

July 1, 2023  
12 Tammuz, 5783  
Shabbat Balak

*It has been told to you, what is good, and what Adonai requires of you  
Only to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*



Our sanctuary is a sanctuary. Please keep your mobile phone turned off.

**Asher Yatzar: Beautiful and Broken**

*Music and English lyrics by Dan Nichols*

I thank You for my life, body and soul  
Help me realize I am beautiful and whole  
I'm perfect the way I am, and a little broken too  
I will live each day as a gift I give to You.

Baruch Atah Adonai, rofeih chol basar umafla laasot. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ רוֹפֵא כָּל בָּשָׂר וּמַפְלִיא לַעֲשׂוֹת.  
*Blessed are you, Adonai, who heals all flesh, working wondrously.*

**Numbers 25: 1-9**

- 1 While Israel was staying at Shittim, the menfolk profaned themselves by whoring with the Moabite women, א וַיֵּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשֵׁטִים וַיַּחַל הָעָם לְזָנוֹת אֶל-בָּנוֹת מוֹאָב:
- 2 who invited the menfolk to the sacrifices for their god. The menfolk partook of them and worshiped that god. ב וַתִּקְרְאוּ לָעָם לְזַבְחֵי אֱלֹהֵיהֶן וַיֹּאכְלֵהֶם וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ לֵאלֹהֵיהֶן:
- 3 Thus Israel attached itself to Baal-peor, and the Eternal was incensed with Israel. ג וַיִּצְמַד יִשְׂרָאֵל לְבַעַל פְּעֹר וַיַּחַר-אַף יְהוָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:
- 4 The Eternal One said to Moses, “Take all the ringleaders and have them publicly impaled before the Eternal, so that the Eternal’s wrath may turn away from Israel.” ד וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה קַח אֶת-כָּל-רֹאשֵׁי הָעָם וְהוֹקַע אוֹתָם לִיהוָה נֶגֶד הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֵּשֶׁב חֲרוֹן אַף-יְהוָה מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל:
- 5 So Moses said to Israel’s officials, “Each of you slay those of his men who attached themselves to Baal-peor.” ה וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-שֹׁפְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הֲרֹגוּ אִישׁ אֶנְשׁוֹ הַנִּצְמָדִים לְבַעַל פְּעֹר:

6 Just then one of the Israelite notables came and brought a Midianite woman over to his companions, in the sight of Moses and of the whole Israelite community who were weeping at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.

7 When Phinehas, son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, saw this, he left the assembly and, taking a spear in his hand,

8 he followed the Israelite notable into the chamber and stabbed both of them, the Israelite notable and the woman, through the belly. Then the plague against the Israelites was checked.

9 Those who died of the plague numbered twenty-four thousand.

ו וְהִנֵּה אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּא וַיִּקְרֶב  
אֶל־אֶחָיו אֶת־הַמְּדִינִית לְעֵינֵי מֹשֶׁה וּלְעֵינֵי  
כָּל־עַדְת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהִמָּה בָכִים פְּתַח  
אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד :

ז וַיֵּרָא פִּינְחָס בֶּן־אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן־אֶהֱרֹן הַכֹּהֵן  
וַיִּקֶם מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה וַיִּקַּח רֶמֶחַ בְּיָדוֹ :

ח וַיָּבֵא אַחֵר אִישׁ־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־הַקֶּבֶה  
וַיִּדְקֹר אֶת־שְׁנֵיהֶם אֶת אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל  
וְאֶת־הָאִשָּׁה אֶל־קִבְתָּהּ וַתַּעֲצֹר הַמַּגֵּפָה  
מֵעַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל :

ט וַיְהִיו הַמֵּתִים בַּמַּגֵּפָה אַרְבַּעַה וְעֶשְׂרִים  
אַלְפִי :

### Haftarah for Balak: Isaiah 2:1-5

(1) The word that Isaiah son of Amoz prophesied concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

(א) הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר חָזָה יִשְׁעִיָּהוּ בֶּן־אֲמוֹץ  
עַל־יְהוּדָה וִירוּשָׁלַם :

(2) In the days to come, the Mount of the Eternal's house shall stand firm above the mountains and tower above the hills; and all the nations shall gaze on it with joy.

(ב) וְהָיָה | בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים נִכּוֹן יְהִיָּה הַר  
בֵּית־יְהוָה בְּרֹאשׁ הַהָרִים וְנִשָּׂא מִגְּבְעוֹת  
וְנִהָרוּ אֵלָיו כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם :

(3) And the many peoples shall go and say: "Come, let us go up to the Mount of the Eternal, to the House of the God of Jacob; That God may instruct us in God's ways, and that we may walk in God's paths." For instruction shall come forth from Zion, the word of the Eternal from Jerusalem.

(ג) וְהָלְכוּ עַמִּים רַבִּים וְאָמְרוּ לָכוּ | וְנַעֲלֶה  
אֶל־הַר־יְהוָה אֶל־בַּיִת אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב וַיְרַנּוּ  
מִדְּרָכָיו וְנִלְכָה בְּאַרְחֻתָיו כִּי מִצִּיּוֹן תֵּצֵא  
תוֹרָה וּדְבַר־יְהוָה מִירוּשָׁלַם :

(4) Thus God will judge among the nations and arbitrate for the many peoples, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks: Nation shall not take up sword against nation; they shall never again know war.

(ד) וְשִׁפְטוּ בֵּין הַגּוֹיִם וְהוֹכִיחַ לְעַמִּים רַבִּים  
וְכַתְּתוּ חַרְבוֹתָם לְאֵתִים וְחַנִּיתוֹתֵיהֶם  
לְמִזְמָרוֹת לֹא־יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל־גּוֹל חֶרֶב  
וְלֹא־יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה :

(5) O House of Jacob! Come, let us walk By the light of the Eternal.

(ה) בֵּית יַעֲקֹב לָכוּ וְנִלְכָה בְּאֹר יְהוָה:

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### Numbers 22:22-29

(22) But God was incensed at his going; so a messenger of יהוה took a position in his way as an adversary. He was riding on his donkey with his two servants alongside, (23) when the donkey caught sight of the messenger of יהוה standing in the way, with a drawn sword in his hand. The donkey swerved from the road and went into the fields; and Balaam beat the donkey to turn her back onto the road. (24) The messenger of יהוה then stationed himself in a lane between the vineyards, with a fence on either side. (25) The donkey, seeing the messenger of יהוה, pressed herself against the wall and squeezed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he beat her again. (26) Once more the messenger of יהוה moved forward and stationed himself on a spot so narrow that there was no room to swerve right or left. (27) When the donkey now saw the messenger of יהוה, she lay down under Balaam; and Balaam was furious and beat the donkey with his stick. (28) Then יהוה opened the donkey's mouth, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?" (29) Balaam said to the donkey, "You have made a mockery of me! If I had a sword with me, I'd kill you."

### Numbers 22:6

(6) ...perhaps I can thus defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that whomever you bless is blessed indeed, and whomever you curse is cursed."

במדבר כ"ב: כ"ב-כ"ט

(כב) וַיַּחַרְאֲף אֱלֹהִים פִּי־הוֹלֵךְ הוּא וַיִּתְיַצֵּב מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה בְּדֶרֶךְ לְשֹׁטֵן לוֹ וְהוּא רֹכֵב עַל־אֲתוֹנוֹ וּשְׁנֵי נַעֲרָיו עִמּוֹ: (כג) וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת־מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה נֹצֵב בְּדֶרֶךְ וַחֲרָבוֹ שְׁלֹפָה בְּיָדוֹ וַתֵּט הָאֲתוֹן מִרְהַדְרָךְ וַתִּלָּךְ בְּשָׂדֵה וַיֵּד בְּלַעַם אֶת־הָאֲתוֹן לְהַטִּתָּהּ הַדֶּרֶךְ: (כד) וַיַּעֲמֵד מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה בְּמִשְׁעוֹל הַכְּרָמִים גָּדַר מִזֶּה וּגְדַר מִזֶּה: (כה) וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת־מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה וַתִּלְחָץ אֶל־הַקִּיר וַתִּלְחָץ אֶת־רַגְלָהּ בְּלַעַם אֶל־הַקִּיר וַיִּסֹּף לְהַכֹּתָהּ: (כו) וַיִּוְסֹף מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה עָבוֹר וַיַּעֲמֵד בְּמָקוֹם צָר אֲשֶׁר אֵין־דֶּרֶךְ לְנִטוֹת יָמִין וּשְׂמֹאל: (כז) וַתֵּרָא הָאֲתוֹן אֶת־מִלְאָךְ יְהוָה וַתִּרְבֹּץ תַּחַת בְּלַעַם וַיַּחַרְאֲף בְּלַעַם וַיִּדְּ אֶת־הָאֲתוֹן בְּמַקֵּל: (כח) וַיִּפְתַּח יְהוָה אֶת־פִּי הָאֲתוֹן וַתֹּאמֶר לְבַלַּעַם מַה־עֲשִׂיתִי לָךְ כִּי הִכִּיתַנִּי זֶה שְׁלֹשׁ רָגְלִים: (כט) וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלַעַם לְאֲתוֹן כִּי הִתְעַלְלִית בִּי לוֹ יִשְׁחָרֵב בְּיָדִי כִּי עָתָה הִרְגַתִּיךְ:

במדבר כ"ב: ו'

(ו) אוֹלֵי אוֹכֵל נִכְהָבוּ וְאֹנְרֵשְׁנוּ מִרְהַאֲרָךְ כִּי יִדְעַתִּי אֶת אֲשֶׁר־תִּבְרָךְ מִבְרָךְ וְאֲשֶׁר תֹּאֲר יוֹאֲר:

## Midrash Tanchuma Buber, Balak 13

(4) (Numb. 22:28:) IF I HAD A SWORD IN MY HAND, I WOULD KILL YOU RIGHT NOW. The situation is comparable to a physician who came to cure with his tongue a person bitten by a snake on the road. On the way he saw a lizard. He began searching for a stick to kill it. They said to him: Are you unable to get this creature (without a stick)? How do you come to cure with your tongue a person bitten by a snake? Similarly, the donkey said to Balaam: You cannot kill me unless you have a sword in your hand. How do you intend to uproot an entire people! He was silent and could not find an answer. The princes of Moab began to express astonishment, for they had seen a miracle the like of which had never happened in the world (a talking animal)...

## Rashi on Numbers 22:23:1

וְתָרָא אֶת־אֱלֹהִים AND THE SHE-ASS SAW [THE ANGEL] — but he did not see him, for the Holy One, blessed be He, gave an animal power to see more than the man, for just because he possesses sense his mind would become perturbed if he sees noxious beings.

תנחומא בובר, בלק י"ג

(ד) לו יש חרב בידי כי עתה הרגתיך (שם). משל לרופא שבא לרפאות בלשונו נשוד הנחש בדרך, ראה אנקה בדרך, התחיל מבקש מטה להורגה, אמרו לו זה אין אתה יכול ליטול, האיך באתה לרפאות בלשונך נשוד נחש, כך אמרה האתון לבלעם לי אין אתה יכול להרגני, אלא אם כן יש חרב בידך, והיאך אתה רוצה לעקור אומה שלימה, שתק ולא מצא תשובה, התחילו תמיהים שרי מואב, שראו נס שלא היה כמותו בעולם.

רש"י על במדבר כ"ב כ"ג:א'

וְתָרָא אֶת־אֱלֹהִים. וְהוּא לֹא רָאָה שְׁנֵתָן הַקֶּבֶ"ה רְשׁוֹת לְבָהֳמָה לְרֵאוֹת יוֹתֵר מִן הָאָדָם, שְׁמֵתוֹךְ שֵׁישׁ בּוֹ דַעַת, תִּטְרַף דַעַתוֹ כְּשִׁירָאָה מְזִיקִין:

## *Refuah Shleimah*

Ronni Behar, Ira Berlin, Howard Berman, Chayim ben Miriam, Judith Chisholm, Don Elisburg, Netanel Felber, Phil Feld, Rabbi Stanley Funston, Pat Goldman, Ellie Goldberg, Hannah Goldberg, Ken Goldstein, Sean Grogan, Skylar Haas, David Hahn, Robin Kaplan, Joyce Kitcho, Stu Levine, Dan Lutenegeger, Micah ben Nechama Evi, Mildred Marin, Stephanie Mendez, Sophie Meyers, Bryant Monroe, Bill Page, Jack Paul, Rachel bat Chava, David Reynolds, Lois Rosen, Eric Rosenberg, Sarah Golde bat Shifrah, David Scheever, Jo Schonewolf, Charles Schussheim, Diana Seasonwein, Cynthia Seymour, Paulette Shulman, Elsa Smith, Ellen Sommer, Alan Thal, Susan Turnbull, Betty Ustun, Bobbie Wendel, Mimi Wolf

***We Remember Those Lost to Violence in Washington, DC***

George Johnson, 30, NW DC; Jaylin Osborne, 15, SE DC; Atorin Tyndle, 28, SE DC

***Shloshim***

Marcia B. Bordman, partner of Marty Zatz

***Yahrzeit***

Herbert Brand, Rose Brown, Phil Cohen, Barbara Daniels, Milton Field, Irving Freedman, Naomi Gartner, Phyllis Goldhamer, Linda Goldstein, Saul Grubin, Ann Hansen, Rena Heinemann, Larisa Itina, Felicia Kahn, Paul Liebman, John Luray, Eileen Kovey Mackler, Harvey Nassau, Celia Ominsky, Nikki Perry, William Ransohoff, Ruth Reiniger, William Saunders, Jack Schiffman, Yale Schnader, Paula Schulman, James Spector, Howard Stanfield, Evelyn Stern, Dan Thomas, Ben Wattenberg, Evelyn Wendel, Louis Alvin Wunnenberg, Samuel Yett

**Kaddish Yatom**

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba.  
B'alma di v'ra chirutei, v'yamlich malchuteih,  
b'chayeichon uv'yomeichon uv'chayei d'chol  
beit Yisrael, ba'agala uvizman kariv. V'imru:  
Amen.

Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varach l'alam ul'almei  
almaya.

Yitbarach v'yishtabach v'yitpaar v'yitromam  
v'yitnasei, v'yit'hadar v'yit'aleh v'yit'halal sh'mei  
d'kud'sha,  
b'rich Hu.

L'eila min kol birchata v'shirata, tushb'chata  
v'nechemata, daamiran b'alma. V'imru: Amen.

Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'maya, v'chayim aleinu  
v'al kol Yisrael. V'imru: Amen.

Oseh shalom bimromav, Hu yaaseh shalom  
aleinu, v'al kol Yisrael, v'al kol yoshvei tevel.  
V'imru: Amen.

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא.  
בְּעֻלְמָא דִּי בְרָא כְרְעוּתֵיהּ וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵיהּ בְּחַיֵּינוּ  
וּבְיוֹמֵינוּ וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעָגְלָא וּבְזִמְן  
קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.  
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמָא וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא.  
יְתְבָרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא  
וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלַּל שְׁמֵהּ דְּקַדְשָׁא.  
בְּרִיךְ הוּא.  
לְעֻלְמָא מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא  
דְּאָמְרוּ בְּעֻלְמָא. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.  
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל  
יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.  
עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל  
כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

*Exalted and hallowed be God's great name. In the world which God created, according to plan. May God's majesty be revealed in the days of our lifetime. And the life of all Israel – speedily, imminently, to which we say Amen. Blessed be God's great name to all eternity. Blessed, praised, honored, exalted, extolled, glorified, adored, and lauded be the name of the Holy Blessed One, beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise, and comfort, to which we say Amen. May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and all Israel, to which we say Amen. May the One who creates harmony on high, bring peace to us and to all Israel, and to all who dwell on earth. To which we say Amen.*

***Kiddush following services is provided by Geri Nielsen and Morton and Roberta Goren.***

*Temple Micah acknowledges our synagogue stands on the traditional territory of the Piscataway and Nacotchtank (Anacostan) peoples. We pay respect to their elders past and present and recognize their stewardship of this land and the vital contribution of indigenous peoples to this nation we share.*

**DANIEL G. ZEMEL**, Rabbi

**JOSHUA BERAHA**, Associate Rabbi | **STEPHANIE CRAWLEY**, Associate Rabbi

**HEALY SLAKMAN**, Assistant Rabbi | **SAMANTHA FRANK**, Rabbinic Fellow | **RACHEL SCHMELKIN**, Rabbinic Fellow

**BETH WERLIN**, Executive Director | **SHARON TASH**, Education Director

**KELLY WHITEHEAD**, Rabbinic Intern | **DAN LEE**, Worship Musician