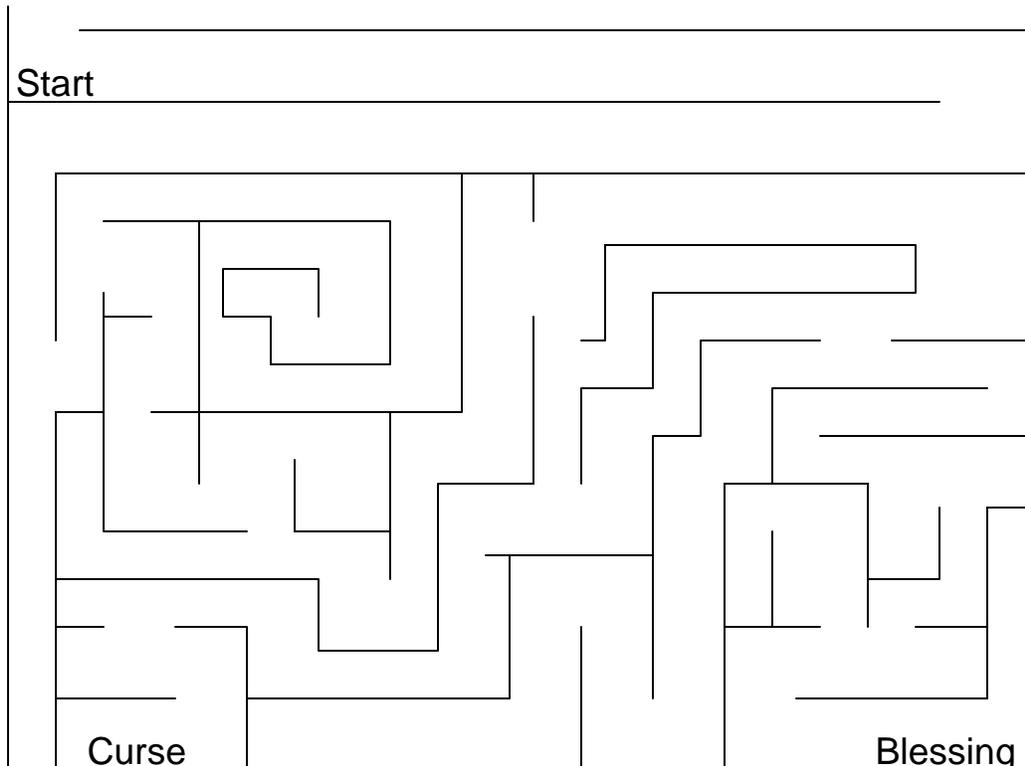
Then the messenger stood in a narrow vineyard with walls on either side of Him. The donkey turned aside and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall, and he beat her again. The messenger then went further to a place where the donkey could not turn aside because it was too narrow. Then she just laid down, and Balaam beat her yet again. YHWH then caused the donkey to speak. "Why have you beaten me these three times?" it asked. And Balaam replied, "Because you have mocked me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for I would have killed you by now!" The donkey asked him if she had ever done anything like this before, to which he said, "No."

The messenger then showed Himself to Balaam, and asked him why he had beat the donkey when she was trying to save his life, because he would have killed him and let her live. Balaam told the messenger that he had sinned and said that he would go back, but the messenger told him to go and speak only what He told him to say.

The next day, Balak took Balaam up on a “high place” of Ba’al, a pagan deity, and Balaam saw how large the Yisraelites’ camp was. Balaam told Balak to build seven altars and offer a bull and a ram on each one; then he went to YHWH. YHWH gave him the words to speak, in which he admitted that he had blessed the people, not cursed them. Balak kept taking Balaam to different places to curse the people, but Balaam kept blessing them instead.



Help Balaam bless the people.



If you want to you can draw
a picture for the next torah portion and send it to:
chayili@onetorahforall.org.

The pictures will appear in the children's parsha for
that week. Please try to send them on the first or
second days of the week.

The next parsha will be:
B'midbar (Numbers) 25:10 - 30:1

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Risalah

Balaam