



Ohr Yerushalayim News

ע"ד תמוז תש"ע – פרשת בלק – 26th June 2010 - Volume 2 - Issue 49

T NEWS ... LATEST NEWS ... LATEST

מזל טוב

Mazel Tov to Mr & Mrs Dov Black on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah this Shabbos in Israel

Mazel Tov to the grandparents, Mr & Mrs Dovzi Lopian.

Mazel Tov to Mr & Mrs Mike Epstein on the occasion of the forthcoming chassuneh of their daughter Dalia.

Ladies Learning Programme

The ladies learning programme continues this Sunday. Chavrusa learning is from 8.00-8.45pm followed by a shiur from Mrs Esther Levy.

שבעה עשר בתמוז

A reminder that Tuesday is **שבעה עשר בתמוז**. Times of Minyonim are opposite.

Rov's Chaburoh

The Rov's Chaburoh takes place on Wednesday after the second Minyan for Maariv.

Siyum Mishnayos

Members are invited to a Seuda Shlishis and Siyum on Shabbos Parshas Pinchos in honour of the completion of Shas Mishnayos through Misha Yomis. Further details on the back page.

T NEWS ... LATEST NEWS ... LATEST

Listen To The Mocking Bird Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky (Torah.org)

When you are hit in the face, it is hard to help but notice. Unless, of course, you wear your ego as a face-guard.

This week, the gentile prophet Bilaam, a man whom our sages say had prophetic vision equal to if not greater than Moshe, is hired by the Nation of Moav to curse the Jewish Nation.

At first he is reluctant. Upon hearing the tremendous reward of storehouses filled with gold and silver, however, he acquiesces and sets out on his dastardly mission. Then a miracle occurs. An angel, who is seen only by Bilaam's donkey, blocks the path. His ordinarily faithful she-donkey tries to squeeze by the Angel and inadvertently presses Bilaam's foot against the wall. During this time, Bilaam, unaware of the metaphysical circumstances that brought about the shift in his donkey's behavior, is incensed. He strikes the animal three times. Another miracle occurs! The donkey begins to talk. He carries on a brief conversation with his Master.

"Why did you hit me three times?" asks the donkey

"Because you mocked me! If only there were a sword in my hand I would kill you!" replies Bilaam.

The donkey continues to plead her case. "Am I not your faithful donkey that you have ridden on all your life? Have I been accustomed to do this type of thing to you?"

שבעה עשר בתמוז Timetable

Shacharis	7.00am
Mincha & Maariv	8.15pm
סוף תענית	10.47am

Bilaam replies meekly in the negative. Hashem opens his eyes and he finally realizes that an Angel blocked the way.

The human aspect of the incident is perhaps more astonishing than the miracle itself. How is it possible that the great seer who hears his donkey speak begins to threaten it with death? Doesn't he realize that a supernatural event is occurring?

Second, why would he threaten to kill the animal? By doing so he would never get to his destination. Wasn't that a totally irrational threat?

The episode reminds me of an old yarn by the writer Leo Rosten.

Irving, a wealthy man, walked into a pet shop and inquired about a pet for his lonely grandmother. "I have the perfect gift," exclaimed the proprietor. "It's a myna bird that talks Yiddish. It can say up to fifty different phrases! It will keep your grandmother company and cheer her when she is lonely."

A week after the gift arrived, Irving, called his grandmother.

The Week Ahead

שבת פרשת בלק

Candle Lighting and Shabbos	Between 7.57 and 8.00pm
Mincha	7.30pm
Seder Halimud	8.40am
Shacharis	9.00am
סוף זמן ק"ש	8.55am
Mincha 1st Minyan / 2nd Minyan	6.00pm / 9.55pm
Rov's Mishnayos Shiur	10.25pm
Maariv & Motzei Shabbos	11.00pm
Sunday 1st/2nd Minyan	7.20am/8.20am
Monday / Thursday	7.10am
Tuesday שבעה עשר בתמוז	See Above
Wednesday / Friday	7.20am
Mincha & Maariv All Week	7.45pm
Maariv 2nd Minyan	9.40pm
Mincha & Maariv Next Shabbos	7.30pm (Shabbos 9.26pm)



Balak fears Bnei Yisrael, and sends messengers to call Bilam.



Messengers ask Bilam to curse Bnei Yisrael. They'll lose if they go to war!



That night, Hashem tells Bilam not to go.



Hashem tells Bilam later that he can join them - but only if he says what Hashem commands him.



Hashem tries to warn Bilam that he shouldn't go - sending an angel to block the path.



Bilam's donkey sees the angel holding a sword, and walks off the path. Bilam hits his donkey angrily.



The donkey reaches a wall, and in fear, gets close to it - crushing Bilam's leg; he continues to hit his donkey.



The donkey collapses. Bilam gets even angrier, and hits it again.



Suddenly, the donkey opens its mouth and talks! "Why did you hit me 3 times?"



Hashem makes Bilam see the angel, and Bilam realises that he shouldn't have left his house.



Reaching Balak, Bilam says he can only say things that Hashem allows him to say.



They offer sacrifices on 7 mizbachot (מזבחות = altars) but Bilam's curses turn to blessings!

"Bubbie, How did you like the bird?"
 "Delicious, Irving. I had the butcher fillet it."
 "But, Bubbie, that bird spoke Yiddish!" Irving shrieked in horror.
 "So why didn't it say something?"
 Bilam was experiencing the event of a lifetime. He had an angel directly in his path, and his donkey was actually speaking to him. But he did not notice. He had his eye focused on one thing. His heart was set on cursing the Jew's and collecting a handsome fee.
 Miracles were occurring all around him but he lost all rational control. He did not notice. He was only interested in his honor. He would have slaughtered his donkey on the spot.
 Often, events occur that should jar us into rethinking our current situations. But our minds are set, our hearts are pre-determined, and

our conclusions are foregone. A talking donkey or even a bird for that matter could not get us to stop and think.
 The world around us is filled with miraculous events, some, perhaps, greater than a talking donkey. All we have to do is listen.
 The second episode was when the donkey went on a narrow path between two walls and squeezed Bilam's leg against the side wall. This narrow road which had room for only two people represented Yitzchok's two children, Yaakov and Eisav. The donkey pushed Bilam to one side, telling him he can only curse Eisav and not Yaakov.
 The last time, the Malach totally blocked the road and the Donkey had no where to go but lie down. This is the children of Yaakov who are all Kadosh V'Tahor and cannot be cursed.



The members of the Shul are invited to Seuda Shlishis and Siyum on Shabbos Parshas Pinchos
 In honour of the completion of Shas Mishnayos through Mishna Yomis
 Mincha 6.00 followed by Seuda Shlishis in the Shul hall
 The new cycle starts Berachos on Sunday July 4th
 Simon Joseph
 Antony Levinson
 Josh Shields
 Eric Sievers
 Avi Stern
 Michael Wilks

DID YOU KNOW?

Friday Night - Saying ויכלו (2)

The Chazon Ish does not insist on saying ויכלו with the community or another person and therefore allows a long Amida. The individual should say ויכלו himself (even quietly and sitting).

Source: Chazon Ish 38 (10)

We want our tefillos to be accepted so it's best to perform them correctly. For details please ask the Rov א"ת

7+H

פרשת בלק

1. Which question did בלעם ask ה'?
2. How did בלק offer to "pay" בלעם?
3. What was the 2nd place in which the מלאך obstructed בלעם?
4. What did בלעם ask בלק to build for him?
5. Which פסוק is said in davening twice a year?
6. What did בלק do when he was angry with בלעם?
7. How is the nation of עמלק described?
- H. Which three activities does ה' seek from us?