

Balak

בָּלָק

“Balak”

And Balak did just as Balaam had spoken,
and Balak and Balaam
offered a bull and a ram on each altar.
Numbers 23:2

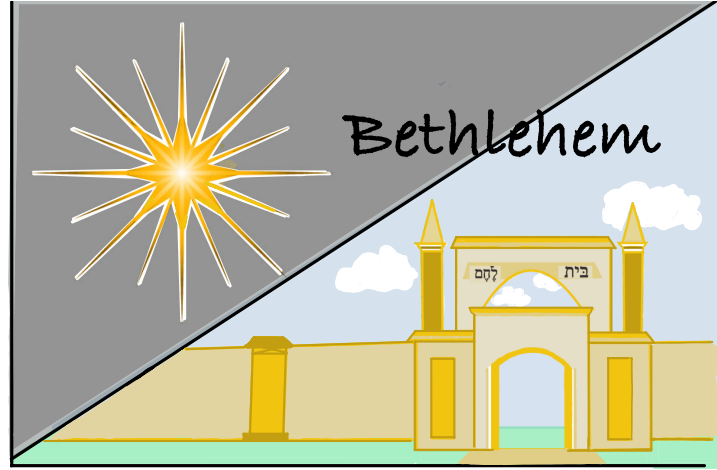
Numbers 22:2-25:9

In this week's Parasha the next generation of the Children of Yisra'el (Israel) had camped in the plains of Moab on the eastern side of the Jordan River across from Jericho. Their parents, and all those twenty years old and older, had died in the wilderness, just as God had spoken forty years earlier, due to their lack of faith in Him.

Balak, the king of Moab and relative of Avraham (Abraham), was greatly afraid of the huge number of people now camped to the north of his kingdom on land that had once belonged to the Moabites. The Amorites had previously conquered the Moabites taking possession of this land. Now the Yisra'elites had taken possession of the land from the Amorites by the Authority and Power of God Almighty.

King Balak, the son of Zippor, knew he was not strong enough to defeat the Yisra'elites that were camped just north of his kingdom. Balak spoke to the elders of Midian and formed an alliance with the Midianites whose kingdom was southeast of Moab and Edom. He then sent messengers to hire a prophet named Balaam, the son of Beor from Pethor, to come and curse the Children of Yisra'el.

There was only one problem with this plan..... Anyone God has blessed can not be cursed by man.



Pray First

Father God,

Please change our hearts to match Your will.
Please increase our desire to study and know
Your prophetic Word. Help us to agree with the
Scriptures You have given us so we will be prepared
for what Messiah Yeshua is coming back to do.
Help us learn from what You have already done
and apply it to our lives. We thank You for giving
us the gift of the Holy Spirit Who is stronger than
any evil force in this world. Please help our leaders
agree with You and forgive us of our sins.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

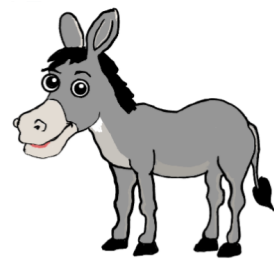
Read Next

Numbers 22:2-25:9

Focus Passage of Scripture

Numbers 22:5-35

Things even a donkey can see!



In our first focus passage of Scripture we learn that the elders of Moab and Midian arrived in Aram to hire the prophet Balaam for King Balak. They urged Balaam to come at Balak's request to curse the Children of Yisra'el so that he might defeat them and drive them out of the land. Balaam listened to the men and told them to stay there for the night and he would bring back the Word the LORD spoke to him about the matter. That night God spoke these words to Balaam.

"You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."

Numbers 22:12

Balaam told the men the LORD had not given him permission to go back to the land of Moab with them. However, he did not tell them God said he could not curse the people because they are blessed. Why? Perhaps Balaam lacked the understanding that not speaking this truth from God was actually supporting Balak's evil desire to curse God's chosen people. Maybe Balaam was afraid the men would oppose him if he showed support for the Yisra'elites. Perhaps he thought this half truth would please God enough to allow him to pursue the desires of his own sinful heart. Or perhaps he desired the diviner's fee and hoped to negotiate a greater price for his services. No matter the reason, Balaam obediently stayed at home but did not share the entire truth of God's Word with the men.

When the men returned to Moab without Balaam, King Balak sent messengers of higher status back to Aram to hire Balaam. This time they were to urge him not to let anything stop him from coming. King Balak authorized the men to give Balaam an offer he would not want to refuse. They were to tell Balaam that the king would honor him greatly if he would come to Moab and curse the Yisra'elites. This was a great temptation for Balaam. Do you think king Balak would have sent additional men to Balaam if he had been told the entire truth the first time? Maybe, but because Balaam did not tell him the entire truth of God's Word he shared in his guilt. Balaam told the men even if the king gave him his house full of silver and gold he could do only what the LORD allowed. He told the princes to stay the night so he would know what more the LORD would say.

God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do." (Numbers 22:20)

We have learned in previous studies that God never tempts anyone but He often tests His servants. The next morning Balaam arose, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. Do you think Balaam passed God's test? God had already said he could not curse the Children of Yisra'el because they were blessed so what could he gain by going if that was what the king had hired him to do? Perhaps the worldly offer from King Balak to honor him made him curious enough about his wages to tempt and oppose God.

Balaam's choice to go with the men was in opposition to God and God's anger was aroused because he went with them. The Angel of the LORD stood in the way of his path as he rode on his donkey traveling with the two men. Balaam's donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His sword drawn in His hand but Balaam could not see Him. Even though Balaam was a prophet his eyes were now spiritually closed because he had focused on the things of the world more than the Word of God.



Balaam's donkey turned aside to redirect her path from the danger ahead by going into a field instead. Balaam struck his donkey for not obeying him. Next, the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards with a wall on either side. Again the donkey saw the Angel with His sword drawn but Balaam's eyes were still spiritually closed. The donkey pressed herself against the wall to avoid the sword of the Angel and this pressed Balaam's foot against the wall as well. Even though Balaam suffered pain as a result of his sin, he did not repent. Instead he struck his donkey again for opposing him.



Finally, the Angel of the LORD went further and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. So the donkey lay down and refused to go any further. Balaam was very angry with his donkey and he began to strike her with his staff! Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey and she said these words to Balaam.

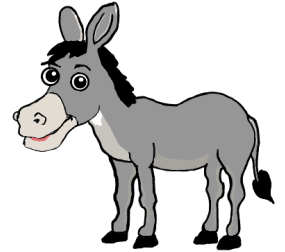
“What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”

Numbers 22:28

Balaam told his donkey he had beat her because she had abused him. He told her he wished he had a sword so he could kill her! As the donkey's master this is what Balaam thought the donkey deserved for doing what she wanted to do instead of what he told her to do. The donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?”

Numbers 22:30

Balaam truthfully answered her by responding “No.” The donkey had always submitted to her master and could discern which of his two masters was greater.



Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes and he saw the Angel of the LORD. Balaam bowed his head and fell flat on his face in humility before Him. The Angel explained to Balaam that He had come out to stand against him because of his deliberate desire to gratify his flesh rather than align himself with the Word of God. He told Balaam that his donkey could see Him and if she had not turned away these three times He would have killed him but would have allowed her to live. Even the donkey could see God and knew not to oppose Him! When we are motivated by the desires of our flesh, placing our focus on worldly fears or acknowledgment and riches we become spiritually blind and are unable to agree with the truth of God's Word. In this condition we can not serve God.

Balaam confessed he had acted sinfully. His sin had blinded him making him unaware God was standing against him for opposing Him. He told the Angel he would turn back since going displeased Him. Only when the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam was he able to understand that his willingness to go with those who wanted to curse Yisra'el would result in the loss of his life. It was then and only then that he was ready to fully agree with God.

Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but only the Word that I speak to you, that you shall speak.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak. (Numbers 22:35)

From Kiryat Huzoth at the high places of Baal

Numbers 22:40-23:12

The day after Balaam arrived in Moab, King Balak took him up to the high places of Baal (places for idol worship) so he could see the extent of the people camped in the plains of Moab. At this location Balaam instructed Balak to build seven altars and sacrifice a bull and a ram on each altar. He instructed Balak to stand with all the princes of Moab by his burnt offerings that were completely consumed by fire while he went to a desolate height to see if God would meet with him there.

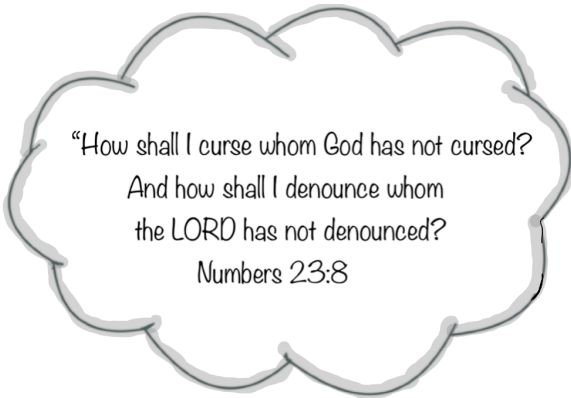
God met Balaam there and put His Word in his mouth to proclaim to Balak. Balaam proclaimed God's Word stating Balak the king of Moab had brought him from Aram to curse Ya'kov (Jacob) and denounce Yisrael for him. He proclaimed the impossibility for man to curse whom God has not cursed or denounce whom God has not denounced. Balaam



prophesied the Word of the LORD concerning the future of this blessed people group. He proclaimed that the descendants of Ya'kov, the Children of Yisra'el and all those joined with them would dwell in the entire land alone as one nation. He stated that they would not be counted for their great multitude. He proclaimed he desired to die with them as righteous because their future was blessed and determined by God.

King Balak was very unhappy with this proclamation. He had hired Balaam to curse Yisra'el but instead he had bountifully blessed them! Balaam reminded Balak that he must be careful to say only the Word the LORD put in his mouth to say.

By this first proclamation from the LORD concerning Yisra'el we can understand that God has blessed the people of Yisra'el and this can not be changed. We learn that God will never declare that His promises to Yisra'el were a mistake. We also learn that Yisra'el will solely inhabit the Land God promised them in great numbers and though many may die before these promises are fully realized they die with hope because God will make it happen.



From the field of Zophim to the top of Pisgah Numbers 23: 14-26

King Balak then took Balaam to the field of Zophim to the top of Pisgah in hopes that Balaam would be able to curse the Yisra'elites from there. He chose this location so that Balaam could only see the outskirts of the Yisra'elite encampment. God's Presence dwelt in a unique way from the Tabernacle of Meeting in the center of the encampment. Balak knew that on the outer part of the encampment, those that were furthest away from the Presence of God were less likely to be obedient to His commandments and less devoted to worship Him.

At this location King Balak built seven altars and sacrificed a bull and a ram on each altar. He stood with the princes of Moab by his burnt offerings while Balaam went to meet with

the LORD. The LORD met Balaam and again put His Word in his mouth to proclaim.

Balaam proclaimed God's Word stating God was not a man and He does not lie. He is not a son of man that needs to repent. What God says He will do and what He has spoken will happen. He has blessed this



people and has commanded all others bless them. This blessing and command can not be reversed. When His blessings are made complete He will not observe iniquity in Ya'Kov or wickedness in Yisra'el. The LORD is the God of Yisra'el and He is with Yisra'el. The shout of a King is among them. God brought Yisra'el out of Egypt by His strength for a purpose and has given them the strength they need. No sorcery nor divination against them will stop His purposes from being fulfilled. It will be said in Yisra'el that God has done what He promised to do for them. Yisra'el will be victorious over every enemy by the power of God. Yisra'el will rise like a lioness and dominate like a lion. Yisra'el will not quit until every enemy is devoured.

Once again King Balak was very unhappy with Balaam. Not only had he not cursed the people on the outskirts of the camp but he had blessed them despite their iniquities. Balak could not understand how he could bless these Yisra'elites at the outskirts of the camp even though he could not curse them. Balaam reminded the king again that all Words the LORD speaks he must repeat.

From this proclamation we learn that even when Yisra'el is not devoted to or obedient to God He will defend Yisra'el, accomplish His promises and bless Yisra'el for the sake of His Name. For this reason we are commanded to bless Yisra'el even when they have disobeyed God.

From the top of Peor overlooking the wasteland

Numbers 23:27-24:13

King Balak then took Balaam to the top of Peor overlooking the wasteland in hopes it would please God that Balaam might curse them from there. This time Balaam told Balak to build for him seven altars and prepare for him seven bulls and seven rams. Balak did what Balaam instructed him to do and offered a bull and ram on each altar.

Now, Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Yisra'el for the sake of His Name so he did not go as at the other times to use sorcery to hear from the LORD. This time he sat facing the wilderness in total dependence on God. Balaam saw Yisra'el encamped



according to their tribes and the Spirit of God came upon him. Balaam proclaimed the Word God put in his mouth as a man whose eyes had been opened by God, as one who hears the Words of God and sees the vision of the Almighty God while fully awake. As Balaam observed the Yisra'elites worshiping God Who dwelt among them in a unique way he proclaimed that the tents of Ya'kov and the dwellings of Yisra'el are lovely. Their proper arrangement and obedience to God are like valleys



that stretch out and gardens by the riverside. They are like aloes planted by the LORD. Yisra'el will be an abundance for life with seed in many waters filling the earth. The King of Yisra'el will be higher than Agag and Yisra'el's Kingdom will be exalted. God brought Yisra'el out of Egypt and gives them strength like a wild ox to consume the nations that make themselves His enemies. Yisra'el is like a lion that no one can disturb without consequences. Yisra'el is a bold lion who rests in God Who makes him dwell in safety. Whoever blesses Yisra'el agrees with God and will be blessed by Him. Whoever curses Yisra'el opposes God and will be cursed by Him.

Now King Balak was very unhappy and extremely angry with Balaam. He had called Balaam to curse Yisra'el but instead Balaam had bountifully blessed Yisra'el three times from three different locations. Balak told Balaam to flee to his home without receiving honor from him because the LORD had not allowed him to earn it.

Once again Balaam reminded King Balak that he told his messengers before he traveled with them to Moab that even if the king were to give him his house full of silver and gold, no matter what he personally wanted to do he could only speak the Word the LORD put in his mouth to speak.

From this proclamation we learn that when we speak the entire truth of God's Word concerning Yisra'el and seek to bless Yisra'el we are agreeing with God. When we agree with God He will open our eyes about His coming Kingdom and give us understanding and power through the Holy Spirit to overcome evil in the world. All who bless Yisra'el God will bless and all who curse Yisra'el will be cursed by God.

In the latter days

Numbers 24:14-25

Before Balaam returned to his people in Aram he advised King Balak of what the Yisra'elites will do to his people in the last days. He proclaimed once more the Word of God as a man who had not dreamt a dream while sleeping but experienced a vision from God while wide awake. He spoke as a man able to see, hear, know and understand clearly the Words of the Most High God. Balaam proclaimed future events and things God will accomplish through Yisra'el before He establishes His Kingdom on earth.

Balaam saw the Messiah but not now. He did surely see Him but not near. A star coming out of Ya'kov will be the sign of His appearance to the world. His Kingdom will rise out of Yisra'el to batter Moab and destroy all who make noise against His people in that generation. While Yisra'el courageously wages war Edom will be his possession. Out of Ya'kov the Messiah will have dominion and destroy the remains of the city (Botzrah).



Amalek was first among the nations to oppose Yisra'el and will be last until he perishes.

The Kenites, even though they are secure in Kain with their dwelling place set high in the rock, will be burned and Asshur will carry them away as captives.

God will defend Yisra'el and who can live when fighting against God? But despite God's fierce defense of Yisra'el ships will come from the coasts of Cyprus to afflict Asshur and Eber (the people of God) along with Amalek until he perishes.

When Balaam, the prophet, had completed saying all the Words of God he rose and departed returning to his place and Balak went his way as well.

From this final proclamation of God we learn that although Yisra'el will be surrounded by enemies in the last days they will be victorious by the power of the coming Messiah and King. This will be the second coming of the Messiah. His first appearance in the world was announced by a star out of Ya'kov. This was a future event to Balaam and Balak but it is history today. Do you know what will occur in the heavens when Messiah comes to earth the second time? Read Ezekial 32:7-8, Joel 3:15 and Matthew 24:29-31 to find the correct answer.



In the Acacia Grove

Numbers 25:1-9

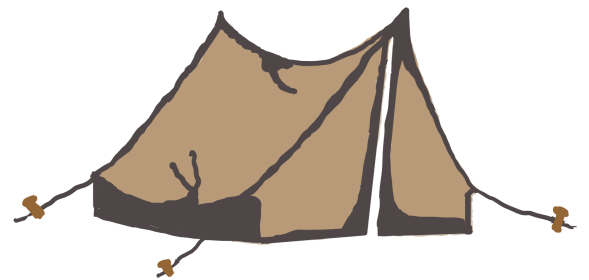
Yisra'el remained in the Acacia Grove and men began having ungodly relationships with the women of Moab. The Moabites invited the Yisra'elites to the sacrifices of their gods and the people ate and bowed down to them. In this way Yisra'el was joined to Baal of Peor (false gods) and the LORD'S anger was fierce against them.

The LORD commanded that all those among the redeemed who were committing this evil against Him must die. He commanded Moshe (Moses) to have all the leaders of the people hang the dead offenders before the LORD out in the sun so that the LORD's fierce anger might turn away from Yisra'el. He also commanded the judges of Yisra'el to judge rightly by killing all men who had committed physical and spiritual idolatry joining themselves with Baal of Peor.

During this time one of the men from Yisra'el brought a Midianite woman into the center of the encampment within the sight of those mourning the dead at the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting. As he entered his tent with her, Aharon's (Aaron) grandson, Phinehas, whose father was Eleazar saw them. Phinehas arose from among the congregation with his javelin in his hand and entered the tent. He thrust his weapon through both bodies of the man and the woman killing them.

When Phinehas, the grandson of the high priest, agreed with God and demonstrated the righteous judgment of God the plague of death was stopped among the Children of Yisra'el. The number of Yisra'elites who died that day due to idolatry was 24,000.

From this passage of Scripture we learn many truths. Although Yisra'el is blessed by God Yisra'el is also sinful and not above God's righteous judgment. Idolatry is a sin that leads to the curse of God which is eternal death. One who has been put to death by God is cursed and hung on a tree. (Deuteronomy 21:22-23) It is very dangerous and certainly displeasing to God to have close relationships with those who worship false gods. For this reason we should never be joined with them in marriage, close friendships or business. We also learn from this passage that it is very important for our leadership to have zero tolerance for idolatry or anything associated with it.



Torah Truth Test

Directions: Fill in the blank using the word bank below

1. God never _____ anyone.
2. God often _____ His servants.
3. No man can _____ whom God has blessed.
4. Our eyes are spiritually closed whenever we focus more on the things of this world than the _____ of God.
5. When we disagree with God's Word we become spiritually _____.
6. If we do not agree with the Word of God we can not _____ Him.
7. Those who are far away from God are most likely to _____ Him.
8. God does not _____.
9. What God _____ He will do.
10. What God has _____ will come to pass.
11. God will keep His Word regarding Yisra'el for the sake of His _____.
12. When we agree with God He gives us power from the _____ _____ to overcome evil in the world.
13. Yisra'el will be _____ over all his enemies in the last days.
14. When the people of Yisra'el sin they are not above God's righteous _____.

15. _____ is the sin that leads to death which is the curse from God.
16. One who is hung on a tree has been cursed by _____.
17. One should never be joined in _____, close friendships or business with someone who worships idols.
18. It is very important that we follow leadership that has no _____ for idolatry or anything associated with it.

Spoken	Tempts	Lie	Victorious
Serve	Idolatry	Says	Holy Spirit
Tolerance	Word	God	Disobey
Marriage	Blind	Name	Judgment
	Curse	Tests	

Haftarah

Micah 5:2-6:8



In this week's Haftarah the Children of Yisra'el had been living in the Land of Promise for approximately 670 years. Several kings had reigned and the nation of Yisra'el now existed with two kingdoms, a northern kingdom and a southern kingdom. Micah, a prophet of God lived in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and spoke the Word of God warning the people to repent of their sin, agree with God and serve Him.

The kingdoms of Yisra'el had once again become sexually immoral and had joined themselves with idols. We must remember the Torah truths we have learned. Yisra'el is blessed by God and is purposed by Him to be a blessing to the world. No man can curse Yisra'el or erase God's purposes for Yisra'el. However, Yisra'el is not above God's judgment and curse of death for sin.

In Micah 5:2-5 the prophet speaks to the people of Yisra'el during a time of rebellion and disorder. He relays more information about the first and second appearances of the Messiah. He speaks of Bethlehem which is a city in Judea. At the time of this prophecy Bethlehem was seen as a place of provision for international travelers. The name Bethlehem actually means The House of Bread. Roughly two thousand years after Micah's prophecy Bethlehem lost its significance even though it was the birthplace of King David. It remains a place of little significance today. The city of Bethlehem's lack of status in the world was prophesied by Micah.

Micah prophesied that even though Bethlehem would become insignificant among the thousands of cities in Judah, out of it would come One from God. This One is the Messiah. He is of God and goes forth from God. He will be the Ruler of Yisra'el. His origin existed before the days of creation because He has the same origins of God Who was not created and has always existed.

This Messianic promise of God is going to be fulfilled even though it will not happen in the days of Micah. The Yisra'elites must first endure very difficult times allowed by God due to their sinful idolatrous hearts. Their sin will continue until Yisra'el is regenerated by God for a kingdom change to fulfill His purposes. The Messiah was first revealed to the world in Bethlehem. Those who have faith in Messiah's work of redemption at His first coming are the remnant that will be joined to Yisra'el to receive the Kingdom inheritance.

King Messiah Who was born in Bethlehem, will again stand or manifest Himself to rule as a Shepard in the Name and character of the LORD His God. His Kingdom will be great as He will rule the entire world. He will be Shalom or the fulfillment of God's will. Those who stand against Him will come into the land of Yisra'el with intent to destroy Him but they will not succeed. He will establish holiness and the Kingdom of God on earth.



In Micah 5:6-7 we learn that the rule of Messiah will be established over the world by war. At the time of Messiah's second coming He will rescue all those in exile and bondage to the enemy. The remnant of Ya'kov who are obedient to God in many nations will be an abundant blessing to the world. This can only be accomplished by God and is not dependent on man. All those who respond faithfully to what God will accomplish through His people, Yisra'el, will receive life and blessing from God. All those who do not respond faithfully to what God will accomplish through Yisra'el will receive the curse of God which is eternal death and condemnation.

In Micah 5:8-9 we learn that Yisra'el will trample upon those who do not respond faithfully to what God is doing like a fierce lion that devours a domesticated animal who can not be delivered. Yisra'el will cut off all the enemies of God by His Authority and Power. There will be no eternal covenant for the enemies of God.

In Micah 5: 10-15 we learn that on this day of judgment God will also judge Yisra'el for relying on their own strength instead of trusting completely in Him for their deliverance. He will cut off the power of Yisra'el's force and wealth. He will destroy their trust in man along with all sorcerers and idolaters. No longer will Yisra'el worship the work of their hand (idols). God will uproot monuments of idolatry and destroy their cities in Yisra'el. God will execute His wrath upon Yisra'el to cleanse it of all iniquity. He will then execute His wrath upon all the nations who would not respond to Him by repenting and believing upon the Messiah Who was born in Bethlehem. God will establish His Kingdom on earth after He has poured out His fierce wrath and judgment on sin.

In Micah 6:1-2 God continues to speak through the prophet Micah to state that now is the time of opportunity for the world to listen and hear the entire truth of God's Word. God reveals He is displeased with the leaders of Yisra'el. He is displeased with the very foundations of the earth. The LORD states He has a complaint against His chosen people and He will argue with them.

In Micah 6:3 God addresses Yisra'el asking what He has done to them that they should live in disobedience to Him? What has He done that has been improper or demonstrated His unfaithfulness to His obligations? God is faithful and true. What God says, He will do and what God has spoken, will come to pass.



In Micah 6:4-5 God reminded them how He alone brought them up from the land of Egypt. He redeemed them by the blood of a lamb. He sent Moshe, Aharon and Miriam to lead them to freedom so they could worship and serve Him as His people.

God reminded them that after King Balak observed them worshiping Him He wanted to stop it. He wanted to end the promises of God for the world through Yisra'el. King Balak sent for the prophet Balaam to curse them so that he might drive them out of the Land of Promise. Although no man can curse whom God has blessed Balaam taught King Balak how to turn the people away from God through idolatry. As a result the Yisra'elites participated in sexual immorality and worshiped idols in the Acacia Grove. Because of their grave sin against God they suffered the judgment of God resulting in the death of 24,000 by the hand of God. Following God's righteous judgment displayed by His fierce wrath He was still faithful to His covenant promises to the redeemed Children of Yisra'el. He continued to dwell with them in a unique way and He delivered them safely into the Land of Promise.

In Micah 6:6-7 we learn that Micah understood the Word God had spoken and asked what God would have them to do. Would it please Him if they came before Him with burnt offerings of calves a year old? Would He be pleased with thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil? Should they sacrifice their firstborn child to Him for their sin and transgression?

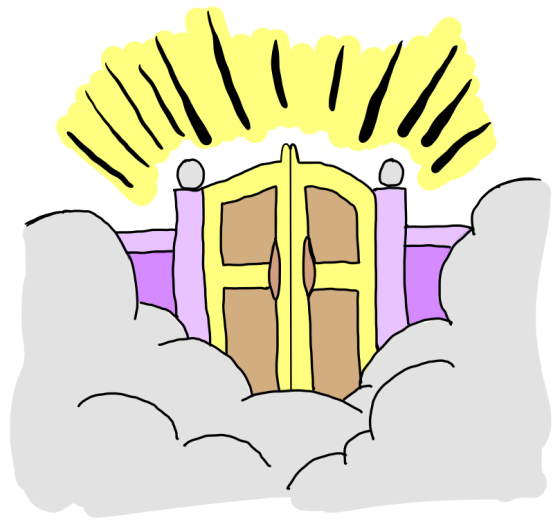
In Micah 6:8 we learn of God's requirement of His redeemed people in response to what He has done. God strongly desires that His people live a lifestyle executing justice, living as one who loves to extend grace to others while walking humbly with Him.

The Yisra'elites had been treated unjustly in Egypt. They were in exile in Egypt as a result of their sin but no one extended grace to them. Instead they were held captive in the cruel bondage of slavery. In this situation they could not worship God or walk with Him. They could no longer rest in Him on the seventh day! God redeemed them from all this disorder and blessed them by the power of His outstretched hand. Because He blessed them in this way He required that they live a lifestyle to reflect what He had done for them. When the redeemed Children of God conduct their lives in a way that demonstrates God's blessings to them they are a blessing to others.

When the fullness of the Gentiles comes in God is going to move quickly and rapidly to fulfill His covenant responsibilities to Yisra'el as He has promised to do. This will bring about the Kingdom of God on earth. When God brings a change to Yisra'el it will change how the world thinks and it will bring about a new creation.

New Testament

1 Corinthians 1:1-31



In this week's New Testament Scripture the Apostle Paul is speaking to the people of Corinth who have believed in Messiah Yeshua for the work of their redemption. Messiah Yeshua willingly received God's righteous judgment for sin enduring the curse of death and condemnation as He hung on the tree even though He was without sin. God the Father was pleased to pour out His fierce wrath on His One and Only Son, Yeshua, so that all who trust in Him for salvation may inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

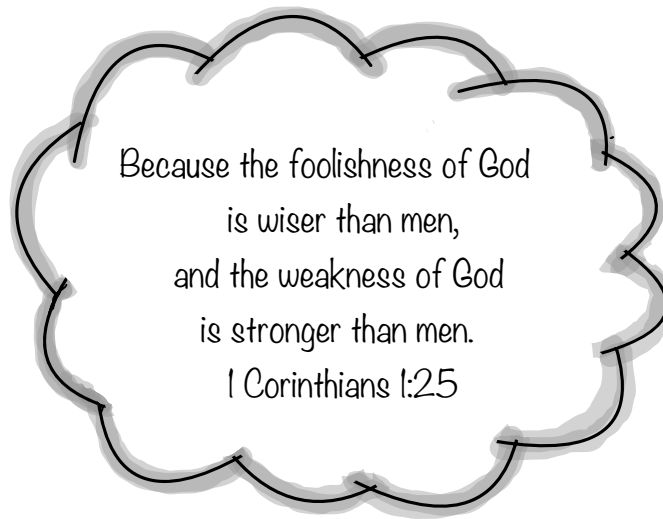
God the Father and God the Son love to extend grace to others! Grace means being spared the consequences of a one's sin. Every person deserves to die because of sin but by the grace of God we can live when we make Messiah Yeshua our LORD and God by trusting in Him. We can be sure Yeshua's work of redemption was complete and accepted by Father God for the remission of sin because Father God raised Him back to life again. This means that if we trust in Yeshua for our salvation we can know that even though our bodies may die we have a Kingdom hope of being raised anew to dwell with our LORD and God Yeshua forever.

All those who have made Messiah Yeshua their LORD and God eagerly await the day of their blessed hope. This day will come when Messiah Yeshua returns from heaven to gather His Kingdom people to Himself prior to God pouring out His wrath on the earth and Messiah's Kingdom being established in the world by war. This event is often referred to as the rapture and it will enable believers to escape God's fierce wrath poured out as His judgment of sin. Because the believer is covered by the precious blood of Yeshua he will be seen as blameless and will not perish by God's judgment.

All believers should be of one accord and one understanding fitting together perfectly in Yeshua. When this is accomplished believers become the body of Messiah.

The message of the cross and Messiah's suffering to save us seems like foolishness to those who are perishing. But the moment one believes in the Name of Yeshua and His sacrifice for the payment of their sin that one is fully saved forever. The outcome of their salvation is the work of God. The Power of the Holy Spirit within the believer teaches him to have increasing victory over sin in his life until the day complete victory is fully realized in the Kingdom of God. This is known as sanctification (being set apart for God's purposes).

The wisdom of God was present at the creation of the world but man utilized his own wisdom and did not know God. In this way God made the wisdom of man foolish. It now pleases God "through the foolishness of preaching" to call those who will be saved by the death, burial and resurrection of His One and Only Son, Yeshua.



The Word of God spoken through His prophets and recorded in Scripture teaches about the sign requested by the Jews of Messiah's first revealing and His second coming. The books of wisdom in Scripture provide the knowledge that the Greeks seek. The full counsel of Scripture reveals Messiah Yeshua to be the Son of God crucified, buried and raised back to life as the only way into God's presence and eternal life in His Kingdom.

This truth revealed in Scripture seems scandalous to the Jews and to the Greeks it seems foolish but to all those who have been called by God from the Jews and the Greeks it is understanding of their need for redemption because of sin. Everyone called by God comes into His presence only by one way. That way is through Messiah Yeshua Who is the Power and Wisdom of God.

The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men so whatever God says men should do to be saved, men should do it! God does not call many to salvation from the wise according to the flesh, nor many from the powerful or noble in status. Rather it is the foolish things that God uses to shame those who trust in their own understanding. He chooses the weak things in the world to shame the strong and the base things to shame the noble.

God is moving to bring the things of the world to an end for the revelation of His Kingdom. All things must come to an end so that no one can boast. If anyone finds himself in Messiah Yeshua it is from God not of themselves lest any man boast. When one is in Messiah Yeshua he receives wisdom from God. He has been made wise and righteousness in God's sight. He is being sanctified to receive the outcome of his redemption for eternity in the God's Kingdom.

Everything required to enter into God's rest comes from Him so just as it has been written if anyone boasts let him boast in the LORD.

Recap Review Fun

(Match the following words and phrases with the correct word and phrase)

Blessed Hope

Death and Eternal Condemnation

Bethlehem

Being spared the consequences of one's sin

Star

Birthplace of the Messiah

House of Bread

Process of being set apart for the purposes of God

Grace

Sign in Bethlehem of Messiah's first appearing

Birthplace of King David

The Rapture

Sanctification

Bethlehem

Eternal King of Yisra'el

Messiah Yeshua

God's Righteous Judgment of sin

Bethlehem

The Rapture

Being taken away to escape the Wrath of God

Answers: Blessed Hope/The Rapture; Bethlehem; Birthplace of Messiah; Star/Sign in Bethlehem of Messiah's first appearing; House of Bread/Bethlehem; Grace/Being spared the consequences of one's sin; Birthplace of King David/Bethlehem; Sanctification/Process of being set apart for the purposes of God; Eternal King of Yisra'el/Messiah Yeshua; God's Righteous Judgment of sin/Death and eternal condemnation; The Rapture/Being taken away to escape the Wrath of God