

Haftorah: Micah 5:5-6

Torah Portion:

Israel in the Plains of Moab (22:1–36:13)

A. Balak, Balaam, and Israel (22:1–24:25)

1. Balak summons Balaam (22:1–6)

2. Balaam turns down Balak’s first invitation (22:7–14)

3. Balaam accepts Balak’s second invitation (22:15–21)

4. The donkey and the angel (22:22–35)

5. Balak greets Balaam (22:36–40)

6. Balaam blesses Israel three times (22:41–24:14)

a. The first blessing (22:41–23:12)

b. The second blessing (23:13–30)

c. The third blessing (24:1–14)

7. Balaam’s final oracle (24:15–19)

8. Three cryptic predictions (24:20–25)

B. Apostasy at Peor (25:1–18)

Introduction to this Torah Portion

ESV Study Bible - Balak Summons Balaam. Though Israel had not attacked **Moab**, but skirted their territory, the Moabite king **Balak** was so scared by their defeat of Sihon and Og that he summoned a man with an international reputation for blessing and cursing to defeat Israel by cursing them (v. 6). **Pethor** is in northern Syria **near the River** Euphrates, which is some 400 miles (644 km) by road north of Moab. **Amaw** is in the same area and is probably mentioned in nonbiblical texts. An eighth-century B.C. inscription found at the site of Deir Alla in Jordan begins with, “Inscription of **Balaam the son of Beor** [v. 5], the man who was a seer of the gods.” This is certainly the same person spoken of in Numbers.¹

22:1–24:25 Balak, Balaam, and Israel. This witty and amusing tale makes a serious point, namely, that the one true God is on Israel’s side and therefore no human power can prevail against them (23:21–23). Even a pagan seer like Balaam can see this. Because Balaam is said to speak God’s word (23:5; 24:2) and sounds pious (22:18, 38; 23:12), it is easy to suppose that the narrator views Balaam as a saint. But it seems more likely that the narrator’s remarks about fees indicate that Balaam was indirectly asking for more, and that he was out to obtain as much as he could for his services (22:7, 18; see also 31:16; Deut. 23:4–5). Balaam’s request to the second group of messengers to **stay here tonight** (Num. 22:19) was probably another expression of hoping for more; this account certainly presents Balaam as one “who loved gain from wrongdoing” (cf. 2 Pet. 2:15). It may seem surprising that God can use such a corrupt character to deliver his word, but he can even make a donkey speak (Num. 22:28–30)!

22:1–6 *Balak Summons Balaam.* Though Israel had not attacked **Moab**, but skirted their territory, the Moabite king **Balak** was so scared by their defeat of Sihon and Og that he summoned a man with an international reputation for blessing and cursing to defeat Israel by cursing them (v. 6). **Pethor** is in northern Syria **near the River** Euphrates, which is some 400 miles (644 km) by road north of Moab. **Amaw** is in the same area and is probably mentioned in nonbiblical texts. An eighth-century B.C. inscription found at the site of Deir Alla in Jordan begins with, “Inscription of **Balaam the son of Beor** [v. 5], the man who was a seer of the gods.” This is certainly the same person spoken of in Numbers.

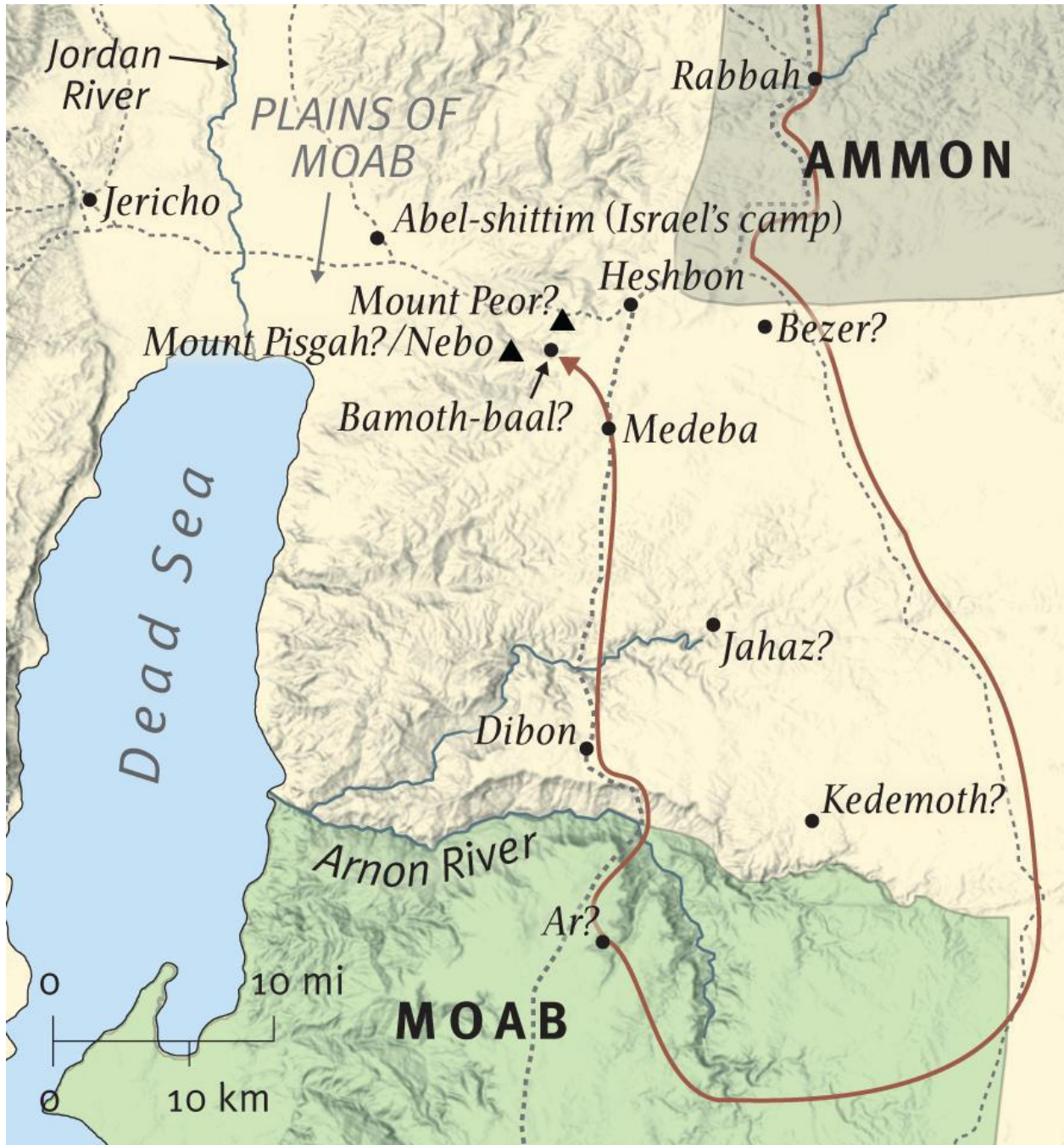
In a Nutshell

Balak, the king of Moab, summons the prophet **Balaam** to curse the people of Israel. On the way, Balaam is **berated by his donkey**, who sees, before Balaam does, the angel that G-d sends to block their way. Three times, from **three different vantage points**, Balaam attempts to pronounce his curses; each time, **blessings** issue forth instead. Balaam also prophesies on the **end of the days** and the coming of **Moshiach**.

The people fall prey to the charms of the daughters of Moab, and are enticed to worship the idol **Peor**. When a high-ranking Israelite official publicly takes a Midianite princess into a tent, **Pinchas** kills them both, stopping the plague raging among the people.

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¹ Crossway Bibles. (2008). *The ESV Study Bible* (300). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.



Related and Key Words in Balak

	ק	ל	ב
letter:	koof	lahmed	bet
sound:	K	Lah	Bah

Balak (destroyer) = **BALAK** = בלק

Related Words

Balak, king of Moab ("destroyer," "devastator")	<i>Balak</i>	בַּלַּק
to destroy, lay waste	<i>balak</i>	בַּלַּק
to destroy	<i>billek</i>	בַּלַּק
to be destroyed	<i>boollak</i>	בַּלַּק
to teach someone a 'lesson'	<i>l'lamed et ploni</i>	לְלַמֵּד אֶת פְּלוֹנִי
(teach so-and-so a 'Balak')	<i>'Balak'</i>	'בַּלַּק'

Key Words:

Moab was afraid H1481

גוּר

gûr

BDB Definition:

1) to sojourn, abide, dwell in, dwell with, remain, inhabit, be a stranger, be continuing, surely

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to sojourn, dwell for a time

1a2) to abide, stay, temporarily dwell

1b) (Hithpolel)

1b1) to seek hospitality with

1b2) to assemble oneself

2) to stir up trouble, strife, quarrel, gather together

2a) (Qal)

2a1) to stir up strife

2a2) to quarrel

2b) (Hithpolel) to excite oneself

3) to dread, fear, stand in awe, be afraid

3a) (Qal)

3a1) to fear, be afraid

3a2) to be in awe, stand in awe

Part of Speech: verb

A Related Word by BDB/Strong's Number: a primitive root

Same Word by TWOT Number: 330, 332

H3966

מְאֹד

me'ôd

BDB Definition:

1) exceedingly, much (adverb)

2) might, force, abundance (substantive)

3) muchness, force, abundance, exceedingly (noun masculine)

3a) force, might

3b) exceedingly, greatly, very (idioms showing magnitude or degree)

3b1) exceedingly

3b2) up to abundance, to a great degree, exceedingly

3b3) with muchness, muchness

Part of Speech: see above in Definition

A Related Word by BDB/Strong's Number: from the same as H181

Moab was distressed H6973

קוץ

qûts

BDB Definition:

1) to be grieved, loathe, abhor, feel a loathing or abhorrence or sickening dread

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to feel a loathing at, abhor

1a2) to feel a sickening dread

1b) (Hiphil)

1b1) to cause sickening dread

1b2) to cause loathing

Part of Speech: verb

A Related Word by BDB/Strong's Number: a primitive root [identical with [H6972](#) through the idea of severing oneself from (compare [H6962](#))]

Same Word by TWOT Number: 2002

Balaam H1109

בלעם

bil'âm

BDB Definition:

Balaam = “not of the people”

1) the son of Beor, a man endowed with the gift of prophecy (noun proper masculine)

2) a town in Manasseh (noun proper locative)

Part of Speech: see above in Definition

A Related Word by BDB/Strong's Number: probably from [H1077](#) and [H5971](#)

Same Word by TWOT Number: 251b

Balak Hires Balaam to Curse Israel

Num 22:4 Moab said to the elders of Midian, “The multitude will lick up everything around us like the ox licks up the grass of the field.” Now Balak son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time.

Num 22:5 He sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor, at Pethor near the River in his native land, saying to him, “Look now, a people has come out of Egypt. See now, they cover the surface of the earth and are settling beside me.

Num 22:6 Come now, curse this people for me, because they are too strong for me! Perhaps I may be able to defeat them and drive them away from the country. I know that whoever you bless will be blessed and whoever you curse will be accursed!”

The Donkey Speaks

Num 22:21 So Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the Moabite princes.

Num 22:22 But the anger of God burned because he was going. The angel of Adonai stood in the road to oppose him—he was riding on his donkey and two of his servants were with him—

Num 22:23 when the donkey saw the angel of Adonai standing in the road with his drawn sword in his hand, the donkey turned off the road and went into the field. So Balaam beat the donkey to get her back onto the road.

Num 22:24 Then the angel of Adonai stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side.

Num 22:25 When the donkey saw the angel of Adonai, she pressed against the wall, crushing Balaam’s foot against the wall. So Balaam continued beating her.

Num 22:26 The angel again moved. He stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, right or left.

Num 22:27 When the donkey saw the angel of Adonai, she lay down under Balaam. Balaam was very angry and beat the donkey with his staff.

Num 22:28 Then Adonai opened the donkey’s mouth and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?”

Num 22:29 Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you’ve made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you now!”

Num 22:30 The donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your donkey which you have ridden as always to this day? Have I ever been in the habit of doing this to you?” “No,” he said.

Num 22:31 Then Adonai opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of Adonai standing in the road with his drawn sword in his hand. So he fell on his face.

Num 22:32 The angel of Adonai said to him, “Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? Behold, I came as an adversary because your way before Me is a reckless one!

Num 22:33 The donkey saw Me and turned away from Me these three times. If she had not turned away from Me, by now I would have killed you indeed, but let her live!”

The Enemy Cannot Curse What God Has Blessed

First Blessing

Num 23:6 Balaam went back to him. Behold, he was standing beside his offering with all the princes of Moab.

Num 23:7 Then he uttered his oracle and said, “From Aram, Balak brought me, Moab’s king from the mountains of the east: ‘Come! Curse Jacob for me! ‘Come! Denounce Israel!’

Num 23:8 How can I curse one whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce one whom Adonai has not denounced?

Num 23:9 From the rocky peaks I see him. From the heights I behold him. Look, he lives as a nation apart, and does not consider himself as being like the other nations.

Num 23:10 Who can count Jacob's dust? Who can number a fourth of Israel? **Let my soul die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!"**

Num 23:11 Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but look, you've actually blessed them!"

Balaam cannot help but see Adonai's blessings upon his people. He is so in awe that he prays that his death would be that of the upright and his end like theirs.

Second Blessing

Num 23:16 Adonai met Balaam there and put a message into his mouth, and said, "Return to Balak and speak thus."

Num 23:17 So he went to him, and behold, he and the princes of Moab were standing beside his offering. Balak asked him, "What did Adonai say?"

Num 23:18 So he uttered his oracle and said: "Rise, Balak! Hear me, son of Zippor!

Num 23:19 God is not a man who lies, or a son of man who changes his mind! Does He speak and then not do it, or promise and not fulfill it?

Num 23:20 Look, I received a command to bless. He has blessed—I cannot change it!

Num 23:21 No misfortune is to be seen in Jacob, and no misery in Israel! Adonai their God is with them—the King's shout is among them!

Num 23:22 God is bringing them from Egypt with the strong horns of the wild ox!

Num 23:23 There is no sorcery effective against Jacob, nor any divination against Israel! Now it will be said of Jacob and Israel, 'See what God has done!'

Num 23:24 The people rise like a lioness, like a lion who does not rest until he eats his prey and drinks his victim's blood!"

If God be for us who can be against us!

Third Blessing

Num 24:1 When Balaam realized that it was pleasing in the eyes of Adonai to bless Israel, he did not resort to sorceries as at the other times, but turned his face toward the wilderness.

Num 24:2 Lifting up his eyes, Balaam saw Israel dwelling by tribes. The Ruach Elohim came over him.

Num 24:3 He uttered his oracle and said: "This is the oracle of Balaam son of Beor, and the oracle of a strong man whose eye has been opened,

Num 24:4 the oracle of one hearing God's speech, one seeing Shaddai's vision, one fallen down, yet with open eyes:

Num 24:5 How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, and your dwellings, O Israel!

Num 24:6 Like valleys they are spread out, like gardens beside a river, like aloes planted by Adonai, like cedars beside the waters.

Num 24:7 Water will flow from his buckets, his seed by abundant water. His king will be greater than Agag, his kingdom will be exalted.

Num 24:8 God is bringing him out of Egypt. like the strong horns of a wild ox. He devours nations hostile to him. He will crush their bones. His arrows will pierce them.

Num 24:9 He crouches like a lion or a lioness—who would rouse him? **He who blesses you will be blessed, and he who curses you will be cursed."**

No matter how much the enemy wants to curse Israel and His people, his curses cannot prevail in our lives.

The Fourth Blessing

Num 24:15 Then he uttered his oracle: The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the strong man whose eye is opened,
Num 24:16 the oracle of one hearing God's speech, one experiencing Elyon's knowledge, one seeing Shaddai's vision, one fallen down, yet with open eyes:

Num 24:17 'I see him, yet not at this moment. I behold him, yet not in this location. For a star will come from Jacob, a scepter will arise from Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab and the skulls of all the sons of Seth.

Num 24:18 Edom will be conquered—his enemies will conquer Seir, but Israel will triumph.

Num 24:19 One from Jacob will rule and destroy the city's survivors.”

Num 24:20 Then he saw Amalek, so he uttered his oracle and said: “Amalek was the first of nations, but will come to ruin at last.”

Num 24:21 Then he saw the Kenite, so he uttered his oracle and said, “Your dwelling is secure. Your nest is set in the rock.

Num 24:22 Yet Kain will be destroyed, when Asshur captures you.”

Num 24:23 Again he uttered his oracle and said, “O, who can live when God does this?

Num 24:24 Ships will come from Kittim's shore. They will afflict Asshur and Eber, but they too will come to destruction.”

Num 24:25 Then Balaam got up and went and returned to his own place, and Balak went on his way.

Messiah will arise out of Jacob

Also interesting note, Ruth is a Moabites' (from Moab) but because she repented and took hold of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob she became the grandmother of King David and is listed in Yeshua's genealogy!

Mat 1:5 Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, **Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth**, Obed fathered Jesse,

Mat 1:6 and Jesse fathered **David the king**. David fathered Solomon by the wife of Uriah,

Here in Numbers 24:17 we see a Prophecy regarding Messiah Yeshua

#1. (Balaam) shall see Him, but not now (v17) Balaam and all other men will see Him,

Php 2:9 For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name,

Php 2:10 that at the name of Yeshua every knee should bow, in heaven and on the earth and under the earth,

Php 2:11 and every tongue profess that Yeshua the Messiah is Lord—to the glory of God the Father.

Even all rebels in hell will be tormented forever in His presence

Rev 14:9-11

Rev 14:9 And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying in a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Rev 14:10 he shall also drink the wine of God's fury, poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone before the holy angels and before the Lamb.

Rev 14:11 The smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever. Those who worship the beast and its image and those who receive the mark of his name have no rest day or night.”

Isaiah 66:22-24

Isa 66:22 “For just as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, will endure before Me”—it is a declaration of Adonai—“so your descendants and your name will endure.”

Isa 66:23 “And it will come to pass, that from one New Moon to another, and from one Shabbat to another, all flesh will come to bow down before Me,” says Adonai.

Isa 66:24 “As they leave, they will look on the corpses of the people who rebelled against Me. For their worm will not die, and their fire will not be quenched, and they will be a horror to all flesh.”

The literal meaning (according to Dakes) is “I shall have a full view of Him, but the time is far distant” that is, the person I am prophesying about does not now exist among these Israelites, nor shall He appear in this generation”

#2. He shall rise as a Star out of Jacob (vs 17) The word star has been a symbol of regal power among all nations, being often used to herald the rise of, and future glory of a monarch. I.E. The Star of David

#3. A Sceptre shall rise out of Israel (vs 17), This same thing was predicted by the prophet Jacob

H3556

כוכב

kôkâb

BDB Definition:

1) star

1a) of Messiah, brothers, youth, numerous progeny, personification, God’s omniscience (figuratively)

H7626

שבט

shêbet

BDB Definition:

1) rod, staff, branch, offshoot, club, sceptre, tribe

1a) rod, staff

Genesis 49:10

Gen 49:10 The scepter will not pass from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs will come. To him will be the obedience of the peoples.

Psalms 45:5-7

Psa 45:4 Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and your majesty.

Psa 45:5 In your majesty ride victoriously, on behalf of truth, meekness and justice. Let your right hand display awesome things.

Psa 45:6 Your arrows are sharp. Peoples fall beneath you—into the heart of the king’s enemies.

Psa 45:7 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and a scepter of justice is the scepter of Your kingdom.

Hebrews 1:8-9

Heb 1:8 But regarding the Son He says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and a scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.

Heb 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your companions.”

It expresses the ruling power of the Messiah who was to come

Isaiah 9:6

Isa 9:6 Of the increase of His government and shalom there will be no end—on the throne of David and over His kingdom—to establish it and uphold it through justice and righteousness from now until forevermore. The zeal of Adonai-Tzva’ot will accomplish this.

Daniel 7:13-14

Dan 7:13 “I was watching in the night visions. Behold, One like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days, and was brought into His presence.

Dan 7:14 Dominion, glory and sovereignty were given to Him that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will never pass away, and His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Luke 1:32-33

Luk 1:32 He will be great and will be called Ben-Elyon. Adonai Elohim will give Him the throne of David, His father.

Luk 1:33 He shall reign over the house of Jacob for all eternity, and His kingdom will be without end.

Revelation 11:15

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel trumpeted, and there were loud voices in heaven saying, “The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Anointed One. And He shall reign forever and ever!”

#4. He shall smite the corners (extremity or uttermost parts) of Moab

Psalm 60:8

Psa 60:9 Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine, Ephraim is a helmet for my head, Judah is my scepter.

Psa 60:10 Moab is my washbasin, On Edom I toss my sandal, Philistia, cry aloud because of me!”

Isaiah 11:14; 16:1-5; 25:10

Isa 11:14 They will swoop down on the Philistine slope to the west. Together they will plunder the children of the east—laying their hand on Edom and Moab, the children of Ammon obeying them.

Isa 16:1 Send lambs to the ruler of the land from Sela in the desert to the mountain of the Daughter of Zion.

Isa 16:2 For like fluttering birds, scattered from a nest, so will the daughters of Moab be at the fords of Arnon.

Isa 16:3 ‘Give counsel, execute justice. Cast your shadow like night at noonday. Hide the refugees, do not betray the fugitive.

Isa 16:4 Let My refugees stay with you. Be for Moab a hiding place from the face of the destroyer. For the extortion is at an end, devastation ceases, oppressors are gone from the land.

Isa 16:5 A throne will be established in mercy, and One will sit on it in truth—in the tent of David—One who seeks justice and is ready for righteousness.

Isa 25:10 For the hand of Adonai will rest on this mountain. Moab will be trampled under Him, as straw is trampled in a manure pile.

Daniel 11:40-41

Dan 11:41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many will be overthrown, but these will escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the chief of the sons of Ammon

Moab: Central Jordan

As for Moab, present day central Jordan, it, too, will suffer destruction (Jer. 48:1–46), but it will not be total. Those who survive will come to repentance and a remnant of Moab will return, according to Jeremiah 48:47: *Yet will I bring back the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith Jehovah. Thus far is the judgment of Moab.*

Peace will come between Israel and central Jordan by means of a partial destruction that will lead to the national salvation of Moab. Thus, there will be a saved nation called Moab in the Messianic Kingdom.²

#5 He shall destroy the children of Sheth – Messiah will reign until all enemies are put under His feet- those of the human race and otherwise

SHETH—tumult. (1.) “The children of Sheth” (Num. 24:17); R.V., “the sons of tumult,” which is probably the correct rendering, as there is no evidence that this is a proper name here.

(2.) The antediluvian patriarch (1 Chr. 1:1).³

SHETH (Shēth) Personal and tribal name of uncertain meaning. Moabite clan whose destruction Balaam prophesied (Num. 24:17). The Hebrew spelling is the same as Seth (Gen. 4:25). Egyptian and Babylonian texts point to a people called Sutu, semi nomads in the Syrian and Arabian Deserts. Rather than a proper name, some commentators think the translation should be “sons of tumult.”⁴

Could this be referring to Islam and ISIS?

1 Cor. 15:24-28

² Fruchtenbaum, A. G. (1983). *Vol. 8: The Messianic Bible Study Collection* (14–15). Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries.

³ Easton, M. G. (1893). *Easton’s Bible dictionary*. New York: Harper & Brothers.

⁴ Sheth. (2003). In C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E. R. Clendenen & T. C. Butler (Eds.), *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. 2003 (C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E. R. Clendenen & T. C. Butler, Ed.) (1485). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

1Co 15:24 then the end, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all rule and all authority and power.

1Co 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

1Co 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1Co 15:27 For God has “put all things in subjection underneath His feet.” But when the psalmist says that “all” has been put in subjection, it is clear that this does not include God Himself, who put all things under Messiah.

1Co 15:28 Now when all things become subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also become subject to the One who put all things under Him, so that God may be all in all.

#6. He shall possess Edom

35:5–9. Ezekiel’s second section followed the “because/therefore” format (used in 25:1–17) in explaining why Edom would be judged. Edom’s sin was her enmity against Israel. She had **harbored an ancient hostility and delivered the Israelites over to the sword** (cf. Obad. 10, 14). Edom hoped to profit from Israel’s loss, and she abetted Israel’s collapse.

Because Edom had assisted in Israel’s slaughter, God would assist in her slaughter. Four times (in Heb.) in Ezekiel 35:6 God referred to **bloodshed** (*dām*, lit., “blood”). This may be a wordplay on Edom’s name (*’ēdōm*; from *’ādaōm*, “to be red”). Edom, with its red mountains, was now red with blood. **Since you did not hate bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you.** Edom would suffer the same fate she had tried to inflict on Israel (see comments on Obad.). Many people would be **slain** and her **towns** would become **desolate**, no longer **inhabited**.⁵ Edom became an object lesson for all nations. When God restores Israel’s fortunes in the future, He will judge the world’s other nations based on their treatment of Israel (cf. Matt. 25:31–46). They will be measured by their actions toward Israel.

Amos 9:12

Amo 9:12 —so they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations called by My Name.” It is a declaration of Adonai, the One who will do this.

Obadiah 11-21

Oba 1:11 On the day that you stood aloof—on the day that strangers carried away his wealth, while foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem—you were just like one of them.

Oba 1:12 You should not look down on your brother on the day of his disaster, nor should you rejoice over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction. You should not speak proudly in the day of their distress.

Oba 1:13 Do not enter the gate of My people in the day of their disaster. Yes, you. Do not gloat over their misery in the day of their disaster. Yes, you—do not loot their wealth in the day of their calamity.

Oba 1:14 Do not stand at the crossroad to cut down his fugitives, and do not imprison his survivors in the day of distress.

Oba 1:15 “For the day of Adonai is near against all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you. Your dealing will return on your own head.

Oba 1:16 For just as you have drunk on My holy mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually. Yes, they will drink and gulp down, and then be as though they had never existed.

Oba 1:17 But on Mount Zion there will be deliverance, and it will be holy. Then house of Jacob will dispossess those who dispossessed them.

⁵ Dyer, C. H. (1985). Ezekiel. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, Ed.) (Eze 35:5–9). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Oba 1:18 The house of Jacob will be a fire, and the house of Joseph flame, while the house of Esau will be straw—they will set them on fire and consume them. So there will be no survivors of the house of Esau.”—for Adonai has spoken.

Oba 1:19 Then those of the Negev will possess the hill country of Esau, and those of the foothills the Philistines. Then they will possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, while Benjamin will possess Gilead.

Oba 1:20 The exiles of this army of Bnei-Yisrael will possess what belonged to the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, while the exiles of Jerusalem, who are in Sepharad, will possess the cities of the Negev.

Oba 1:21 The victorious will go up on Mount Zion to judge the hill country of Esau. Then the kingdom shall be Adonai’s.

Edom, Seir and Esau refer to the same country, ie. Edomites

#7. He will cause Israel to do Valiantly

Isaiah 11:14

Isa 11:14 They will swoop down on the Philistine slope to the west. Together they will plunder the children of the east—laying their hand on Edom and Moab, the children of Ammon obeying them.

Zech 12:5-9; 14:12-17

Zec 12:5 Then the leaders of Judah will say in their heart, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength through Adonai-Tzva’ot their God.’”

Zec 12:6 “In that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a burning torch among sheaves. They will devour on the right and on the left all the surrounding peoples, yet Jerusalem will remain in her place, in Jerusalem.

Zec 12:7 Adonai also will save the tents of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and the honor of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will not exceed that of Judah.

Zec 12:8 In that day Adonai will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem so that the weakest among them that day will be like David and the house of David will be like God—like the angel of Adonai before them.

Zec 12:9 It will happen in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Zec 14:12 Now this is the plague with which Adonai will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are standing on their feet; their eyes will rot in their sockets; and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

Zec 14:13 It will happen in that day that a great panic from Adonai will be among them. Each person will seize the hand of his neighbor and they will attack each other.

Zec 14:14 Even Judah will fight at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding peoples will be gathered together—an abundance of gold, silver and apparel.

Zec 14:15 A similar plague will strike the horse, the mule, the camel, the donkey and all the animals in that camp.

Zec 14:16 Then all the survivors from all the nations that attacked Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, Adonai-Tzva’ot, and to celebrate Sukkot.

Zec 14:17 Furthermore, if any of the nations on earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Adonai-Tzva’ot, they will have no rain.

#8. He shall come out of Jacob

Genesis 49:10

Gen 49:10 The scepter will not pass from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs will come. To him will be the obedience of the peoples.

Isaiah 9:6-9; 49:26; 65:9

Isa 9:6 Of the increase of His government and shalom there will be no end—on the throne of David and over His kingdom—to establish it and uphold it through justice and righteousness from now until forevermore. The zeal of Adonai-Tzva'ot will accomplish this.

Isa 9:7 Adonai sent a word to Jacob, and it fell upon Israel.

Isa 9:8 All the people will know what Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria say in pride and in arrogance of heart:

Isa 9:9 “The bricks are fallen, but we will rebuild with cut stones. The sycamores are cut down, but we will replace them with cedars.”

Isa 49:26 I will feed your oppressors their flesh. They will be drunk with their blood as with sweet wine. Then all flesh will know that I, Adonai, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

Isa 65:9 I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, an heir of My mountains from Judah. My chosen ones will inherit it, and My servants will dwell there.

#9. He shall have dominion

Isaiah 9:6-7

Isa 9:6 Of the increase of His government and shalom there will be no end—on the throne of David and over His kingdom—to establish it and uphold it through justice and righteousness from now until forevermore. The zeal of Adonai-Tzva'ot will accomplish this.

Isa 9:7 Adonai sent a word to Jacob, and it fell upon Israel.

Daniel 7:13-14

Dan 7:13 “I was watching in the night visions. Behold, One like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days, and was brought into His presence.

Dan 7:14 Dominion, glory and sovereignty were given to Him that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will never pass away, and His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Zech. 9:10; 14:9

Zec 9:10 I will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem, and the war bow will be broken. He will speak shalom to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.

Zec 13:9 This third I will bring through the fire. I will refine them as silver is refined, and will test them as gold is tested. They will call on My Name and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will answer, 'Adonai is my God.'

1 Cor. 15:24-28

1Co 15:24 then the end, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all rule and all authority and power.

1Co 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

1Co 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1Co 15:27 For God has "put all things in subjection underneath His feet." But when the psalmist says that "all" has been put in subjection, it is clear that this does not include God Himself, who put all things under Messiah.

1Co 15:28 Now when all things become subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also become subject to the One who put all things under Him, so that God may be all in all.

Rev 11:15; 22:4-5

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel trumpeted, and there were loud voices in heaven saying, "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Anointed One. And He shall reign forever and ever!"

Rev 22:4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

Rev 22:5 Night shall be no more, and people will have no need for lamplight or sunlight—for Adonai Elohim will shine on them. And they shall reign forever and ever!

#10 He shall destroy him that remaineth of the city (vs 19) This pictures a conqueror who defeats his enemies in battle and then seeks out those that have escaped, to deal with them accordingly. This Messiah will do after Armageddon when He gathers the nations and determines who shall or shall not enter the kingdom

Matthew 25:31-46

Mat 25:31 "Now when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

Mat 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Mat 25:33 And He will put the sheep on His right, but the goats on His left.

Mat 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Mat 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited Me in;

Mat 25:36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Mat 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You? Or thirsty and give You something to drink?

Mat 25:38 And when did we see You a stranger and invite You in? Or naked and clothe You?

Mat 25:39 When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

Mat 25:40 "And answering, the King will say to them, 'Amen, I tell you, whatever you did to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Mat 25:41 Then He will also say to those on the left, 'Go away from Me, you cursed ones, into the everlasting fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.

Mat 25:42 For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink;

Mat 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in; naked and you did not clothe Me; sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

Mat 25:44 "Then they too will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not care for You?'

Mat 25:45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Amen, I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.'

Mat 25:46 These shall go off to everlasting punishment, but the righteous into everlasting life."

Haftorah

This week's *haftorah* makes mention of the incident of Balak the king of Moab hiring the sorcerer Balaam to curse the Jewish people -- the main topic of this week's Torah reading.

The prophet Micah prophesies about what will occur after the war of Gog and Magog, the war which precedes the coming of the Messiah and the Final Redemption.

"And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples -- like dew sent by G-d, like torrents of rain upon vegetation that does not hope for any man and does not wait for the sons of men." The prophet describes how G-d will remove the idols and sorcerers and how He will destroy the Jews' enemies.

The prophet Micah then goes on to rebuke the Jewish people for not observing G-d's commandments, calling as witness the "mountains and hills" -- a reference to the Patriarchs and Matriarchs -- and reminding them of the great things G-d had done for them. He took them out of Egypt and replaced the curses that Balaam son of Beor wanted to utter against them with blessings.

The Jewish people respond by saying that they do not know how to serve G-d and ask for guidance. The prophet reminds them of the Torah, and that all they need to do is contained within it: "He has told you, O man, what is good, and what G-d demands of you: but to do justice, love kindness, and walk discreetly with your G-d."

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Mic 5:1 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah—least among the clans of Judah—from you will come out to Me One to be ruler in Israel, One whose goings forth are from of old, from days of eternity.

Mic 5:2 Therefore He will give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth. Then the remnant of His brothers will return to Bnei-Yisrael.

Mic 5:3 So He will arise and tend His flock with the strength of Adonai—in the majesty of the Name of Adonai His God. And they will live securely, for then He will be great to the ends of the earth.

Mic 5:4 This One will be shalom. When Assyria invades our land when he treads on our citadels, then we will raise up against him seven shepherds and eight human princes.

Mic 5:5 They will devastate the land of Assyria with the sword—even Nimrod's land with a drawn blade. He will deliver us from Assyria, when he invades our land, when he tramples on our territory.

Mic 5:6 Now the remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples, like dew from Adonai, like abundant showers on grass that does not wait for a man, nor lingers for the sons of men.

Mic 5:7 For the remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the forest beasts, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, who, if he passed through, would trample and tear to pieces, and there would be no deliverer.

Mic 5:8 May your hand be raised up against your adversaries, and may all your foes be cut off.

Mic 5:9 “Now in that day”—it is a declaration of Adonai—“I will cut off your horses among you, and I will destroy your chariots.

Mic 5:10 I will cut off the cities of your land, and throw down all your strongholds.

Mic 5:11 I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you will have no more diviners.

Mic 5:12 I will cut off your carved images and your sacred pillars from among you, so you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands.

Mic 5:13 I will uproot your Asherah poles from among you, and destroy your cities.

Mic 5:14 So I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath on the nations that have not listened.

Mic 6:1 Hear what Adonai is saying: “Arise! Contend with the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

Mic 6:2 Hear, Adonai ‘s dispute, O mountains—the enduring foundations of the earth. For Adonai has a dispute with His people and He will argue His case with Israel.

Mic 6:3 O My people, what have I done to you? Or how have I wearied you? Answer Me!

Mic 6:4 When I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

Mic 6:5 O My people, remember, please: What did Balak, king of Moab, propose? What did Balaam son of Beor answer him? From Shittim as far as Gilgal, so that you might acknowledge the righteous acts of Adonai.”

Mic 6:6 With what shall I come before Adonai? With what shall I bow myself before God on high? Shall I present Him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves?

Mic 6:7 Will Adonai be pleased with thousands of rams, with hordes of rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my belly for the sin of my soul?

Mic 6:8 He has told you, humanity, what is good, and what Adonai is seeking from you: Only to practice justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.