



Message 6-30-18
Balak-(Destroyer)
Numbers 22:2-25:9
Micah 5:6-6:8
1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

Introduction

We are blessed with being the messengers of God's love and justice. No less revolutionary today, the notion that all people reflect God's divine image and are worthy of respect and dignity continues to transform and elevate the world. Ours is the privilege of carrying that message and share it, even when it seems that others may have forgotten it.

Numbers 25:1-9

1 While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. ² These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. ³ So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. ⁴ And the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the LORD, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel." ⁵ And Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor." ⁶ And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁷ When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand ⁸ and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus, the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. ⁹ Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand. (ESV)

What is the lesson we learn from this week's Torah portion about the mixing with the daughters of Moab and then the man from Israel who brought a Midianite woman to his family tent? First off, we see that where it says *people*, the Hebrew word, *ahm*, confirms this, so was it only the Hebrew men who had sexual relations with the Moabite women, or was there something else happening at the same time? But the sin does not stop with the Moabite women. It extends to another man from Israel bringing a Midianite woman into the midst of the camp in front of the whole of Israel. First, we see that not only did the people whore with the Moabite women, they also made sacrifices to their gods and bowed down to them. The Lord commanded Moses to take all the chiefs of Israel and hang them in the sun to turn away the anger of the Lord. It all came to a culmination when Phineas, the son of Eleazar, grandson of Aaron, took a spear and went into the tent where the man

from Israel went with the Moabite woman and ran the spear through both. This brought an end to the plague the Almighty unleashed upon Israel, but twenty-four thousand people had died. Think about that and how many others died because of their sin. They just did not learn from what happened and repeatedly sinned against the Holy One of Israel.

<05971a> אָמָם *am* or אַמָּם *am* (766b)

Meaning: *people*

<02181> זָנָה *zanah* (275c)

Meaning: *to commit fornication, be a harlot*

Psalm 106:28 Then they yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor, and ate sacrifices offered to the dead; ²⁹ they provoked the LORD to anger with their deeds, and a plague broke out among them. ³⁰ Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was stayed. (ESV)

Joel 2:17 Let the priests, the LORD'S ministers, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not make Your inheritance a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, 'Where is their God?'" (NAU)

We see over and over Israel sinning against the Almighty instead of walking with Him. Their redemption was with the Holy One, and yet they rebelled against Him and His chosen leaders. The lesson we learn from reading about the people of Israel in the wilderness is how we can apply that to our lives and world today. We are no different than they are. They were given the Torah as their covenant to live by, and they had the Almighty in their midst until their sin drove Him outside of the camp. How many of us are inside the camp today doing what the Almighty asked us to do? The lessons are right there in front of us in the Bible. All we must do is really dig into the word and learn the lessons laid out for us by Yeshua, the living Word of the Father.

Are we playing the role of the harlot as Israel did? They did it repeatedly. They were punished for their transgressions, and they lost the gift of the Promised Land. What have we lost? In our day and age, we are spread out all over the world, yet we are connected even more than before because of technology. What would happen if we lost this capability? In our world today, this technology is misused by most nations that have the capability. Are we racing forward to a more advanced world, or are we heading for the end of all things as shown to us in the Word of God – that Word we know as the Messiah. He has travelled the road we are on already. He is waiting for us at the end of the road. Will you make it?

Micah 6:3-5

3 "O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember what Balak king

of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD." (ESV)

The Holy One of Israel is calling out to His people. He made His covenant with Israel and all those who are joined to Israel. Before there was an Israel, there were many who came before. We see Seth, Enoch, Noah, Shem, Japheth, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. From Jacob came his twelve sons who became the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of Israel. One of these tribes was Judah, from whom the Jewish people descend or those who were assimilated into Judah. Into Judah came the tribe of Levi, the tribes from Moses and Aaron. From Moses came the nation of Israel, the covenant people who belong to the Holy One of Israel. In our day, the tribes and those from the other nations who chose to be a part of Israel are mixed together showing us the truth of the mixed multitude in the book of Exodus. We also see the truth of the Shaliach, Paul's, teaching on grafting in and adoption from those who were outside of Israel. Into all of this, we hold up for you the example of Ruth, whose desire to be with her mother-in-law had her make the commitment of embracing the people of Israel and more importantly the God of Israel. This profession of belief and truth from her lips brought into the tribe of Judah, to become an ancestor of the Messiah Yeshua.

1 Thessalonians 1:8

8 For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (ESV)

Why is it that these idol worshippers were able to turn away from idol worship to follow the living and true God and His Son, Yeshua? Why can the nations follow Him while we, who are supposed to be His children, struggle as our ancestors did to stay on the path that leads to Messiah and the gift of eternal life if we make it to the end. Idols come in many different forms, and we tend to worship things that do not have anything to do with God and His Son. We need the power of the Ruach HaKodesh to come and reside within us to help us to follow the way. The Way is what the early followers of Yeshua were called as well as Nazarenes because Yeshua came from Nazareth. Today there are so many different denominations in Christianity and in Judaism. We are not going to touch on all the other religions or belief systems that are out there, all claiming to bring you to the source. The source of what? If you are not being led to Yeshua, in whom the gift of redemption lies, then you are heading to the wrong source just as Israel was led to the women of Moab and the Midianite woman.

Maybe we are living in that period where the Almighty is beginning to withdraw His protection from over the earth and setting us up for the fall that will come once the anti-messiah comes on the scene. Satan has been waiting a very long time for this day to come, and he believes it will end in his favor when we know it will be the opposite with

the Almighty and His Son finally taking possession of what belongs to Him – EVERYTHING!

I will close with this: ***“Torah Man says: “Friendships cemented together with sin don’t hold.”***

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119. If you are not learning Torah, we invite you to attend Judaic Studies Institute, a Distance Learning Institute for Yeshua based Judaic Studies. Drop us a line at student.support@isi-edu.org for more information. You can earn a certificate or diploma and take courses to help you grow in your understanding.



