

TORAH TEACHINGS



Understanding YAH's Likes and dislikes

#40 Balak (בָּלָק) — The name of a king of Moab. Balaq - Strong's H1111 which means, 'devastator, waster', and, at its root, it means 'to waste, lay waste, devastate, annihilate'.



Torah: Numbers 22:2 - 25:9
Haftarah: Micah 5:6 - 6:8

TOPICS IN THE PARSHA

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

#40 Balak (בָּלָק) — The name of a king of Moab.
Chapter 22) He turned Bilaam's curse into a
blessing

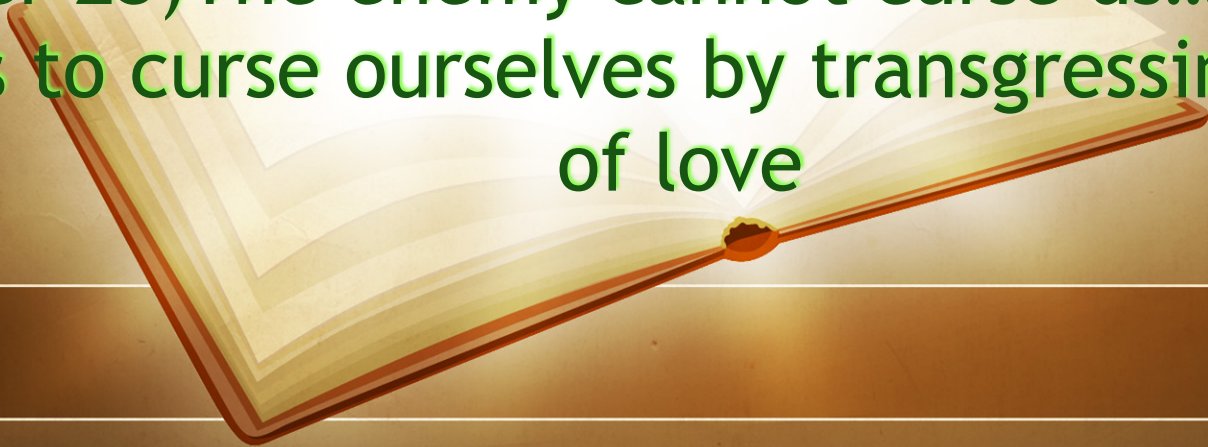


TOPICS IN THE PARSHA

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

#40 Balak (בָּלָק) – The name of a king of Moab.

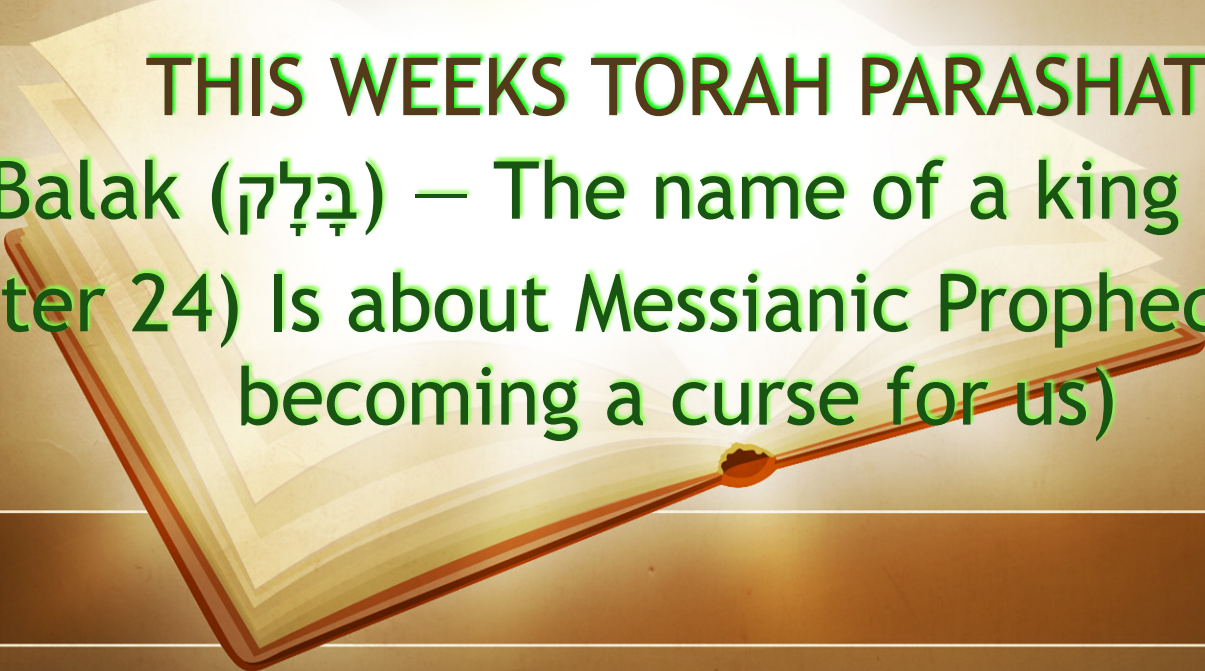
Chapter 23) The enemy cannot curse us...he tries to get us to curse ourselves by transgressing the law of love



TOPICS IN THE PARSHA

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

#40 Balak (בָּלָק) — The name of a king of Moab.
Chapter 24) Is about Messianic Prophecy (Yeshua becoming a curse for us)



TOPICS IN THE PARSHA

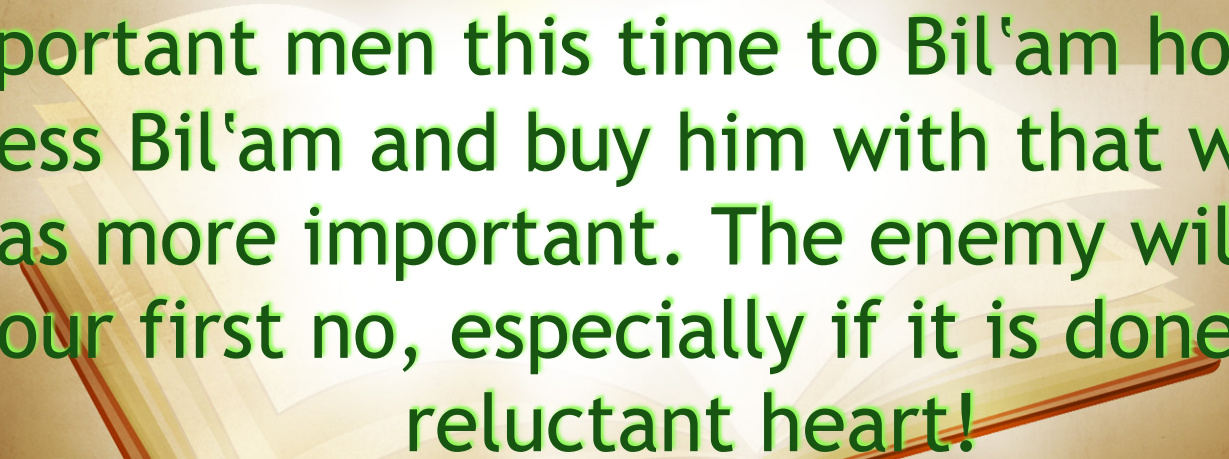
THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

#40 Balak (בָּלָק) — The name of a king of Moab.
Chapter 25) Baal Worship at Peor (They were
enticed by the women of Mo'ab)

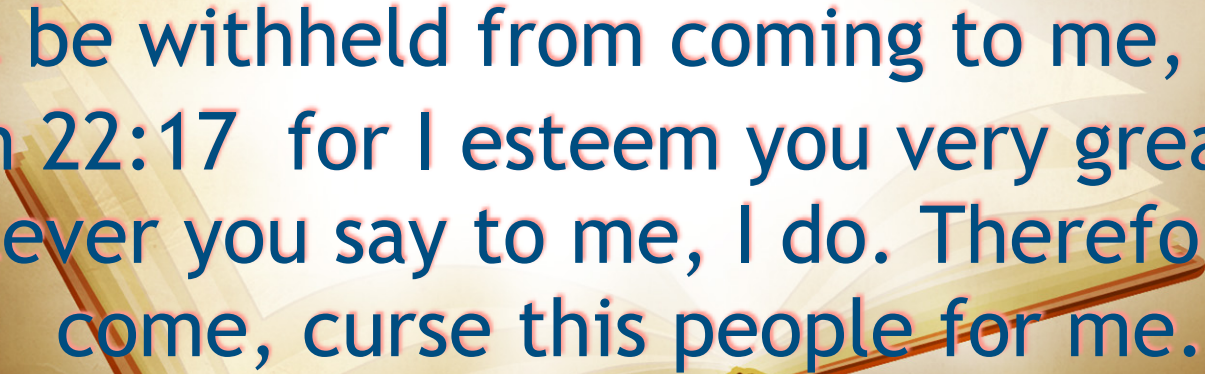


Verse 15 - the Devastator sends more!

Balaq does not give up - so he sends more important men this time to Bil'am hoping to impress Bil'am and buy him with that which was seen as more important. The enemy will not stop at our first no, especially if it is done with a reluctant heart!



Num 22:16 And they came to Bil'am and said to him, "This is what Balaq son of Tsippor said: 'Do not be withheld from coming to me, please, Num 22:17 for I esteem you very greatly, and whatever you say to me, I do. Therefore please come, curse this people for me.' "



Num 22:18 And Bil'am answered and said to the servants of Balaq, "Though Balaq were to give me his house filled with silver and gold, I am unable to go beyond the word of יהוה my Elohim, to do less or more.

Num 22:19 "And now, please, you also stay here tonight, and let me find out what more יהוה says to me."



Verse 16-19 - the second visit

More important leaders now come to Bil'am with the hope to persuade him to go to Balaq, and they use flattery in telling Bil'am how much he is esteemed by Balaq.

Flattery is one of the oldest tricks of the enemy - if he can make you feel good about yourself then he feels that he may have a means to get you to do what he wants.

This is exactly the danger of the modern 'gospel' that has become 'culturally correct' and tickles the ears so that the masses who get all warm and fuzzy will bend their knee to follow the delusion which flatters their ego!

We are warned of such ear tickling trickery:

Timotiyos Bět/2 Timothy 4:3 "For there shall be a time when they shall not bear sound teaching, but according to their own desires, they shall heap up for themselves teachers tickling the ear"

Here, Balaq thought that if he used flattery and tickled Bil'am's ear then he would listen and in turn tickle their ears with what they wanted to "hear from Elohim" by the prophet!

Bil'am responds by saying that even if they were to give him Balaq's house filled with silver and gold, he could not go beyond the Word of Elohim!

By him saying this, he was actually telling them that they had not offered him enough, and so he set the mark pretty high.

Once again, instead of saying no, he causes the reluctance to go, to sound as if he would really like the money but he was being restrained by Elohim. So many today express the same thing - the world and its riches are constantly luring them and they feel restrained by the Word, instead of seeing יהוה's choice as a continual blessing.

There are many today who will say the same thing as Bil'am in that no amount of money can buy them from their obedience, yet quickly break their word when an offer that is often hard to refuse comes knocking!

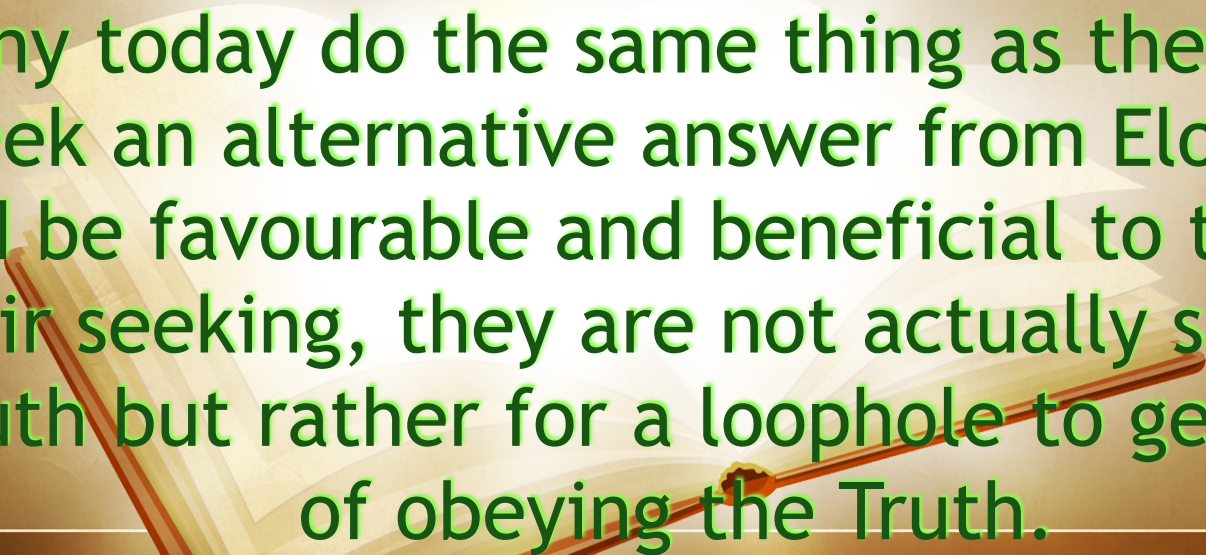
I mean, Bil'am must have thought about having all that Balaq had to offer, otherwise he would not have made such a statement - Bil'am loved money and used his seeming 'religiosity' as a crutch to attaining it, yet as we know he fell for it and went as the temptation to gain some wealth ate away at him, where he did not listen carefully to the Word of Elohim:

Timotiyos Aleph/1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some, by longing for it, have strayed from the belief, and pierced themselves through with many pains.”

Once again, he tells the leaders to ‘stay’ with him for the night, and so too we see how he makes them his students, as at the first visit. He honestly thinks that this time he would get a different response from יהוה, thinking that he will hear something different this time.

It is said that the definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing over and over and expect a completely different result!

So many today do the same thing as they continue to seek an alternative answer from Elohim that would be favourable and beneficial to them, and in their seeking, they are not actually seeking for the Truth but rather for a loophole to get them out of obeying the Truth.



So many will twist Scripture and take various verses out of context and claim it to be a 'loophole' so to speak for not adhering to the clear instructions of יהוה as given through His Torah!

Bil'am is a picture of many who really claim to be a man or woman of Elohim, yet they simply love the way of unrighteousness, simply because it suits their lifestyle better, as opposed to living according to יהוה's prescribed lifestyle and find themselves straying from the Truth to satisfy the luring of the fleshly desires that call constantly with bigger and greater promises!

Kěpha Bět/2 Peter 2:15 “having left the right way
they went astray, having followed the way of
Bil'am the son of Be'or, who loved the wages of
unrighteousness”

When we are praying, we must take heed that we
do not fall to temptation, but be watchful and
awake, knowing the times!

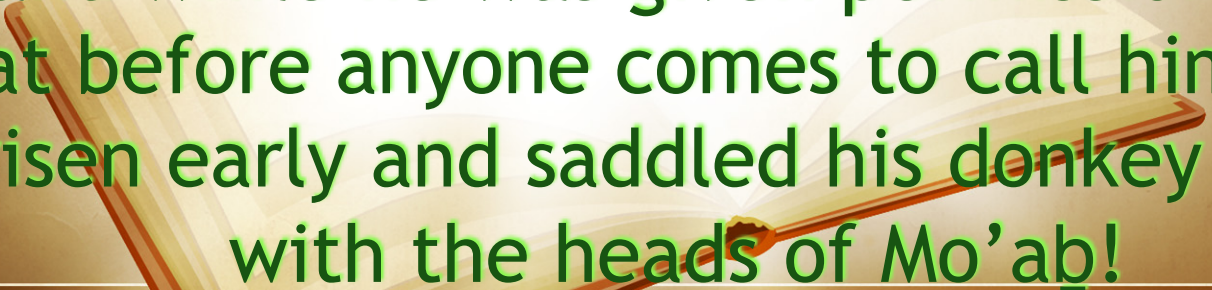


Num 22:20 And Elohim came to Bil'am at night and said to him, "If the men come to call you, rise and go with them, but only the word which I speak to you that you do."

Num 22:21 And Bil'am rose in the morning and saddled his donkey, and went with the heads of Mo'ab.

Verse 20-21

Bil'am is told by Elohim that 'if' the men come to call him, then he was to rise and go - only 'if'; yet what we see here is that Bil'am saw this as a green light; and while he was given permission to go, we see that before anyone comes to call him to go, he had risen early and saddled his donkey and goes with the heads of Mo'ab!




He didn't wait to see if they would come to call him - now of course we know that they would have come, but the point of the matter here is that he went on ahead and in essence 'went on his own' and as we see in **verse 22** this angered יהוה.

So, by not waiting for the men to call him as he was instructed to do, by him going, just proved all along that he wanted to go anyway!

The Donkey and Bil'am

The word for 'donkey' here in the Hebrew is אֶתוֹן *athon* - Strong's H860 which means, '*female donkey*' and is thought to come from the word אֵיתָן *ethan* - Strong's H386 which means, '*perennial, ever flowing, permanence*' and we understand that this word carries the essence of that which is faithful and reliable - something that lasts forever.

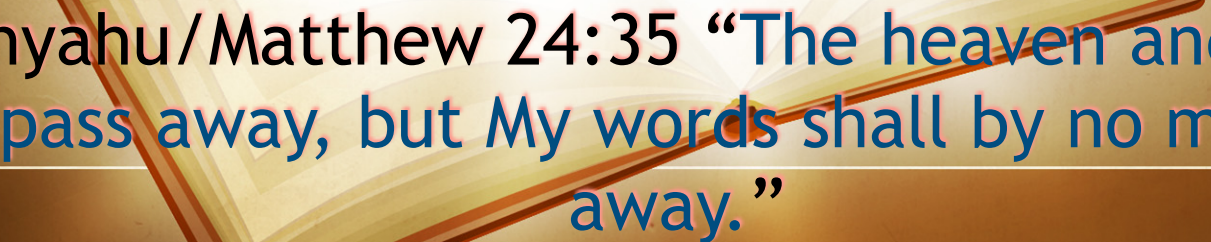


Having said that, it makes a wonderful picture for us as the donkey represents the Word of Elohim and even more particularly the Torah:

Yeshayahu/Isaiah 40:8 “Grass shall wither, the flower shall fade, but the Word of our Elohim stands forever.”

Mattithyahu/Matthew 5:18 “For truly, I say to you, till the heaven and the earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall by no means pass from the Torah till all be done.”

Mattithyahu/Matthew 24:35 “The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My words shall by no means pass away.”



The Torah will not take us where יהושע does not want us to go, and we know that the Torah leads us to Messiah as a trainer:

Galatiyim/Galatians 3:24 “Therefore the Torah became our trainer unto Messiah, in order to be declared right by belief.”

We also recognise that the life, death and resurrection of Messiah is the revelation of the Torah that was given through Mosheh; as we also see this being depicted by Him riding on a donkey when He came the first time as a picture of servanthood as prophesied in:

Zekaryah/Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Tsiyon! Shout, O daughter of Yerushalayim! See, your Sovereign is coming to you, He is righteous and endowed with deliverance, humble and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

There are two different words that are used here in Zekaryah/Zechariah 9:9 for ‘donkey’:

The first one is חמור **hamor** - Strong’s H2543 which means **‘male donkey’** and comes from the primitive root חמר hamar - Strong’s H2560 which means, **‘red’**.

Our Master יהושע came riding on a **'male donkey'**
which was the 'foal' of a אֲתוֹן **athon** - **'female donkey'**.

The Hebrew word for 'foal' is בֵּן **ben** - Strong's
H1121 which means, **'son'**.

In other words, as prophesied, He came riding of a
male donkey, the son of a female donkey!!!

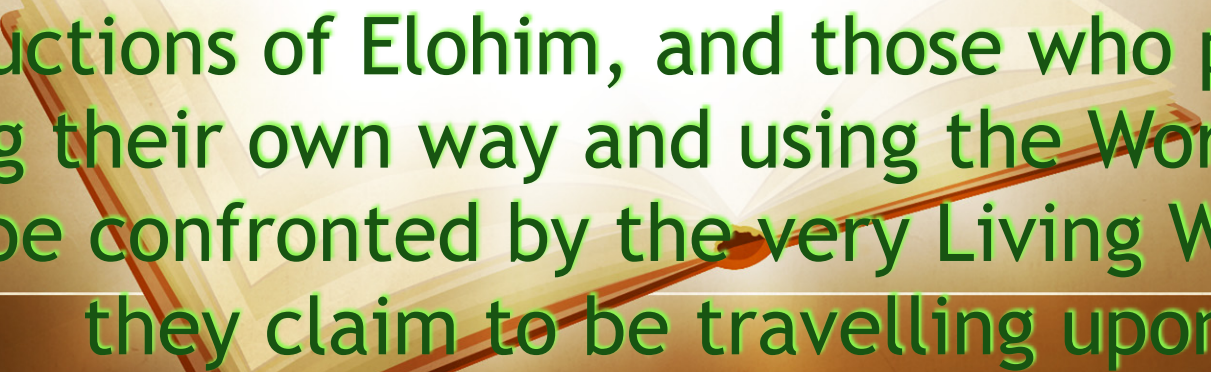
Yohanan/John 1:17 “for the Torah was given through Mosheh - the favour and the truth came through יהושע Messiah.”

When we understand the etymology of the word ‘Torah’, this verse expresses it clearly and the Torah could accurately be defined as:

The instructions of Elohim for His set-apart people as given through Mosheh and revealed by the life, death and resurrection of the Messiah!

So, from understanding the picture of the donkey as being a representation of the Torah we can learn a great deal through this account of Bil'am and his donkey!

When the messenger of יהוה stood as an adversary in the way against Bil'am we see how so many today will try to use the Word to take them on their desired journey of seeking self-gain as opposed to simply being obedient to the clear instructions of Elohim, and those who persist in seeking their own way and using the Word to get it will be confronted by the very Living Word that they claim to be travelling upon!



Whenever we try to serve two masters, the messenger of יהוה will stand in our way as an adversary.

The donkey saw the messenger of יהוה with His drawn sword, and the donkey turned aside into the field and, in essence, is a picture of the donkey (Torah) that was trying to save Bil'am's life, by keeping him from walking against the Truth of יהוה, yet Bil'am did not see יהוה and so what did he do? He struck the donkey to turn her back onto the way of his journey!

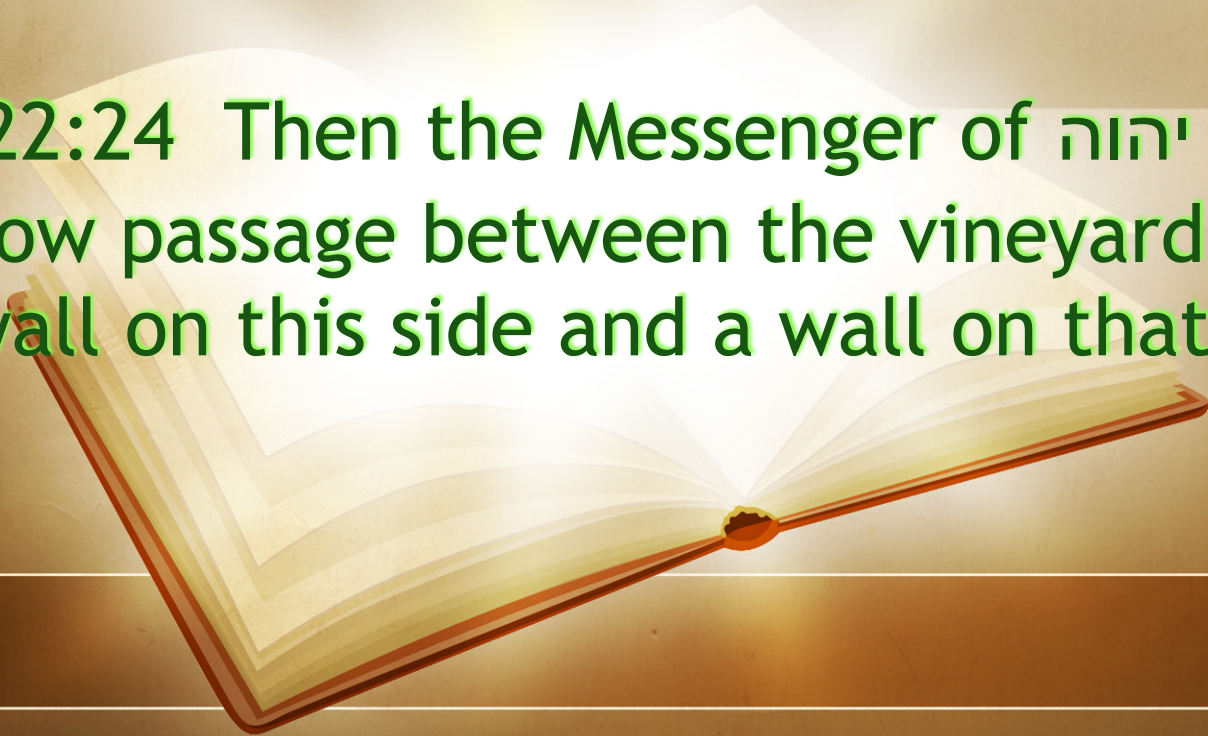
Num 22:22 But the displeasure of Elohim burned because he went, and the Messenger of יהוה stationed Himself in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.

Num 22:23 And the donkey saw the Messenger of יהוה standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Bil'am struck the donkey to turn her back onto the way.

Verse 23 - the Hebrew word that is translated as 'turn' comes from the root word נָטָה natah - Strong's H5186 which means, '*stretch out, spread, out, extend, pervert, bend, defraud*' and we clearly see from this that we have here a classic picture of how he was like the many of Edom (Christianity), that will stretch out and pervert and bend the Word to suit themselves, in order to justify the way in which they walk, and in the process will even attempt to get the Word of Elohim to prove why they can go against His will and go against His instructions and so 'strike' His Torah that is given to protect us on the way!

Those who are blinded, by a 'Greek' concept and view of who Messiah, is will never recognise the True Messiah - the Living Torah - The Word made flesh; and those who do not recognise the True יהושע, will never expect the Torah to be in total agreement with יהושע, and as a result, they continue to strike the Word of Truth, as they pervert and twist it to get their own stubborn way, which in the end will be confronted by the Living Word, with His sword drawn!

Num 22:24 Then the Messenger of יהוה stood in a narrow passage between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side.



Verse 24 - the narrow way

When we walk in the 'narrow' way, we must be prepared to be examined by the very Word we walk in, and be warned, that if we turn aside and let go of the Word, we will get hurt along the way!

The Messenger of יהוה stood in a narrow passage between the vineyards with a wall on either side and this speaks of יהושע being the Vine and the narrow way.

Mattithyahu/Matthew 7:14 "Because the gate is narrow and the way is hard pressed which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

The Greek word that is translated here as 'hard pressed' comes from the primitive verb θλίβω thlibō - Strong's G2346 which means, 'to press or afflict, to distress, suffer affliction', and in the literal sense can mean, 'to squash, press, hem in, rub, harassed', and can also be understood as being 'narrow or hard pressed', and the Greek word that is translated as 'narrow' comes from the word στενός stenos - Strong's G4728 which means, 'narrow (space or passage) as a result of obstacles standing close about)'.

In other words, the true path of life is very narrow, and it will often feel like the pressure of so many obstacles of destruction, that are pressing hard against us, are doing their best to cause us to not enter in, as we are continually hard pressed on every side - yet, as faithful followers of Messiah, we are not crushed!

A derivative of the root verb θλίβω thlibō - Strong's G2346 is θλίψις thlipsis - Strong's G2347 which means, 'tribulation, pressure, affliction, distress, persecution, trouble', which is used in the LXX in Shemu'el Bēt/2 Samuel 22:19 and is translated as 'calamity'

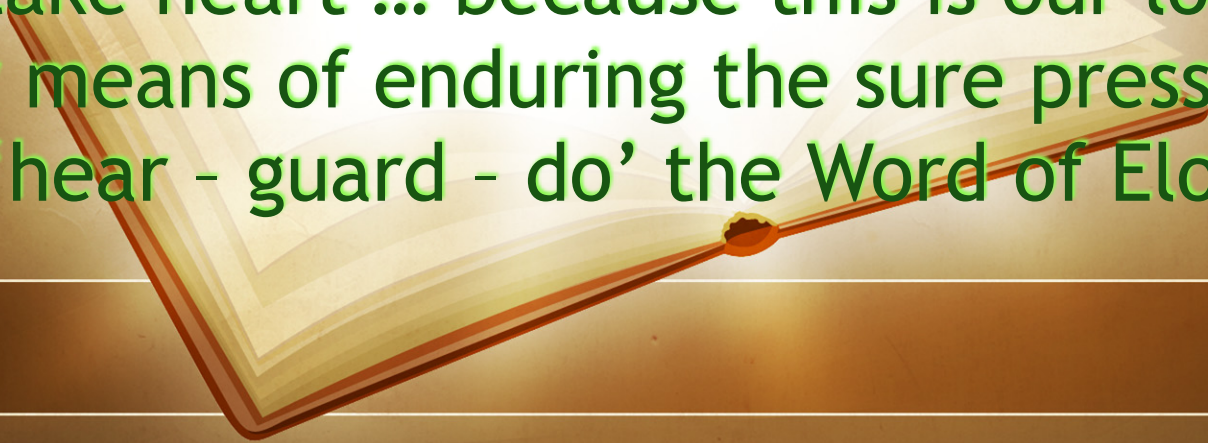
This word θλίψις thlipsis - Strong's G2347 is used in:
Yohanan/John 16:33 “These words I have spoken to
you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world
you have pressure, but take courage, I have
overcome the world.”

The Word of Elohim is what we have, to recognise
the True peace we have in our Messiah King; and
while we certainly will have much pressure in the
world, we are able to be strong and courageous as
we stand firm on the Rock of our Salvation and hold
fast to the Living Word, aměn!

In the world we have pressure....! How true is that statement!!!

Pressure, pressure and more pressure... is that how it feels at times for most of you?

We'll take heart ... because this is our lot, and our only means of enduring the sure pressure is to 'hear - guard - do' the Word of Elohim!



What is very clear to us is that we, who are walking faithfully in Messiah, will have pressure in this world - the question is how we are handling the pressure - with courage and joy, or do we find ourselves stumbling under pressure?

How do you handle times of distress?

Are you faltering because your strength is small or are you standing firm in the Truth, guarding the knowledge of our Master by actively doing what He commands?



Num 22:25 And when the donkey saw the Messenger of יהוה, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Bil'am's foot against the wall, so he struck her again.

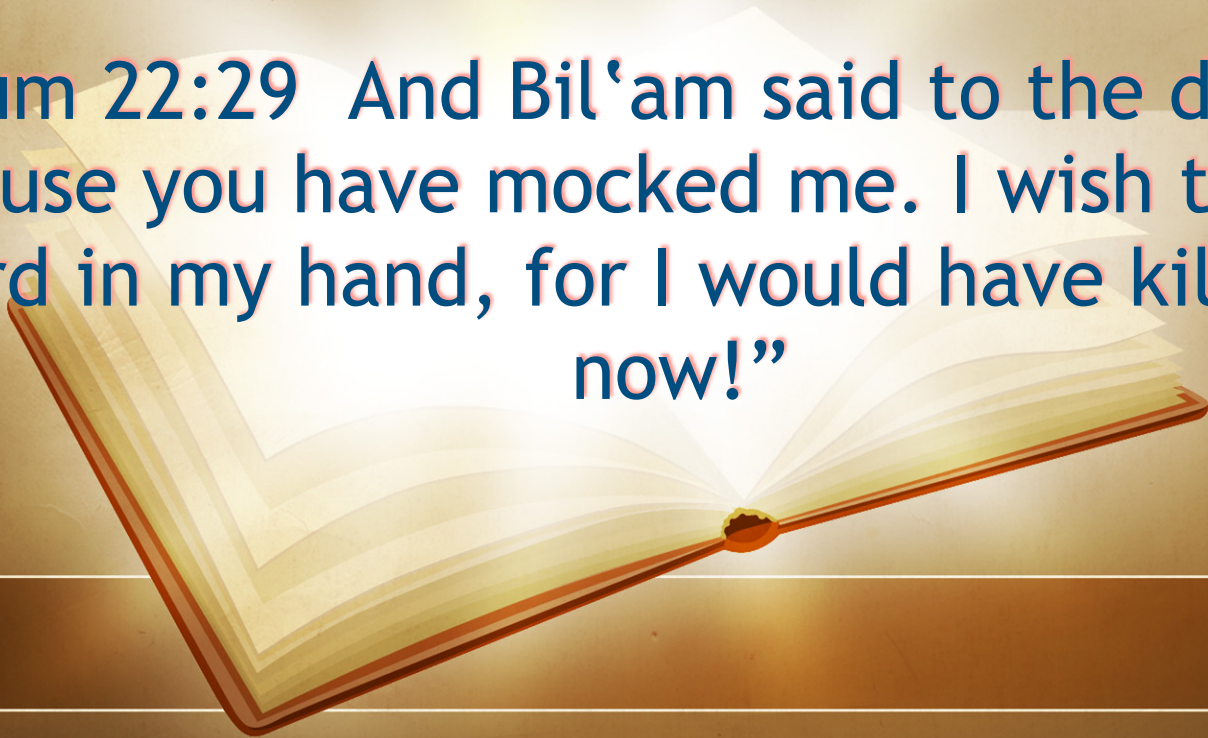
Num 22:26 And the Messenger of יהוה went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn aside, right or left.

Num 22:27 And when the donkey saw the Messenger of יהוה, she lay down under Bil'am. So Bil'am's displeasure burned, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

Num 22:28 Then יהוה opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Bil'am, "What have I done to you, that you have stricken me these three times?"



Num 22:29 And Bil'am said to the donkey,
“Because you have mocked me. I wish there were
a sword in my hand, for I would have killed you by
now!”



Verse 25-29

His journey came to a place where there was no hiding and no escape from the Truth, and the donkey crushed Bil'am's foot and so he struck her again.

A clear picture of how so many will continue to 'strike' the Torah when they are shown that their way of worship is wrong, and the narrow place got so narrow where there was no way to turn, and so we also learn that eventually יהוה brings the lawless (sinners) to a place where they cannot hide and are then confronted with the Truth.

In **verse 27** we see that the donkey lay down and this angered Bil'am and we are told that he used his staff to strike the donkey. The 'staff' is a symbol of authority and here we see as a picture Bil'am using his own authority to beat the donkey (Torah).

This is exactly what has happened in Christianity, when the Pope changed or rather attempted to change the Sabbath to Sun-day to prove their authority to do so, and by the masses who follow this error of man-made authority are just as guilty of striking the Torah of יהוה with the assumed authority of Christianity as birthed by the Catholic Church and held fast to by all her daughters!

Verse 28 - the donkey speaks! - יהוה opens the mouth of the donkey!!! Picture the scene!

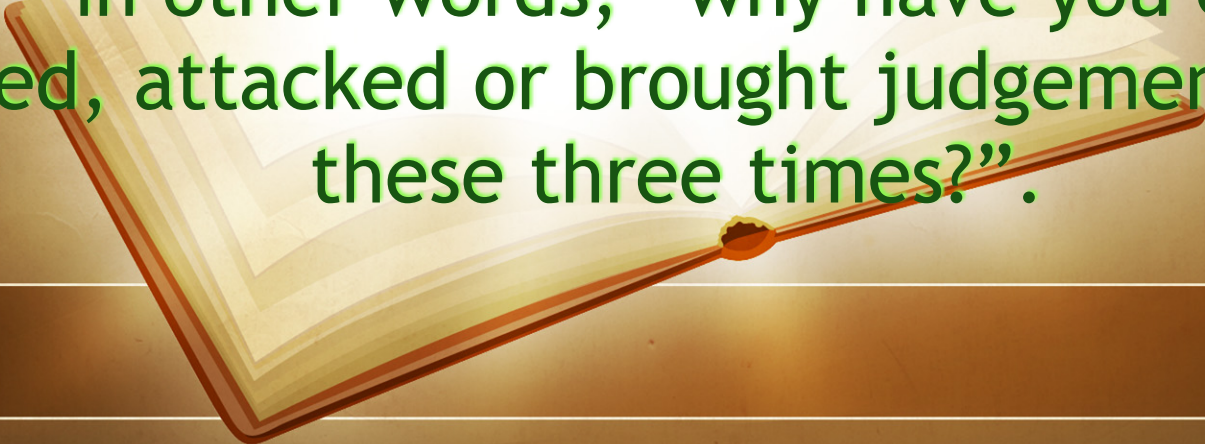
Kěpha Bět/2 Peter 2:16 “but he was rebuked for his transgression: a dumb donkey speaking with the voice of a man restrained the madness of the prophet.”

This may have been a temporary restoration of the original condition of the animals before Adam's fall!



When the Torah is restored and comes alive again so to speak, it may shock many who have claimed that it no longer is a necessity for us.

The donkey asks why Bil'am has beaten her three times - in other words, "why have you chastised, punished, attacked or brought judgement upon me these three times?".



The term/phrase “three times”, is very significant for us, in seeing what the false system of worship has struck!

This phrase literally means ‘three paces or feet’, as it is the same phrase used to describe “the three times a year” that each male was required to go and celebrate יהוה’s Feasts at Yerushalayim:

Shemoth/Exodus 23:14 “Three times in the year you are to observe a festival to Me.”



“Three times in the year”, giving reference to when Yisra’ēl were instructed to keep the Feasts יהוה by every male having to appear before the Master יהוה.

The Hebrew word that is used for ‘*times*’ in Shemoth/Exodus 23:14 and Bemidbar/Numbers 22:28 is רָגַל *regel* - Strong’s H7272 which means ‘*a foot or feet or to walk*’, and speaks of one’s obedience to walking according to His commands and obeying his call to keep His feasts as commanded.

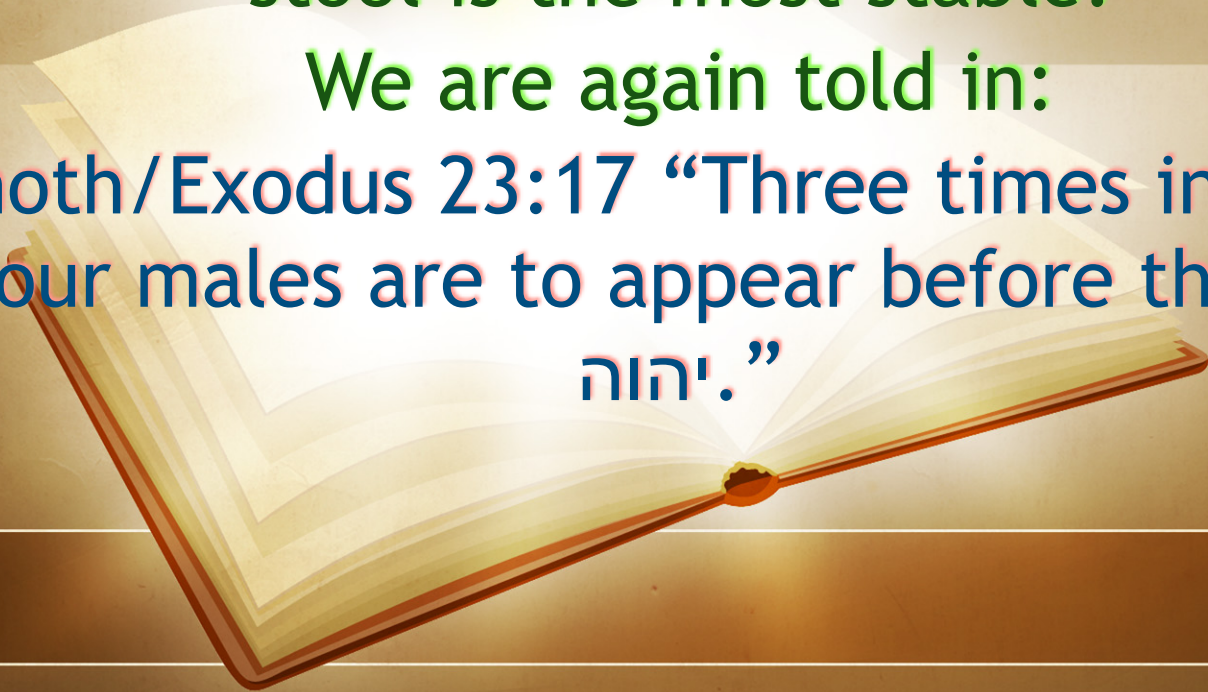
The Feasts were not limited to just 3 but rather all His Feasts were grouped in three - Pěsaḥ and Matzot were the one time you would celebrate in the 1st month; Shavuot the second time in the 3rd month and in the 7th month - Yom Teruah (Trumpets), Yom Kippur (Atonement) and Sukkot (Tabernacles) being the 3rd time.

The term 'celebrate', in the Hebrew, carries the implication of dancing and literally to dance in a circle or cycle - speaking that we keep this cycle every year with great rejoicing.

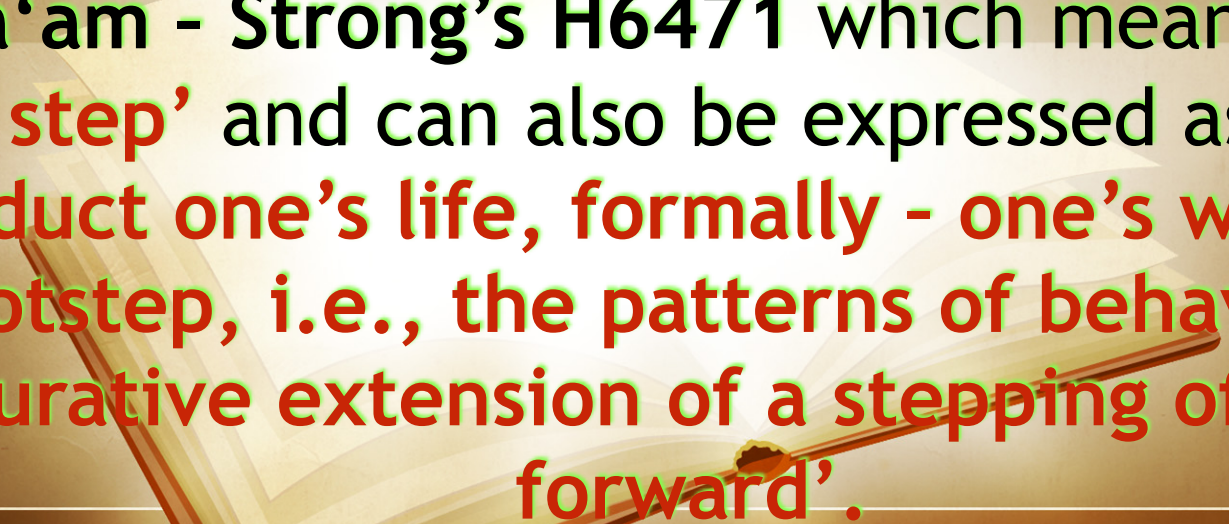
‘Three’ is also symbolic of stability as a 3-legged stool is the most stable.

We are again told in:

Shemoth/Exodus 23:17 “Three times in the year
all your males are to appear before the Master
יְהוָה.”



In **verse 17**, here in Shemoth/Exodus 23, the Hebrew root word that is translated as 'times' is פָּעַם **pa'am** - **Strong's H6471** which means '**a beat, foot, step**' and can also be expressed as how one '**conduct one's life, formally - one's walk, step or footstep, i.e., the patterns of behaviour as a figurative extension of a stepping of a foot forward**'.



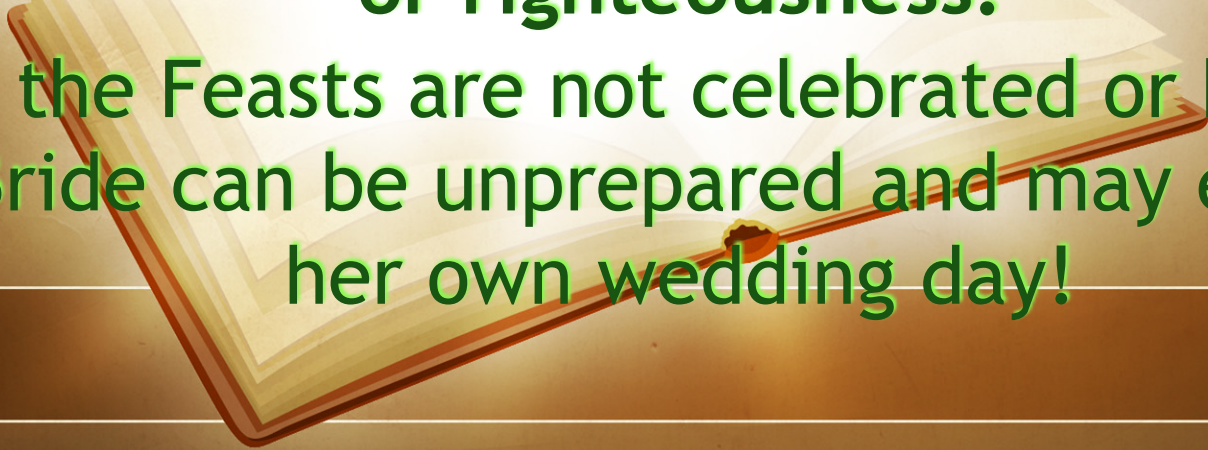
We keep these cycles with joy as we press on forward and do not turn back but always moving forward in His cycle. His Feasts are our rehearsals and we are to be diligent in rehearsing according to His set forth instructions, for in it lies His complete plan of redemption for which we continue to walk in faithfully.

His feasts are in a way a sure roadmap that ensures the Bride's complete preparation and are eternal appointments for every generation that are prophetic in nature helping the Bride be led in Truth to her wedding with the Master!

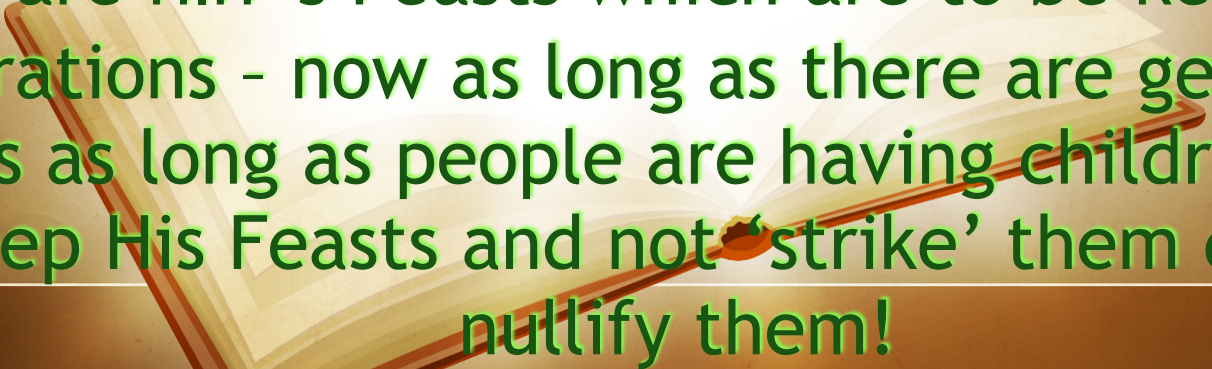
Coming into these celebrations, with *Mosheh's writings and the Sabbath* as our guides, leads the Bride to her wedding, preparing her every step of the way to that special day.

These Feasts are also called paths of right ways or righteousness.

When the Feasts are not celebrated or honoured, the Bride can be unprepared and may even miss her own wedding day!



Bil'am struck the donkey 'three times' - in other words he is a picture of striking the Torah to keep the Feasts 3 times a year, which is exactly what Christianity has done and labelled the Feasts of יהוה as 'Jewish Feasts' which is twisted fabrication and lie, for Wayyiqra/Leviticus 23 makes it very clear that they are יהוה's Feasts which are to be kept for all generations - now as long as there are generations (that is as long as people are having children) we are to keep His Feasts and not 'strike' them down and nullify them!

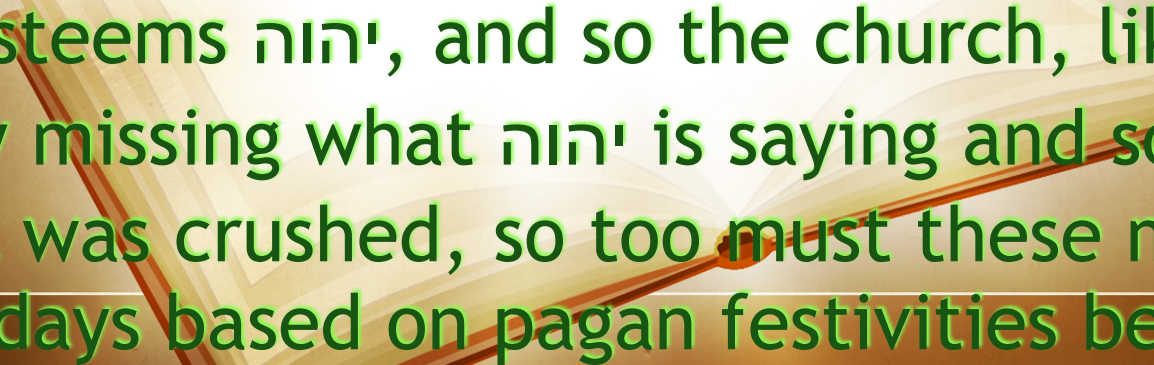


Because Bil'am would not respect יהוה's 'Feet', we then see how יהוה would then hurt his 'feet'. This is very clear, in expressing to us that the Torah will not be bent to the will of Christianity or any other man-made system of worship, that 'strikes' and excuses away the need to keep יהוה's Feasts.

The Torah will not be bent to the will of Christianity, which has changed the Sabbath of יהוה, to a keeping of a pagan rooted day of worshipping the sun!

We are to 'rest' when יהוה says so and not when the Pope has decreed so!

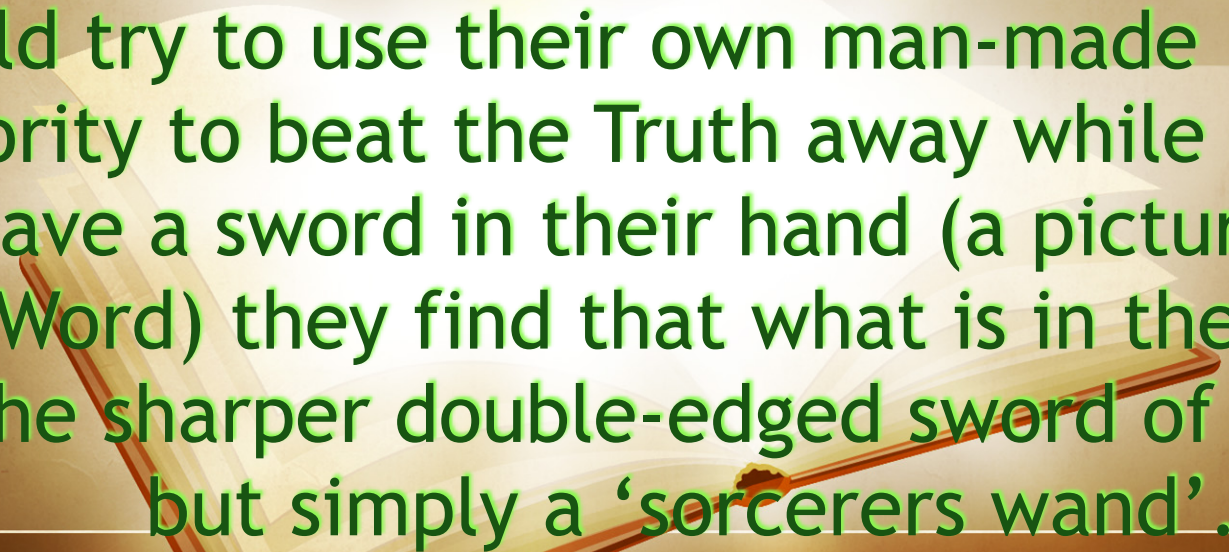
Bil'am is a picture of how the Church has struck and beaten down and chastised the Appointed Times of יהוה, and has stricken them from her worldly man-made calendar that simply serves mammon and in no way esteems יהוה, and so the church, like Bil'am, is totally missing what יהוה is saying and so as Bil'am's foot was crushed, so too must these man-made holidays based on pagan festivities be crushed!



Bil'am talks back to the donkey, possibly because being a soothsayer he was used to talking to animals and doing various witchcraft practices, and is more concerned about his reputation than the truth!

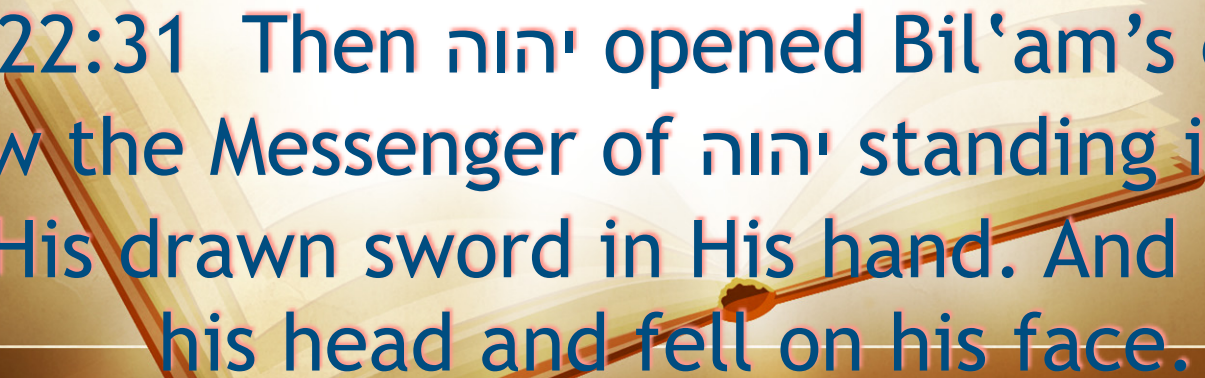


So many people today, when confronted by the Truth, ignore it as they do not want to be mocked and embarrassed for having followed a lie, and would try to use their own man-made 'staff' of authority to beat the Truth away while they wish to have a sword in their hand (a picture of the True Word) they find that what is in their hand is not the sharper double-edged sword of the Truth but simply a 'sorcerers wand'.

An open book with a glowing sword resting on its pages. The sword has a bright orange and yellow hilt and a long, thin blade that glows with a golden light. The book is open, showing its pages, and the sword is positioned diagonally across them. The background is a textured, brownish-gold surface.

Num 22:30 And the donkey said to Bil'am, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever known to do so to you?" And he said, "No."

Num 22:31 Then יהוה opened Bil'am's eyes, and he saw the Messenger of יהוה standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand. And he bowed his head and fell on his face.



Verse 30 - the donkey asks Bil'am if she, as a faithful donkey, had ever mocked him and he said no! When we truly assess what the Torah says we cannot find it in any way mocking us, but rather it is proved to be a faithful tool that will sustain us on our sojourning!

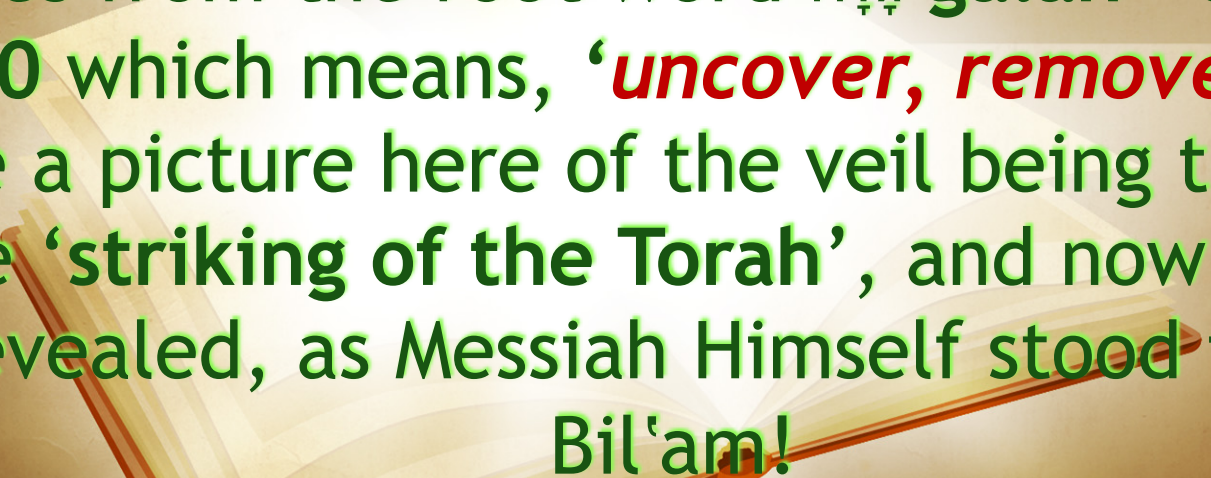


Verse 31 - יהוה opens Bil'am's eyes and he sees the Messenger of יהוה. Up until this point Bil'am has only spoken to יהוה in the dark and now in broad daylight his eyes are opened.

All these times he refused to go in the way of the (donkey) Torah until the (donkey) Torah spoke!

“Faith comes by hearing the Word!”

The Hebrew word that is translated as 'opened' comes from the root word גָּלַהּ galah - Strong's H1540 which means, '*uncover, remove*' and so, we see a picture here of the veil being taken away by the 'striking of the Torah', and now the Truth was revealed, as Messiah Himself stood in front of Bil'am!

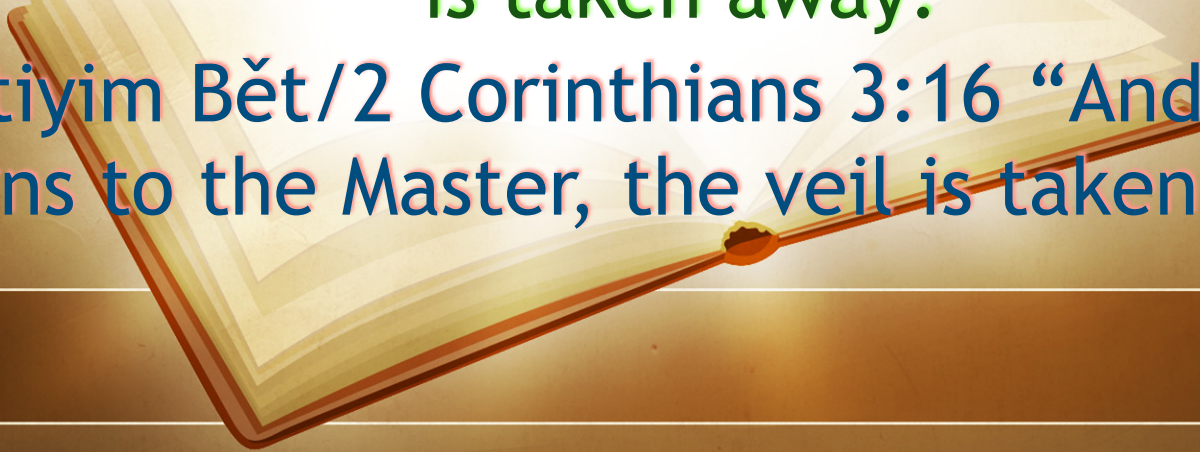


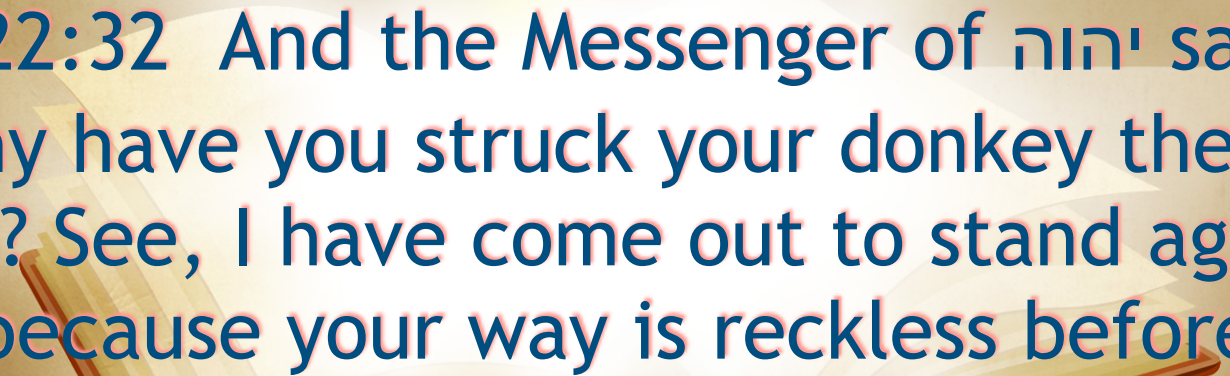
The same word used for open is used in:

Tehillah/Psalm 119:18 “Open my eyes, that I might see Wonders from Your Torah.”

It is only when we turn to the master that the veil is taken away:

Qorintiyim Bět/2 Corinthians 3:16 “And when one turns to the Master, the veil is taken away.”



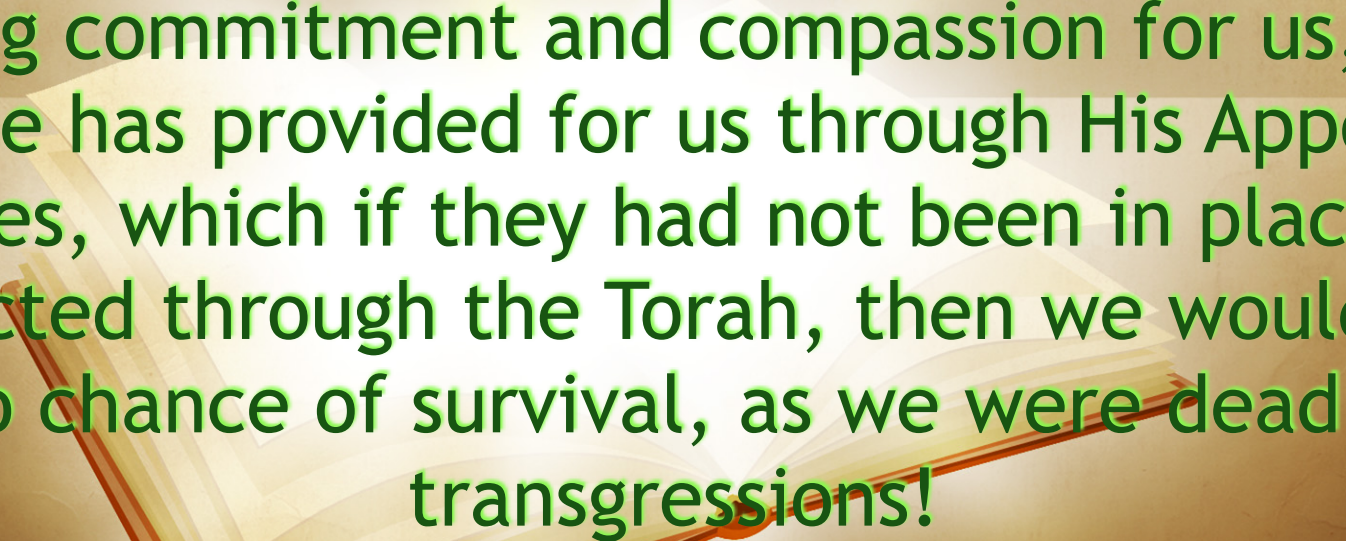


Num 22:32 And the Messenger of יהוה said to him,
“Why have you struck your donkey these three
times? See, I have come out to stand against you,
because your way is reckless before Me.

Verse 32 - The Messenger then asks Bil'am why he has struck his donkey these three times and as a result He has come out to stand against him, because his way is reckless!

This is a picture of the Word as given through Mosheh has spoken and is now revealed by Messiah, and The Messenger (Messiah) tells Bil'am that his way has been contrary to the Truth, and in verse 33 The Messenger tells Bil'am that if it wasn't for these three times that the donkey turned aside, he would have been killed.

This is a powerful illustration of how the Appointed Times of יהוה are a great picture of his loving commitment and compassion for us, and how He has provided for us through His Appointed Times, which if they had not been in place as instructed through the Torah, then we would have had no chance of survival, as we were dead in our transgressions!



Num 22:33 “And the donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, I certainly would have killed you by now, and let her live.”

Num 22:34 And Bil'am said to the Messenger of יהוה, “I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. And now, if evil is in Your eyes, let me turn back.”

Verse 34 - Bil'am in the face of the Truth acknowledges that he has sinned and recognises that he has been off track, and he reveals that he clearly did not know the will of יהוה, which for a 'prophet' is totally unacceptable!

He says that if evil was in the eyes of The Messenger as to his way/path then he asked to be allowed to turn back.

This is a picture of someone who had not been listening; as the Torah makes it very clear what the will of יהוה is and we are to know it.

By now it should have displeased Bil'am to go, yet he has a warped perspective that was not based on the Truth!

He really still wanted to go, yet he asked that if it was not right then he would not go - he should have known it was not right

So many people today have the same way of thinking, as they would, in effect, have the thought process of, “if it offends you I won’t do it”.

We should know what offends יהוה!

It is as if he was saying, “I would really like to do this, but if you are offended by it then I will not”
... Sound familiar?

Num 22:35 And the Messenger of יהוה said to Bil'am, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you speak." Bil'am then went with the heads of Balaq.

Num 22:36 And when Balaq heard that Bil'am was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Mo'ab, which is on the border at the Arnon, which was in the extremity of the border.



Num 22:37 And Balaq said to Bil'am, "Did I not urgently send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to esteem you?"

Num 22:38 And Bil'am said to Balaq, "See, I have come to you! Now, am I at all able to say somewhat? The word that Elohim puts in my mouth, that I speak."

Num 22:39 And Bil'am went with Balaq, and they came to Qiryath Hutsoth.

Verse 35 - do not add or take away - here was then a further test for Bil'am - he was now permitted to go but he would not be allowed to speak that which is not of יהוה.

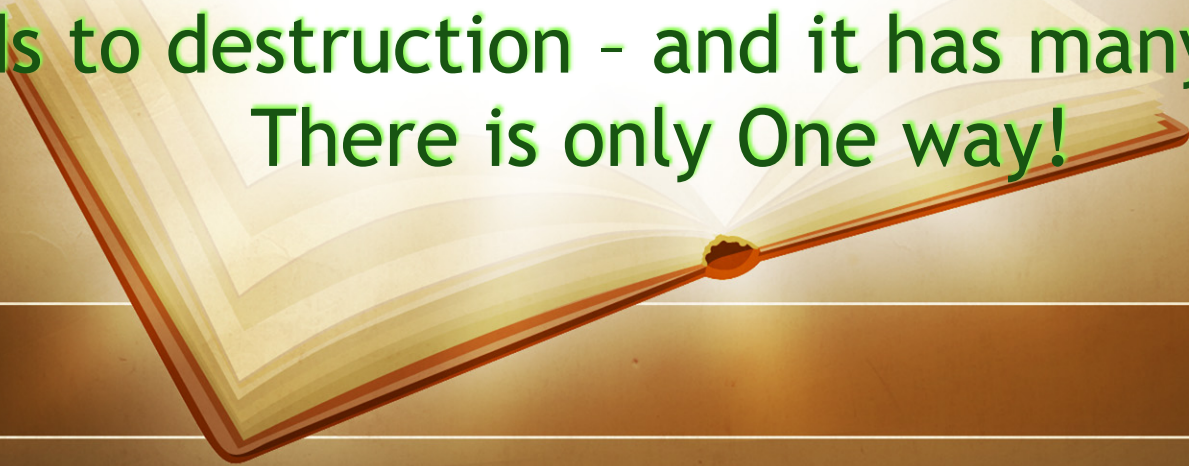
Verse 39 - Bil'am went with Balaq to קִרְיַת חֲצוֹת Qiryath H̄utsoth - Strong's H7155 which means, 'city of streets'!

This is a clear picture of the 'broad way' or the picture of the 'many paths' doctrine!



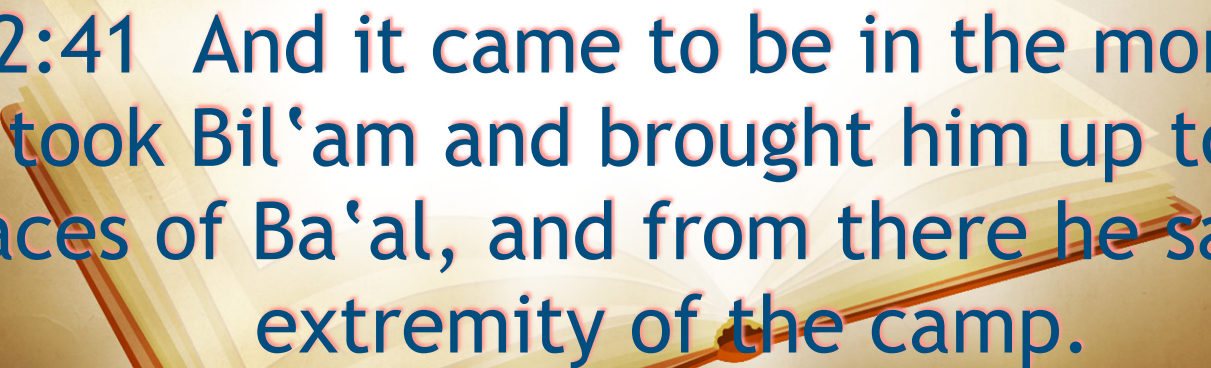
This is how the devastator will attempt to wear down the people - by presenting them with many paths and open spaces to follow and feel secure in, yet as we know that broad is the way that leads to destruction - and it has many paths!

There is only One way!



Num 22:40 And Balaq slaughtered cattle and sheep, and he sent some to Bil'am and to the heads who were with him.

Num 22:41 And it came to be in the morning, that Balaq took Bil'am and brought him up to the high places of Ba'al, and from there he saw the extremity of the camp.



Verse 41 - Balaq took Bil'am to the high places of Ba'al - these were the high places of pagan worship and it would be from these places that Balaq hoped to let Bil'am see why it was important for him to curse Yisra'el and is a sense oppose the Torah!

This was a temptation of power, one which יהושע faced when taken up to a high place and shown the kingdoms of the world by Satan:



Mattithyahu/Matthew 4:8-9 “Again, the devil took Him up on a very high mountain, and showed Him all the reigns of the world, and their esteem, 9 and said to Him, “All these I shall give You if You fall down and worship me.”

Balaq was trying what Satan tried to do to Messiah - get him to see from the heights how great Balaq was and fall down and do what he requires!

What was יהושע's response to Satan?

Mattithyahu/Matthew 4:10 “Then יהושע said to him,
“Go, Satan! For it has been written, ‘You shall worship
יהוה your Elohim, and Him alone you shall serve.’”

Bil'am did not resist but continued on with Balaq and
this was a place connected to Ba'al and there can be no
agreement with Ba'al and יהוה and so we see clearly
here how the curse is connected to Ba'al and Ba'al
worship.

Ba'al worship is what Christianity is performing on their
many ‘high places’ and has no agreement with the Torah
of יהוה!


CHAPTER 23

In this chapter, we see 3 times how Bil'am instructs Balaq to build 7 slaughter places and offer up 7 bulls and 7 rams, from 3 different locations.

What is interesting to note here is how Bil'am tells Balaq in verse 1 to build the slaughter places for him (that is for Bil'am) and not for יהוה!

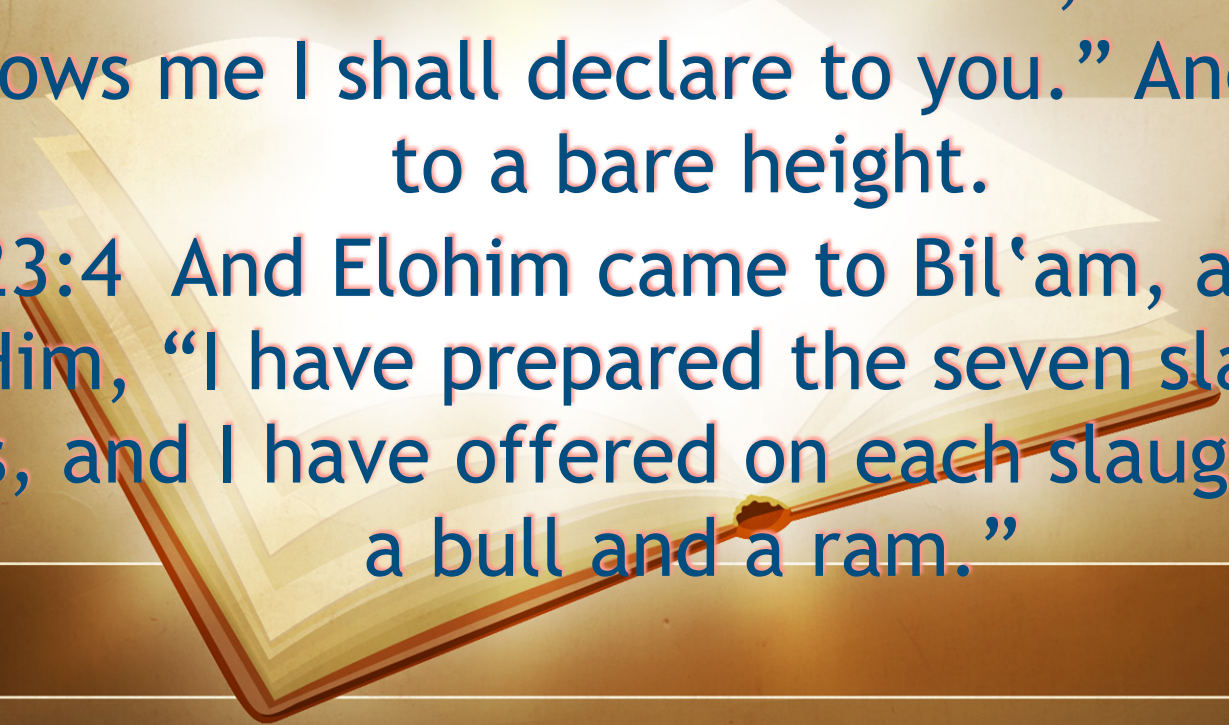
Num 23:1 And Bil'am said to Balaq, "Build seven slaughter-places for me here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me here."

Num 23:2 And Balaq did as Bil'am had spoken, and Balaq and Bil'am offered a bull and a ram on each slaughter-place.



Num 23:3 Bil'am then said to Balaq, "Stand by your ascending offering, and let me go on. It might be that יהוה does come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I shall declare to you." And he went to a bare height.

Num 23:4 And Elohim came to Bil'am, and he said to Him, "I have prepared the seven slaughter-places, and I have offered on each slaughter-place a bull and a ram."



Num 23:5 And יהוה put a word in the mouth of Bil'am, and said, "Return to Balaq, and this is what you say."

Num 23:6 And he returned to him and saw him standing by his ascending offering, he and all the heads of Mo'ab.

Num 23:7 And he took up his proverb and said, "Balaq the sovereign of Mo'ab has brought me from Aram, from the mountains of the east. 'Come, curse Ya'aqob for me, and come, rage at Yisra'el!'

Num 23:8 “How do I curse whom Ėl has not cursed? And how do I rage at whom יהוה has not raged?

Num 23:9 “For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I observe him. Look, a people dwelling alone, not reckoning itself among the nations.

Num 23:10 “Who shall count the dust of Ya‘aqob, and the number of one-fourth of Yisra’ĕl? Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!”

Num 23:11 And Balaq said to Bil'am, "What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and look, you have kept on blessing!"

Num 23:12 And he answered and said, "Should I not take heed to speak what יהוה has put in my mouth?"

Num 23:13 And Balaq said to him, "Please come with me to another place from where you see them. You only see the extremity but not all of them. Curse them for me from there."

Num 23:14 And he took him to the field of Tsophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven slaughter-places, and offered a bull and a ram on each slaughter-place.

Num 23:15 And he said to Balaq, "Stand here by your ascending offering while I meet over there."

Num 23:16 And יהוה came to Bil'am, and put a word in his mouth, and said, "Go back to Balaq, and say this."

Num 23:17 So he went to him and saw him standing by his ascending offering, and the heads of Mo'ab with him. And Balaq asked him, "What did יהוה say?"

Num 23:18 And he took up his proverb and said, "Rise up, Balaq, and hear! Listen to me, son of Tsippor!"

Num 23:19 "Ėl is not a man, to lie; nor a son of man, to repent! Has He said, and would He not do it; or spoken, and would not confirm it?

Num 23:20 “See, I have received, to bless. And He has blessed, and I do not reverse it.

Num 23:21 “He has not looked upon wickedness in Ya‘aqob, nor has He seen trouble in Yisra’ĕl. יהוה his Elohim is with him, and the shout of a Sovereign is in him.

Num 23:22 “Ĕl who brought them out of Mitsrayim, is for them like the horns of a wild ox.

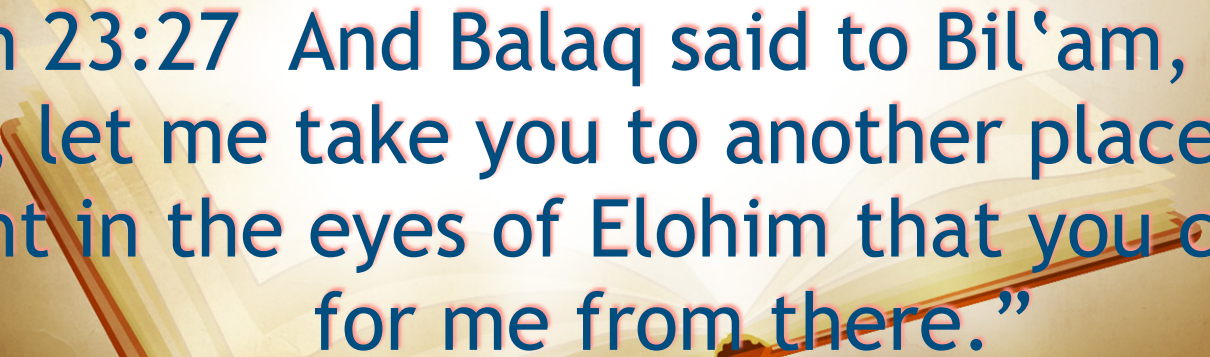
Num 23:23 “For there is no sorcery against Ya‘aqob, nor is there any divination against Yisra’ěl. Now it is said to Ya‘aqob and to Yisra’ěl, ‘What has Ėl done!’

Num 23:24 “Look, a people rises like a lioness, and lifts itself up like a lion; it lies not down until it devours the prey, and drinks the blood of the slain.”

Num 23:25 And Balaq said to Bil’am, “Do not curse them at all, nor bless them at all!”

Num 23:26 And Bil'am answered and said to Balaq, "Have I not spoken to you, saying, 'All that יהוה speaks, that I do'?"

Num 23:27 And Balaq said to Bil'am, "Please come, let me take you to another place. It might be right in the eyes of Elohim that you curse them for me from there."



Num 23:28 And Balaq took Bil'am to the top of Pe'or, that overlooks the wasteland.

Num 23:29 And Bil'am said to Balaq, "Build seven slaughter-places for me here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me here."

Num 23:30 And Balaq did as Bil'am had said, and offered a bull and a ram on each slaughter-place.

As we have said, that this is a Ba'al worship site and while we do see a pattern of 7 bulls and rams being offered up in Scripture we see some differences here:

lyob/Job 42:8 “And now, take seven bulls and seven rams, and go to My servant lyob, and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And let My servant lyob pray for you - for I accept him - lest I punish you; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as did My servant lyob.”

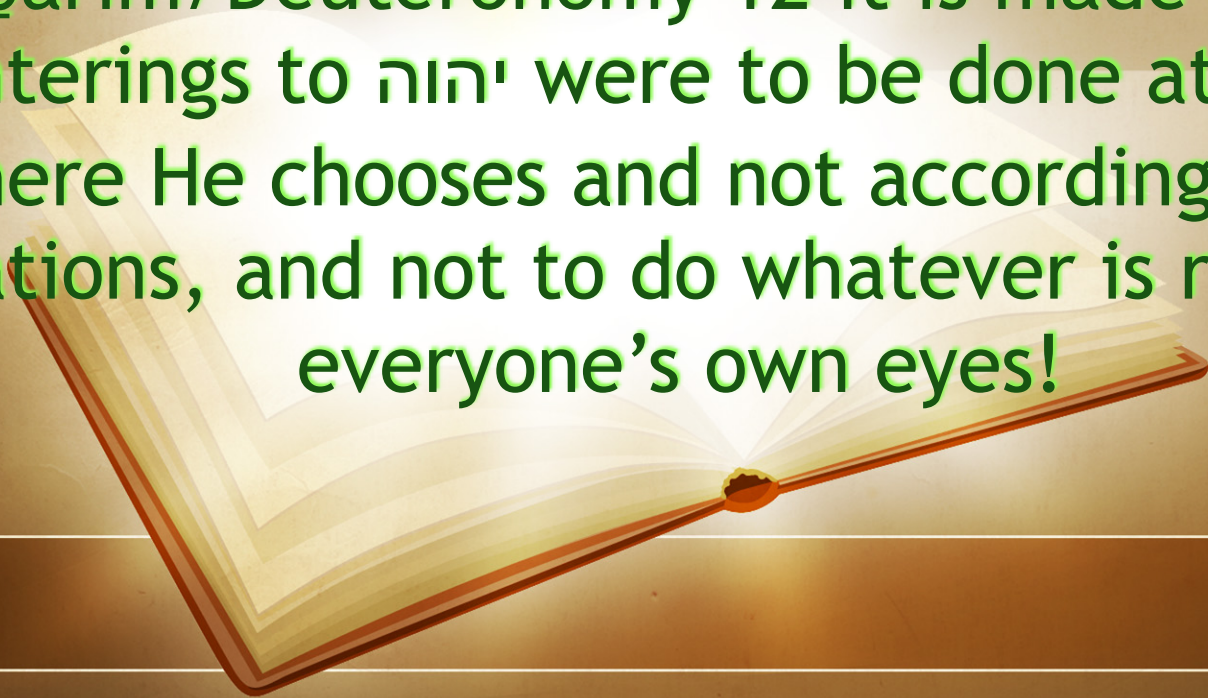
Dibre haYamim Aleph/1 Chronicles 15:26 “And it came to be, when Elohim helped the Lěwites who bore the ark of the covenant of יהוה, that they offered seven bulls and seven rams.”

Dibre haYamim Bět/2 Chronicles 29:21 “And they brought seven bulls, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven male goats for a sin offering for the reign, for the set-apart place, and for Yehudah. And he said to the priests, the sons of Aharon, to offer them on the altar of יהוה.”

All of the above occasions were at times of restoration and a time of making right with יהוה in acknowledgement of His presence being restored. These 3 times the 7 bulls and 7 rams were offered up on one slaughter place, not 7.

And so, while we a great significance in the number 7 as speaking of completion and fullness, the place and procedure was all wrong!

In Debarim/Deuteronomy 12 it is made clear that slaughterings to יהוה were to be done at the place where He chooses and not according to the nations, and not to do whatever is right in everyone's own eyes!



Bil'am was doing what was right in his own eyes
(build me 7 slaughter places) and he was doing it
on pagan worship sites!

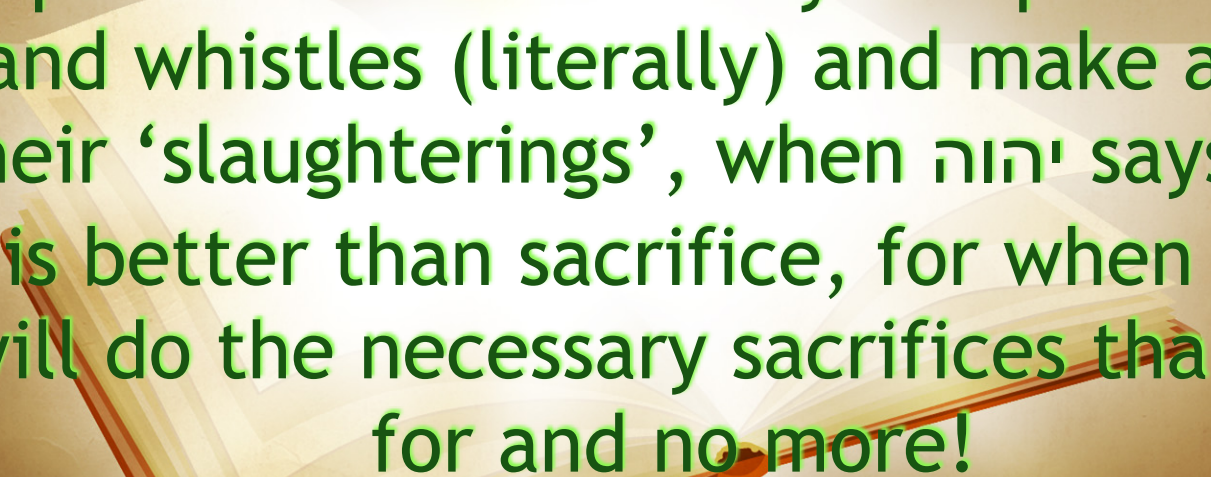
Mishlě/Proverbs 15:8 “The slaughtering of the
wrong ones Is an abomination to יהוה, but the
prayer of the straight is His delight.”



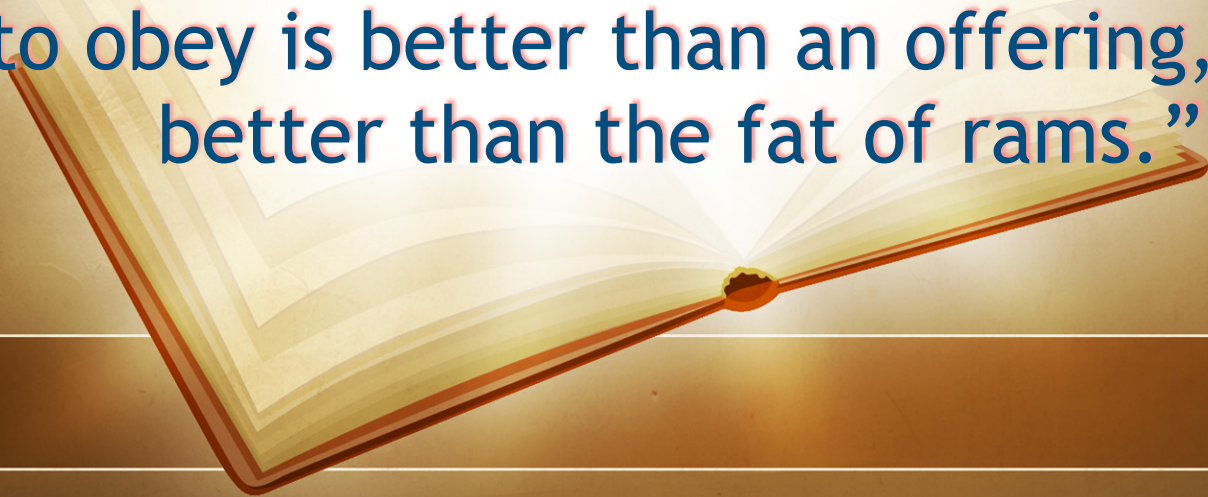
With 7 being a unique number, it is here how we see just how crafty the enemy is, in trying to make their attempts at their false sacrifice system seem to appear as right and you also have to think about how they built the slaughter places.

Was it with cut stone, which was forbidden and why 7 slaughter places?

We see this as a picture of going over the top, just like many churches do today, when they have a worship conference and they will pull out all the bells and whistles (literally) and make a big show of their 'slaughterings', when יהוה says that to obey is better than sacrifice, for when you obey you will do the necessary sacrifices that He calls for and no more!



Shemu'ël Aleph/1 Samuel 15:22 “Then Shemu'ël
said, “Does יהוה delight in burnt offerings and
slaughterings, as in obeying the voice of יהוה?
Look, to obey is better than an offering, to heed is
better than the fat of rams.”



Bil'am seeks יהוה and he is told by Elohim what to say
and he returns to Balaq and takes up a proverb and
declares that he is unable to curse whom Elohim has
blessed!

From the heights, he looks and sees a people (that is
Yisra'ēl) dwelling alone, not reckoning themselves
among the nations!

A people not reckoning themselves among the nations
- this is exactly what we are to be doing - we are not
like the world, we are a chosen people, dwelling
alone as sojourners here:

Kěpha Aleph/1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a set-apart nation, a people for a possession, that you should proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light”

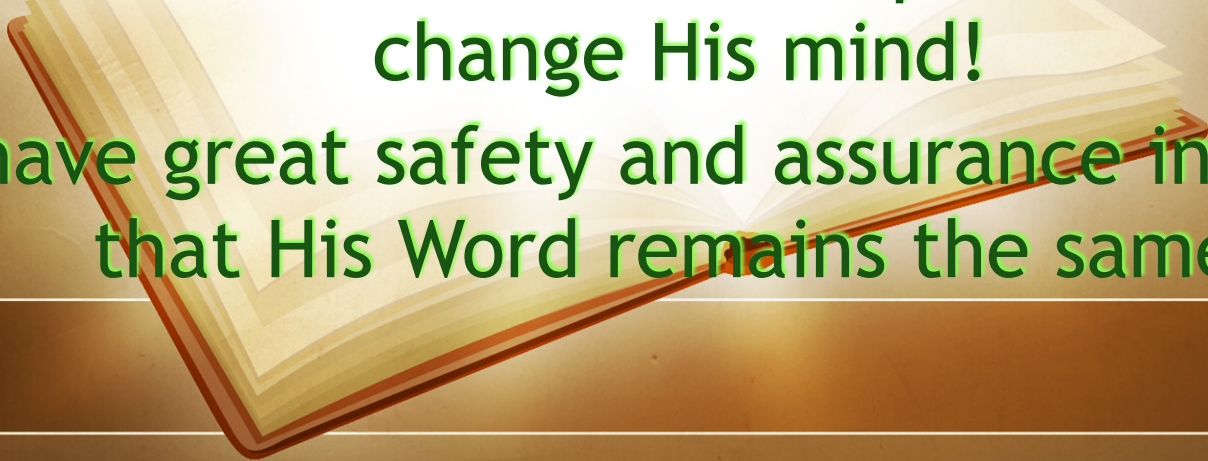
Deḅarim/Deuteronomy 7:6 “For you are a set-apart people to יהוה your Elohim. יהוה your Elohim has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a treasured possession above all the peoples on the face of the earth.”

When Balaq doesn't get what he is paying for, he takes Bil'am to another high place called צִפִּים Tsophim - Strong's H6839 which means, 'watchers' and this was a lookout point and comes from the root word צָפָה tsaphah - Strong's H6822 which means, 'to look out, spy, keep watch' - this was a lookout point where one could watch for approaching enemies and so Balaq takes his prophet for hire to a spot to get a better view of Yisra'el who they deemed as an encroaching enemy.

They once again built another 7 slaughter places
and Bil'am again receives the word from יהוה:

He makes it clear that no matter how many times
you try to get a different answer, יהוה is not a man
to lie nor the son of man to repent - HE does not
change His mind!

We have great safety and assurance in the fact
that His Word remains the same:



Romiyim/Romans 11:29 “For the gifts and the calling of Elohim are not to be repented of.”

Titos/Titus 1:2 “in expectation of everlasting life which Elohim, who does not lie, promised before times of old”

Ib’rim/Hebrews 6:18 “so that by two unchangeable matters in which it is impossible for Elohim to lie, we might have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the expectation set before us,”

As mentioned earlier that a curse without cause does not come and no matter what the enemy tries, we are protected in Messiah, and even this prophet for hire cannot curse for a fee!

Bil'am tells Balaq the source of Yisra'el's blessing -
It is the living presence of יהוה Himself among them.

When others attack יהוה's people, they attack יהוה!
And no one can prevail against Him and He cannot be manipulated!

Balaq then takes Bil'am to another high place and so we can learn that the devastator will not stop at trying to get you cursed and in trying to deceive you he will always try to get you to see the truth from another angle or a different viewpoint, be it Catholic, Protestant, Baptist, Methodist etc.

They are all the same - just different hilltops of the same pagan rooted system of twisted worship that assumes to use aspects of the truth in an extravagant manner to try to look impressive yet lack true power in the Spirit!

