

## Parashat Balaq- A Prophet for Profit

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**Bilaam**



**Parashat Balaq**

**A Prophet  
for Profit**

**B'midbar [Numbers]  
22:2- 25:9**

**B'midbar 22:1-35**

**Netzarin-Antoecie**

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

**Balaq sends for Balaam**

**Bemidbar [Numbers] 22: 1-21** And the children of Yisra'el set out and camped in the desert plains of Mo'ab beyond the Yardēn of Yericho [Jericho]. **2** And Balaq son of Tsippor saw all that Yisra'el had done to the Amorites. **3** And Mo'ab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they were many and Mo'ab was in dread because of the children of Yisra'el. **4** And Mo'ab said to the elders of Miḡyan, "Now this company is licking up all that is around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." Now Balaq son of Tsippor was sovereign of the Mo'abites at that time, **5** and he sent messengers to Bil'am [Balaam] son of Be'or at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying, "See, a people has come from Mitsrayim. See, they have covered the surface of the land and are settling next to me! **6** "And now, please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too strong for me. It might be that I smite them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed and he whom you curse is cursed." **7** And the elders of Mo'ab and the elders of Miḡyan left with the fees for divination in their hand and they came to Bil'am and spoke the words of Balaq to him.

# Netzarim-Antoecie

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

8 And he said to them, "Spend the night here and I shall bring back word to you, as יהוה speaks to me." So, the heads of Mo'ab stayed with Bil'am. 9 And Elohim came to Bil'am and said, "Who are these men with you?" 10 And Bil'am said to Elohim, "Balaq, son of Tsippor, sovereign of Mo'ab, has sent to me, saying, 11 'See, a people has come out of Mitsrayim and cover the surface of the land. come now, curse them for me. It might be that I am able to fight against them and drive them out.' " 12 And Elohim said to Bil'am, "Do not go with them. you do not curse the people, for they are blessed." 13 And Bil'am rose in the morning and said to the heads of Balaq, "Go back to your land, for יהוה has refused to allow me to go with you." 14 And the heads of Mo'ab arose and went to Balaq and said, "Bil'am refuses to come with us." 15 Then Balaq again sent heads, more numerous and more esteemed than they. 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, 17 for I esteem you very greatly and whatever you say to me, I do. Therefore, please come, curse this people for me.' " 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.

# Netzarim-Antoecie

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

19 "And now, please, you also stay here tonight and let me find out what more יהוה says to me." 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." 21 And Bil'am rose in the morning and saddled his donkey and went with the heads of Mo'ab. 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. 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 beat the donkey to turn her back onto the way. 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. 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 beat her again. 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. 27 And when the donkey saw the messenger of יהוה, she lay down under Bil'am. So Bil'am's displeasure burned and he beat the donkey with his staff.

# Netzarim-Antoecie

## NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

28 Then יהוה opened the mouth of the donkey and she said to Bil'am, "What have I done to you, that you have beaten me these Three times?" 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!" 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." 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. 32 And the Messenger of יהוה said to him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these Three times? See, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is reckless before Me. 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." 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. 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.

**Torah:** [B'midbar \[Numbers\] 22:2-25:9](#), **Haftarah:** [Mikhah \[Micha\] 5:6-6:8](#),

**Netzarim Ketuvim:** [Romiyim \[Romans\] 11:25-32](#)

**Introduction:** This week's entire Torah portion has its focus on a gentile Prophet and his calling by the King of Moab whose name is Balak. This King had observed that Yisrael was encamped at his border & knew what had occurred to the Kings who had resisted Yisrael and had been destroyed. In his panic to protect his Kingdom from invasion rather than trying to make peace he decided to call upon a known Gentile Prophet whose name was Bilaam or usually translated as Balaam.

Let us first look at our reading though a:

### Summary of the Torah Portion:

1. Yisrael come to the border of Moab & Balaq their kings tries to entice Balaam to curse them.
2. After 1<sup>st</sup> refusing Balaq sends greater enticements & then YHWH allows him to go but only to speak His words.
3. A messenger [Angel] obstructs the path which only the donkey sees with Balaam striking the donkey who miraculously speaks, admonishing Balaam. He then sees the messenger who reminds him to speak only the words of YHWH.
4. Balaq takes Balaam to 3 different locations to curse but he can only bless Yisrael.
5. Before leaving Moab, Balaam prophecies the end of days when a star will arise out of Ya'acov [Jacob] & a Sceptre out of Yisrael to be victorious over their enemies.
6. Finally, Yisrael is seduced by the women of Moab & Midian & a plague breaks forth.

### Who indeed was Bilaam:

In this portion we come to hear about a gentile prophet who was a prophet of renown among a small list of Prophets in ancient times which most possibly included Job & according to the book of Job also his friends and Beor the Father of Bilaam [**Balaam**]. According to the Ancient book of Jasher we are introduced to Bilaam as one with the power to bless or curse in:

**Jasher 85:42** And the Elders of Midian said to Moab, we have heard that at the time when Sihon king of the Amorites fought against you, when he prevailed over you and took your land, he had sent to Beor the son of Janeas and to Balaam his son from Mesopotamia, and they came and cursed you; therefore, did the hand of Sihon prevail over you and he took your land.

We know from Scripture the promises that come from Yahweh to Abraham related to blessings & curses which today seem to have lost their value as many today fail to see these as having affect but Scripture makes these of great value as we read relating to Abraham in:

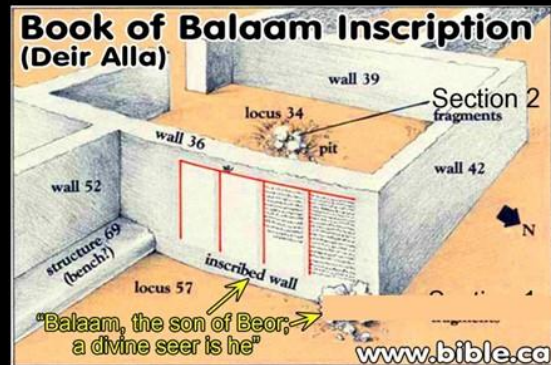
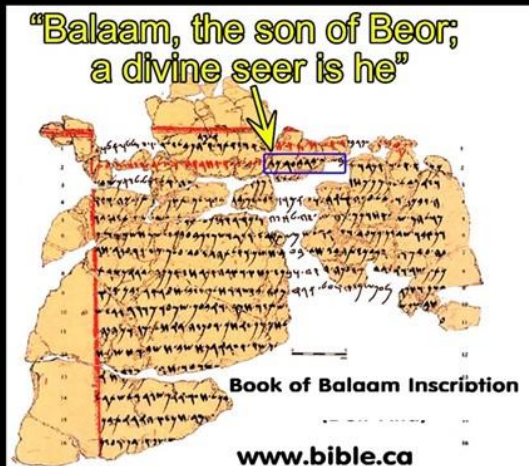


**Bereshiyth [Genesis]12:3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Our entire portion therefore relates to a special Prophet who was known to have the ability to curse or bless and to see his word established. The evidence is shown that Balaam truly existed in this slide:

## Historical Evidence of Bilaam

In 1967 a plaster inscription on the wall of a temple at *Deir Alla* in Jordan was found to make reference to the night vision of a seer called Bilaam—the earliest reference in archaeological sources to a named individual in the Torah.

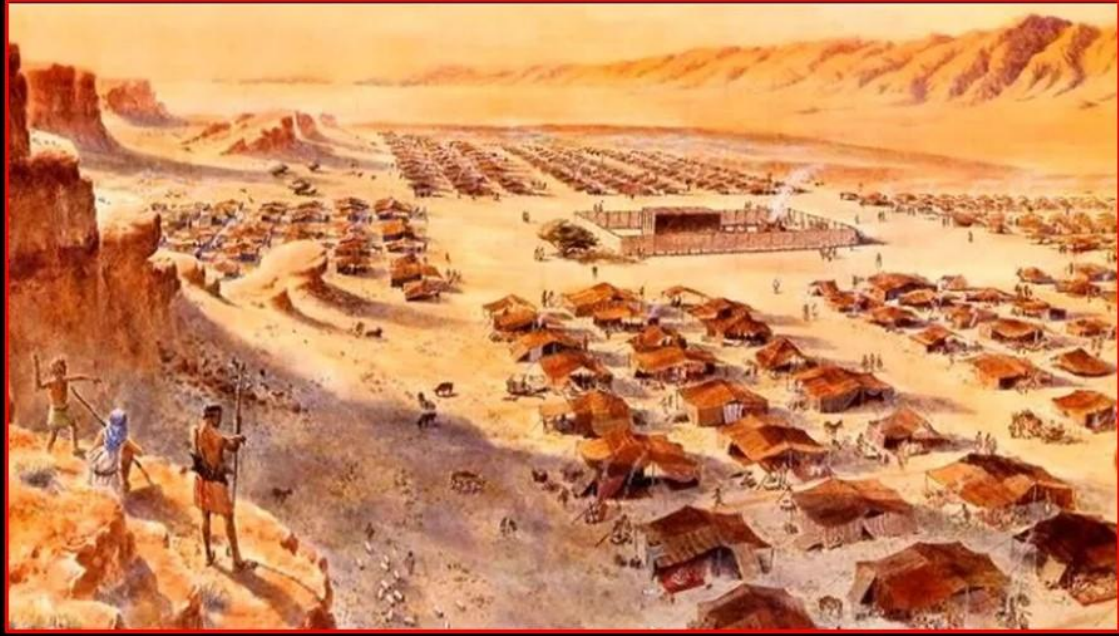


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### The Story of Balaam:

To fully understand the story of Balaam & how significant it is for us today we need to see it in its entirety. It begins with the appointment by the Elders of Moab of Balak as King of Moab because he was known to be wise as detailed in the Book of Jasher. As Balak observed the great array of Yisrael he becomes concerned knowing they have defeated both Sihon King of the Amorites & Og King of Bashan and that by observance they were a vast congregation of people.

# Yisrael's Encampment



Balak was a wise man himself, so he sent forth Messengers to summon Balaam. We read how Balaam responds to the summons of the messengers & we could be prone to think he is a rather faithful man to Yahweh as we see in his response to these messengers in:

## Balaam rejects the enticement



**B'midbar [Numbers] 22:13**  
Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "go back to your land for Yahweh has refused to give me permission to go with you."

However, not to be dissuaded Balak sends more rich gifts & more esteemed messengers & Balaam again seeks Yahweh to go. This time however Yahweh does allow him to go. From this I hope we come to see that Yahweh is never one to impose his will on anyone

who persists in their own way since he had already instructed Balaam not to go previously but upon Balaam's insistence, he lets him go but only commands him to speak what is given him.

There is a unique similarity in this story too. When Abraham is called by Yahweh to offer his son we find him loading his Donkey & also taking his two servants just as we read:

**Bereshiyth [Genesis] 12:3** So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him,



**Bereshiyth [Genesis] 12:3** So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him,

**B'midbar [Numbers] 22:21** So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his Donkey, 22 and his two servants were with him.

Surely the contrast with these two is that Abraham went in the perfect will of Elohim,

but Balaam went in the permissive will of Elohim but not in his perfect will.

The next part of this story is so intriguing since we find his way being blocked by a supernatural **Messenger [Angel]** which only the Donkey sees until finally the Donkey speaks to Balaam and his eyes are opened with these words reinforced by the Divine Messenger [Angel]:



**The Divine Messenger rebukes Balaam**

**B'midbar [Numbers] 22:32** Behold, I have come out to stand against you because your way is perverse before Me.

What is amazing is that the Donkey answers Balaam after he strikes it & I wonder why he is not surprised though I do think some part of the conversation is missing. However, what we learn from that is that anything or any person no matter how lowly can be used by Yahweh to rebuke the greatest of men from making a great mistake if they will listen.

Why however would the anger of Yahweh be aroused by Balaam going since he had been given permission to go. Surely it was because his motive was wrong since his greatest desire was personal gain so the confrontation through the mouth of the Donkey was to reinforce the word of Yahweh to only speak what was given him. Out of exceeding fear Balaam offers to go back but is instructed to go to Balak yet to only speak the words given him by Yahweh.

If Balaam's words did not constitute real power, I would ask you, why was it so important for Yahweh that he not pronounce a curse over Yisrael. Surely even though he was a Gentile prophet appointed by Yahweh and though he is seen as a rebellious Prophet his words before the heavenly court still maintained their weight. What can we derive from that? If one has the anointing of Elohim, then his words maintain their weight regardless of that one's motivation which should be a sobering thought.

In today's world there are many who profess to be prophets and it is possible that their words maybe fulfilled if their anointing is truly from Elohim however there have been many of those chosen men who have fallen to sin due to their desire like Balaam for gain, so we have some Briyth Chadashah [New Testament] warnings from:

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**Kepha Beyth [2 Peter 2:15 They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.]**



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**Yahudah [Jude] 1:11** Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

There is therefore a great challenge today for those who raise up great ministries, that they truly challenge themselves as to their motives to see if it is not for personal gain that they pursue their anointing. This too should always be the challenge for all believers. Do we see any of the early believers gaining worldly riches through their proclamation of the faith? Surely not, since Yahusha [Yeshua] himself says this:



**Luke 9:23** Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

The true character of an anointed believer is that of one who is so extremely grateful for the salvation that he has been offered through Yeshua the Master that all Worldly thought he considers loss just as **Shaul [Paul]** that great sent one **[Apostle]** says in:

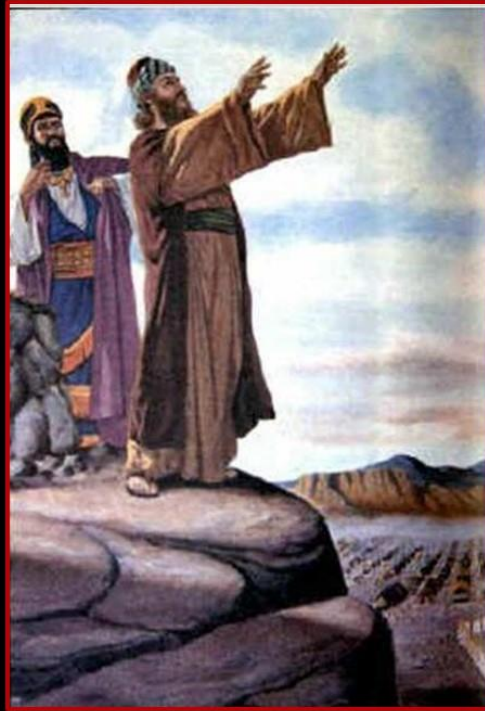
## Shaul's [Paul's] Words

**Philippians 3:8** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Messiah Yeshua my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Messiah.



**Philippians 3:8** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Messiah Yeshua my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Messiah.

Returning once more to the story of Balaam we do find him submitting to the demands of Balak and Balak making sacrifices three times.

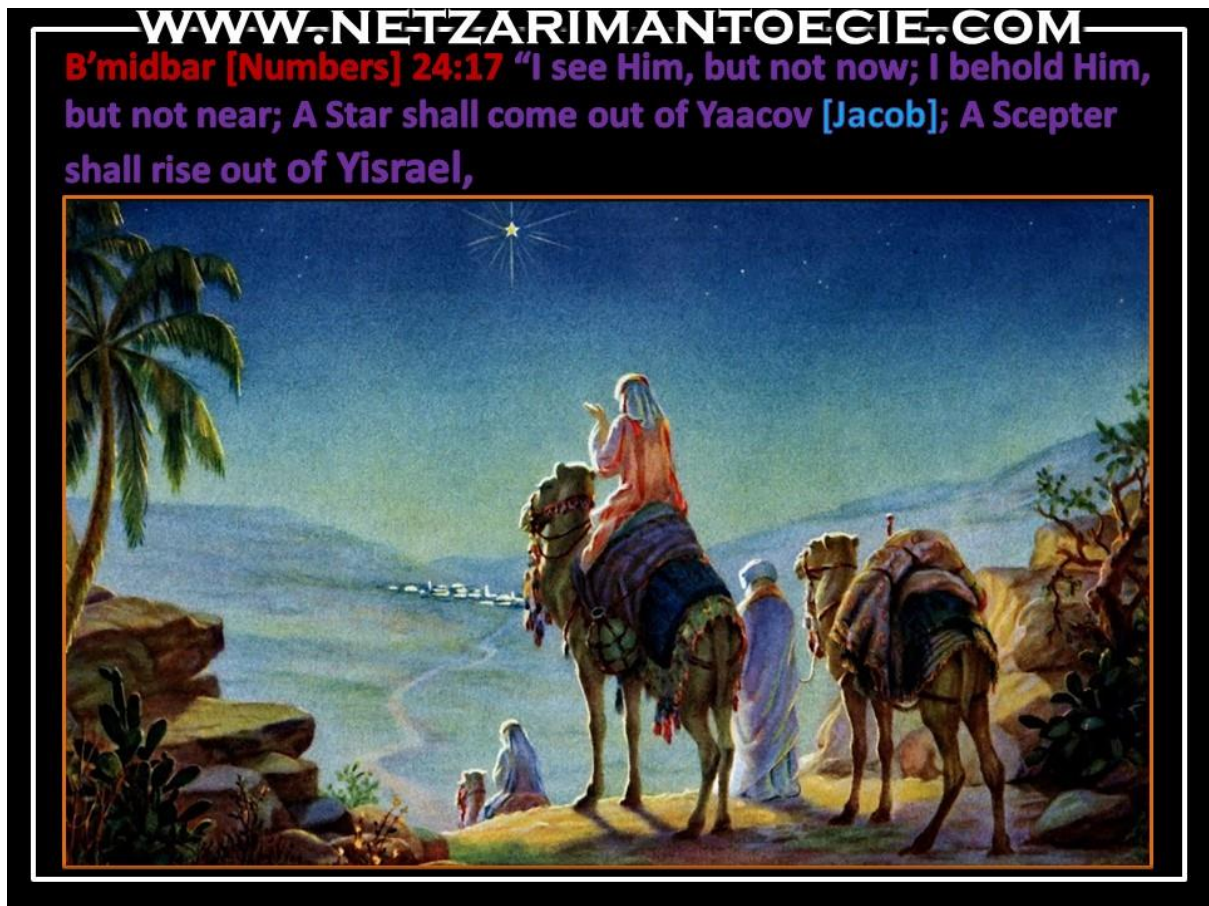


**Balaq offering  
sacrifices while  
Balaam can only  
bless Yisrael**

Two times towards the nation of Yisrael & once towards the wilderness in the hope that Balaam is able to curse Yisrael. What we find however is that out of the mouth of Balaam comes only blessings & these have been deemed so prophetic that we use them in our Liturgy each Shabbat & these words are:

**Ma Tov**- How goodly are your Tents Oh Yaacov, your dwelling places Oh Yisrael.

Ever greater than that is the prophecy given by Balaam concerning the promise of Messiah as found in:



**B'midbar [Numbers] 24:17 "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Yaacov [Jacob]; A Sceptre shall rise out of Yisrael,**

I am sure that this led to the wise men from the east coming and searching for the promise of the birth of the King of Yisrael. Surely these were descendants of the school of Daniel which had arisen in **Babylon** & most likely were of Yahudi **[Jewish]** ancestry. We know that Daniel had clearly prophesied about the coming of the Messiah in:



**Daniel 9:25**  
“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Yerushalayim [Jerusalem] until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;

**Daniel 9:25** “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Yerushalayim [Jerusalem] until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;

Though the heart of Balaam was for gain we see that Yahweh had given

him the anointing to be a great Prophet to the Gentiles, but he totally neglected his great calling to bring the name of Yahweh to the nations but rather desired worldly gain in his service to Balak & the enemies of Yisrael.

**Our Challenge Today:**

There is for us still a great challenge through this story. We will find it in the words of Yeshua as found in this reading in the following:

**The Throne of Judgement**



**MatithYahu [Matthew] 7:21**  
“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ **23** And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

These words suggest a group of people that are truly anointed to serve Yahweh just as Balaam was. When they come before the Judgement seat of Yeshua in all his esteem the Master reveals a great truth for us to cause us to reconsider whether we are understanding the truth of our Saviour who not only desires faith from us in him but also a life in obedience to him. Is that not the position we are hoping to find in the faith that we follow? In this reading we are talking about people who serve

the Master who prophecy in his name as Balaam did, who cast out demons in his name & have done many other wonders. Like Balaam however they did it for their own personal benefits and the Master calls their life a practise of Lawlessness. That therefore is our challenge for today. If we truly desire to know our Master and expect to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, it is imperative that we do the will of our Father in Heaven. This is perfectly expressed in these verses:

**Chazon [Revelation] 14:12** In this is the endurance of the Holy Ones [Saints] who keep the commandments of Elohim and the Faith of Yahusha [Yeshua].

**Chazon [Revelation] 22:14** "Blessed are those doing His commands, so that the authority shall be theirs unto the tree of life and to enter through the gates into the city.

May our greatest desire be, to be known by Yeshua Messiah our Master, to be welcomed by him as a good and faithful servant & to be found in Him having the hope of Glory in Him alone.

**Amen. [Below is the Haftarah- the Prophetic Portion]**

Haftarah: **Mikah [Micah] 6:1-8**

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**Haftarah: Mikah [Micah]**

**6:1 - 8**

**The Desire Of Elohim For His People**

## **Netzarin Antoecie** NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA **What does Yahweh require of His People**

**Mikah [Micah]: 1- 8** Hear now what יהוה is saying, "Arise, strive with the mountains and let the hills hear your voice. 2 "Hear, O you mountains, the controversy of יהוה and you everlasting foundations of the earth! For יהוה has a controversy with His people and He shall reprove Yisra'el. 3 "My people, what have I done to you and how have I wearied you? Answer Me, 4 for I brought you up from the land of Mitsrayim and I ransomed you from the house of bondage. And I sent Mosheh, Aharon and Miryam before you. 5 "My people, remember, please, what Balaq sovereign of Mo'ab counselled and what Bil'am son of Be'or answered him, from Shittim to Gilgal, in order to know the righteousness of יהוה." 6 With what shall I come before יהוה, bow myself before the high Elohim? shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Is יהוה pleased with thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil? shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my being? 8 He has declared to you, O man, what is good. And what does יהוה require of you but to do right and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your Elohim?

### **The Desire of Elohim for His People:**

In this courtroom scene Yahweh pleads his case with the Navi [the Prophet] as his Lawyer. He uses the hills & mountains as witnesses who were present at the Mt. Sinai Covenant. His defence include his tenderness & gracious acts towards Yisrael & reversing the attempts of Balaam to curse the people. In all that, Elohim had faithfully kept all his promises so Mikah as the plaintiff's Lawyer asked how Yisrael could continue their hypocrisy by being outwardly religious but inwardly sinful. This is the same question that YHWH might ask us. The answer therefore is for a spiritual commitment of the heart from which right behaviour would come. That is the answer for each of us to the praise of Him whom called us.

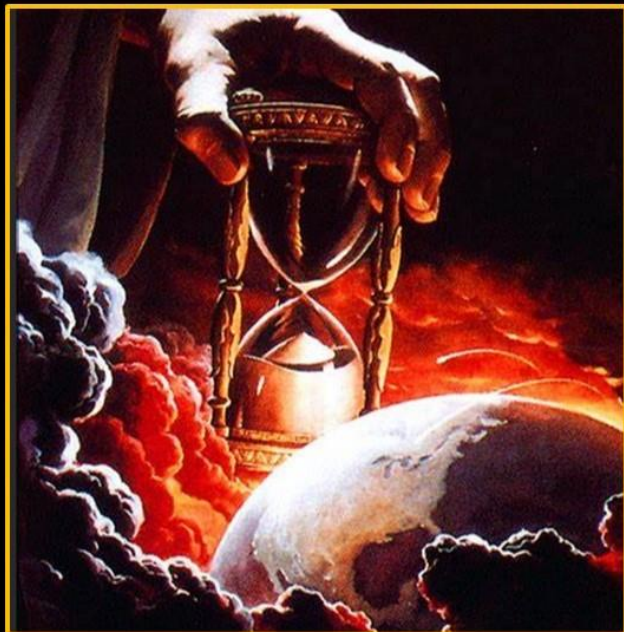
**End of the Haftarah the Prophetic portion with the Netzarim portion below:**

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## Netzarim Ketuvim: Romiyim [Romans]

11: 25 – 32

In The Fullness Of  
Time



## Netzarim Antoecie

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA  
In The Fullness Of Time

**Romiyim [Romans] 11: 25- 32** For I do not wish you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, lest you should be wise in your own estimation, that hardening in part has come over Yisra'el, until the completeness of the gentiles has come in. **26** And so all Yisra'el shall be saved, as it has been written, "The Deliverer shall come out of Tsiyon and He shall turn away wickedness from Ya'aqob, **27** and this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." **28** Truly, as regards the Besorah they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. **29** For the gifts and the calling of Elohim are not to be repented of. **30** For as you also at one time disobeyed Elohim, but now have obtained compassion through their disobedience, **31** so also these have now disobeyed, that through the compassion shown you they also might obtain compassion. **32** For Elohim has shut them all up to disobedience, in order to have compassion on all.



### **In The Fullness Of Time:**

There is in a reading a mystery in that Yisrael has experienced a partial spiritual blindness but only for a specified period of time. Yisrael's spiritual hardening began with their rejection of Yahusha [Yeshua] which will last until the complete number of Goyim [Gentiles] has come to salvation. This will surely be at the end of the tribulation but for now their hardening is YHWH's grace towards us but from Elohim's perspective his eternal choice is that Yisrael will always be His covenant people. YHWH has allowed man to pursue his sinful inclinations so He could receive Esteem by demonstrating His grace & mercy unto sinners.

**Amein! Shavua Tov [A Good Week Unto You]**