

Parsha Pearls

Balak

"Devastator"

Numbers 22:2 - 25:9

Katan Bet/Gadol



In This Edition:

40.1 - A Loyal Donkey

Numbers 22-24



Table of Contents

Parsha Pearls is a comprehensive resource that allows for complete customization by the parent. We understand that if you were to strive to accomplish all aspects of each lesson in one day it would be unrealistic and also overload for the child. It is our intention that this be used 'a la carte' so that it suits your specific needs. Our site caters to printing only the pieces you choose.

This page will provide quick links to get to the portion of the document for which you are looking. When you hover over the title a finger will appear. Click on it and you will be taken directly to that page.

If you are new to Parsha Pearls, we have created an [Introduction](#) document outlining how to use our lessons, as well as a [Scriptural Inspiration](#) document, which explains our titles and the Scriptural inspiration for them. We pray that Parsha Pearls blesses your home and that your children will grow to love the Word and to never depart from keeping Torah. As always, feel free to email us at parshapearls@mtoi.org if you have any questions.

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Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Num. 22:2-20	King Balak sends emissaries to Bil'am
Tuesday:	Num. 22:21-41	Bil'am's donkey and the Messenger of Yahweh speak
Wednesday:	Num. 23	Bil'am pronounces Yahweh's blessings
Thursday:	Num. 24	Bil'am continues to pronounce Yahweh's blessings
Friday:	Num. 25:1-9	Yisra'el falls into immorality and idolatry

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we see the victorious Yisra'elites encamped in the desert plains of Mo'ab, beyond the Yarden of Yeriho. Here is where the famous story of Bil'am and his talking donkey takes place. Now, let's read Num. 22-24.

PARSHA POINTS

Chapter 22

- King Balak (means devastator), the sovereign of the Mo'abites, sends messengers to Bil'am asking him to curse the children of Yisra'el, for he is exceedingly afraid of them - 22:2-6
- Balak states that whomever Bil'am blesses (**barak**) is blessed, and whomever he curses (**arar**) is cursed - 22:6
- The elders bring payment to Bil'am for his services - 22:7
- Bil'am tells the men to spend the night and wait for Yahweh's Word to him - 22:8
- Elohim appears to Bil'am and asks the seer (someone who sees the future or something specific) to explain the identity of these men - 22:9
- Bil'am replies to Elohim that they are messengers of King Balak who wishes to hire him to curse the Yisra'elites so that the king may drive them out - 22:10-11
- Elohim directs Bil'am to refrain from cursing the people, for they are blessed - 22:12
- Bil'am tells the leaders to go back without him, for Yahweh has refused to allow him to go with them - 22:13
- The heads of Mo'ab report back to Balak regarding the negative response of Bil'am - 22:14
- Balak tries to persuade Bil'am by sending to him men even more prestigious than the first group, and in greater number - 22:15
- These men flatter Bil'am and promise him anything he wants - 22:16-17



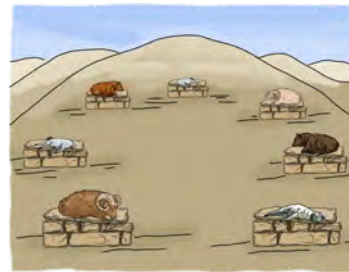
- Bil'am appears to refuse their bribery, but asks the men to spend the night so that he might inquire of Yahweh again - 22:18-19
- Elohim allows Bil'am to go with the men, but cautions him to only speak the words that Elohim gives him to speak - 22:20
- Bil'am rises early in the morning and saddles his donkey to go with the heads of Mo'ab - 22:21
- Yahweh is very displeased with Bil'am's actions. He sends His Messenger to stand in the way of Bil'am as an adversary against him - 22:22
- Bil'am can't see the Messenger of Yahweh standing with a sword in his hand, but Bil'am's donkey does! She tries to protect Bil'am by (22:23-27):
 - turning aside into a field
 - pushing herself against a wall, crushing Bil'am's foot
 - laying down and refusing to move
- Bil'am beats his donkey each time with his staff - 22:23, 25,27
- Yahweh opens the donkey's mouth to ask why Bil'am has beaten her 3 (**shalosh**) times - 22:28
- Bil'am believes the donkey was 'mocking' him by her actions. He wishes that he had a sword with him, so he could have killed her - 22:29
- The donkey asks Bil'am to consider whether she has ever acted in this way before. Bil'am answers that she has not - 22:30
- After this, Yahweh opens up Bil'am's eyes to see the Messenger of Yahweh with a sword in his hand. Bil'am falls on his face - 22:31
- The Messenger of Yahweh reproves Bil'am for beating his donkey, revealing that He would have killed Bil'am by now if his donkey had not seen and avoided Him; for Bil'am's actions have been reckless in the eyes of Yahweh - 22:32-33
- Bil'am acknowledges that he has sinned; if the Messenger intends to punish him, he will indeed turn back - 22:34
- The Messenger tells Bil'am to continue going with the men to Balak, but to only speak the words that He gives him to speak - 22:35
- When Bil'am arrives with the heads of Balak, the sovereign questions Bil'am's delay, reminding him that he intends to honor him (make him rich) - 22:37
- Bil'am assures King Balak that he is here now, but cannot pronounce whatever words may come from a human source; rather all his words will come from Elohim - 22:38
- As a foretaste of the honoring, Balak has cattle and sheep slaughtered and sent to Bil'am and the heads who were with him - 22:40
- The next day Balak brings Bil'am to the high places of Ba'al, from where they can see the extremity (furthest point) of the camp of Yi'sra'el - 22:41



Chapter 23

Try #1 - Let's Give it a Try

- Bil'am instructs Balak to build 7 (**sheva**) altars, and prepare 7 bulls and 7 rams for him - 23:1
- A ram and a bull are offered on each altar - 23:2
- Bil'am tells the sovereign Balak to stand by his offering while he goes to inquire of Elohim what he should say - 23:3
- Yahweh tells Bil'am to return to Balak and say that although he thinks he has hired Bil'am to curse Ya'aqob and rage at Yisra'el, he must instead say this (23:5-10):
 - How do I curse whom El has not cursed?
 - How do I rage at whom Yahweh has not raged?
 - These people are living alone (not bothering anyone).
 - They do not reckon themselves among the nations (not significant in comparison to other nations).
 - Who shall count the dust of Ya'aqob?
 - Who shall count the number of one-fourth of Yisra'el?
 - Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!
- Balak is upset that Bil'am has blessed Yisra'el instead of cursing them - 23:11
- Bil'am reminds Balak that he speaks only what Elohim gives him to say - 23:12
- Balak believes that if he only takes Bil'am to another location where he can see more of the camp that he will be able to curse it - 23:13



Try #2 - Try and Try Again

- Balak takes Bil'am to the field of Tsophim, to the top of Pisgah, and again builds 7 altars and prepares 7 bulls and 7 rams - 23:14
- A ram and a bull are again offered on each altar - 23:14
- Bil'am again tells the sovereign Balak to stand by his offering while he goes to inquire of Elohim what he should say - 23:15
- Yahweh again tells Bil'am to return to Balak and say (23:16-24):
 - Rise up, Balak, and hear! Listen to me, son of Tsippor!
 - El is not a man, that He should lie.
 - El is not a man, that He should repent.
 - What He says, He will do.
 - He speaks and He will confirm.
 - He has chosen to bless Yisra'el and will not reverse it.
 - He has not seen wickedness in Ya'aqob.
 - He has not seen trouble in Yisra'el.
 - Yahweh His Elohim is with him.
 - The shout of a Sovereign is in him.

- El, who brought them out of Mitsrayim, is for them like horns of a wild ox.
 - There is no sorcery that can be used against them.
 - Yisra'el rises like a lioness, and lifts itself up like a lion.
 - Yisra'el does not lie down until it devours its prey.
 - Yisra'el 'drinks' the blood of the slain.
- Balak tells Bil'am that if he won't curse them, to at least keep himself from blessing them - 23:25
 - Bil'am reminds Balak that he came on the condition that he must only speak what Yahweh gives him - 23:26

Try #3 - 3rd Time is NOT a Charm

- Balak tries *yet again* thinking that if only they go to another location, that Elohim will allow Bil'am to curse them from there - 23:27
- Balak then takes Bil'am to the top of Pe'or, which overlooks the wasteland. For the third time, he builds 7 altars and prepares 7 bulls and 7 rams - 23:28-30
- For the third time, a ram and a bull are offered on each altar - 23:30

Chapter 24

- As Bil'am faces the wilderness, he finally accepts that Yahweh is determined only to bless Yisra'el, and quits seeking to use sorcery - 24:1
- As he lifts his eyes, Bil'am sees Yisra'el encamped according to their tribes - 24:2
- Bil'am's eyes are then opened. He says this proverb (mashal), confessing that he hears the words of El and sees the vision of the Almighty (24:3-9):
 - *"How goodly are your tents, O Ya'aqob, your dwellings, O Yisra'el!" Like wadis that stretch out, like gardens by a river, like aloes planted by Yahweh, like cedars beside waters. He makes water flow from his buckets, and his seed is in many waters. His sovereign is higher than Agag, and his reign is exalted. El who brought him out of Mitsrayim is for them like the horns of a wild ox; he devours nations, his enemies; and he breaks their bones, and with his arrows he smites. He bowed down, he lay down like a lion. And, like a lion, who would rouse him? Blessed is he who blesses you, and cursed is he who curses you."*
- Upon hearing this, Balak is extremely angry. He rebukes Bil'am, saying that he was summoned to curse the king's enemies, but instead Bil'am has now blessed them 3 times - 24:10
- Balak tells Bil'am to go back home empty-handed, as Yahweh has prevented him from getting esteem from Balak - 24:11
- Bil'am reminds Balak that he had cautioned the king's messengers that not even a houseful of silver and gold could enable him to go beyond the word of Yahweh, to pronounce either good or evil out of his own heart - 24:13
- Bil'am declares that what Yahweh speaks, he must speak the same - 24:13
- Bil'am then delivers his final proverbs to Balak - 24:14-24
- After this, both Bil'am and Balak return to their places - 24:25



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Notice that Yisra'el does not contribute to the action parts in this story as they do in other parshas. Can we see evidence and confirmation that only Yahweh can bless or curse Yisra'el?
- Find other instances where Yahweh spoke directly to men who were not Yisra'elites. What was His message to them, and their purpose in the Scriptures? Discuss how Yahweh can use anyone (even a donkey) to speak His word.
- Discuss that Yahweh may sometimes uses those who are not Torah observant to fulfil his purpose. Find other examples in the Scriptures where He has done this and discuss with your children the concept that today's pastors may speak truth at times but this does not make them righteous in Yahweh's eyes. Remember that HaSatan can disguise himself as an angel of light.
- The prophecies in chapter 24 were not included in this parsha. You may choose to discuss them with your children. Have any of them been fulfilled? Which ones are yet to be fulfilled?
- What other animal spoke in the Scriptures? (Gen.3)



Searching Out Hebrew

Parents/Teachers can print out the '[Hebrew Pronunciation Guide](#)' to help with the pronunciation of Hebrew names and words. They can be cut out and used in conjunction with the Flashcards.

WORDS

Parents/Teachers see the following page for 3 x 5 card cut outs of the words from this week's parsha. If printed on card stock, they can be kept in a box to reinforce learning.

Balak (בַּלַּק) devastator

Barak (בָּרַךְ) bless

Arar (אָרַר) curse

Mashal (מָשַׁל) proverb

NUMBERS

Parents/Teachers can print out these numbers to have as additional resources. These can be found under the 'Resources' tab on the YMTOI website.

3 - shalosh

7 - sheva

WORD MATCH

Match this week's Hebrew words to their correct definition.

Arar

Bless

Balak

Curse

Bil'am

Devastator

Mashal

Proverb



FLASHCARDS

בָּרַךְ

Barak

Ba-rak

bless

מִשָּׁל

Mashal

Ma-shal

proverb

בָּלַךְ

Balak

Ba-lak

devastator

אָרַר

Arar

A-rar

curse

WRITING HEBREW

Barak (bless)

בָּרַךְ

Kaf Soft Resh Bet

Mashal (proverb)

מָשַׁל

Lamed Shin Mem

Balak (devastator)

בָּלַק

Qof Lamed Bet

Arar (curse)

אַרַר

Resh Resh Aleph

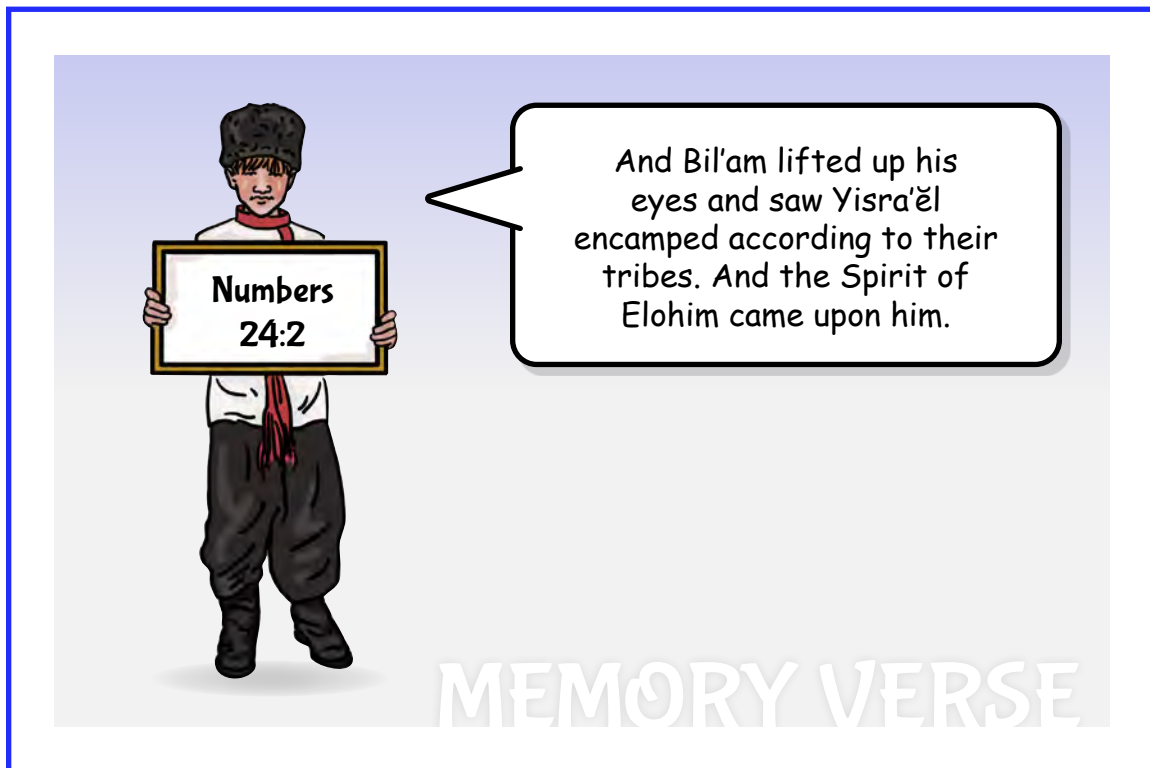


Counting What You Gained

This next section is intended to be reinforcement of the lessons learned during this parsha. Choose the activities that best fit your child.

STORING UP TREASURE IN MY HEART

The Katan Bet and Gadol memory verse is Numbers 24:2. You can review the verse with them by reciting it out loud, acting it out, putting it to music...whatever works for you.



Numbers
24:2

And Bil'am lifted up his eyes and saw Yisra'el encamped according to their tribes. And the Spirit of Elohim came upon him.

MEMORY VERSE

SEEKING TREASURE



1.

Balak was sovereign
(king) of the Amorites.

T / F

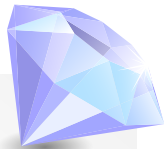
(22:4)



2.

"And now, please come at once, _____ this
people for me, for they are too _____ for
me. It might be that I _____ them and
_____ them out of the land, for I know that
he whom you _____ is _____, and
he whom you _____ is _____."

(22:6)



3.

Yahweh told Bil'am to
refrain from cursing Yird'el
for they are blessed.

T / F

(22:12)



4.

Bil'am told Balak he could not change what he said,
even if Balak were to give him what 2 items?

Circle the correct choices.

diamonds silver rubies
sapphires gold

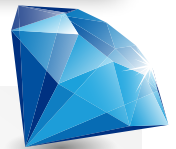
(22:18; 24:13)



5.

They donkey did 3 different things that made
Bil'am angry enough to beat her. What were they?

(22:23, 25, 27)



6.

Whom did Bil'am beat 3 times?

(2:28)



7.



Each of the 3 sacrifices that Bil'am and Balak offered involved the same 3 items. What were they?

(23:1, 14, 29)

8.



"How _____ are your _____, O Ya'aqob, your _____, O Yisra'el."

What liturgy includes this verse?

9.

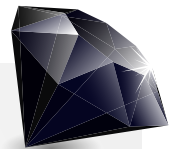


Bil'am cursed Yisra'el 3 times.

T / F

(24:10)

10.



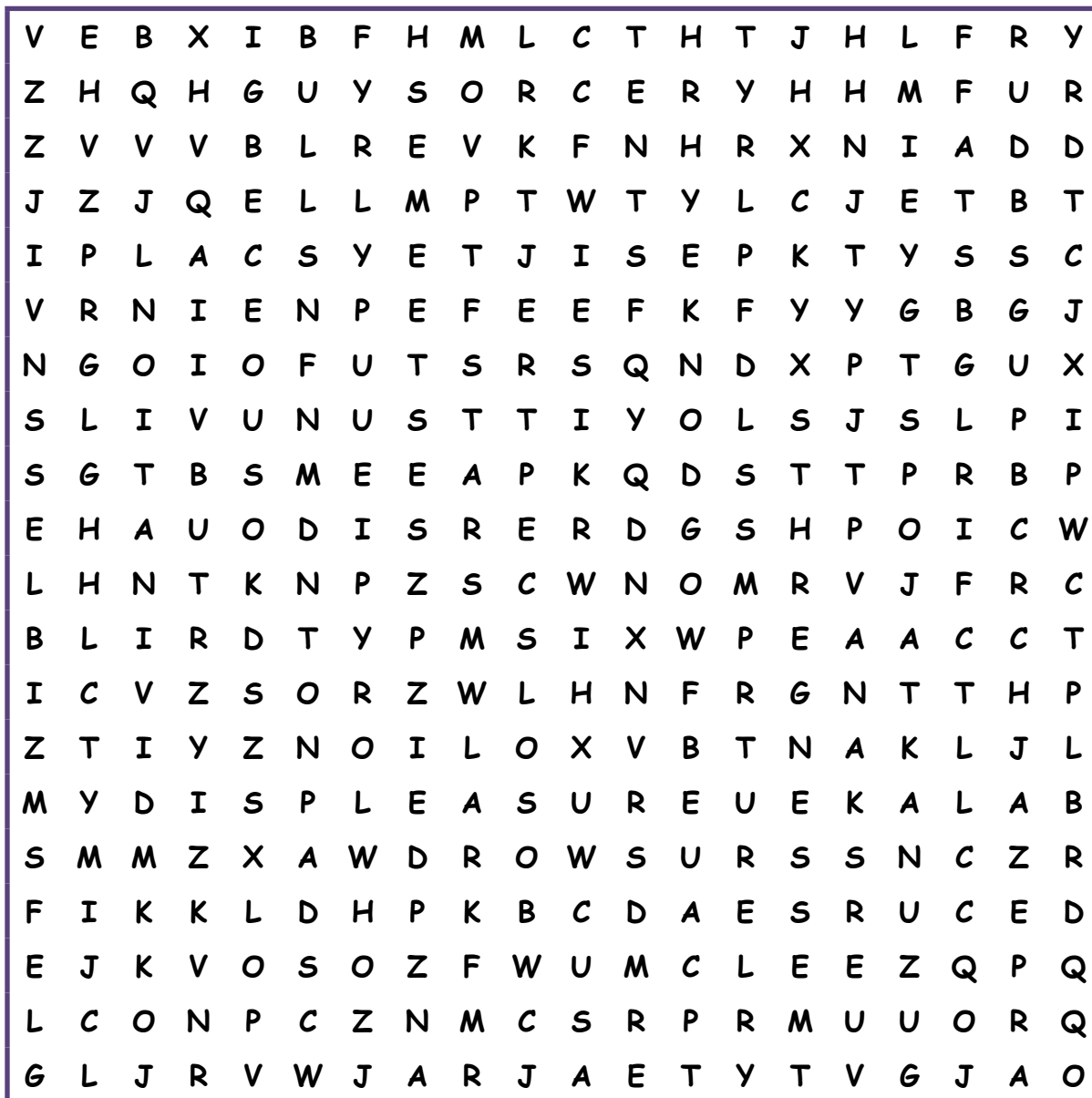
"If Balak should give me his house filled with _____ and _____, I am _____ to go beyond the _____ of Yahweh, to do either _____ or _____ of my own heart. What Yahweh _____, that I _____?"

(24:13)



WORD SEARCH

Search for the hidden words from this week's parsha.



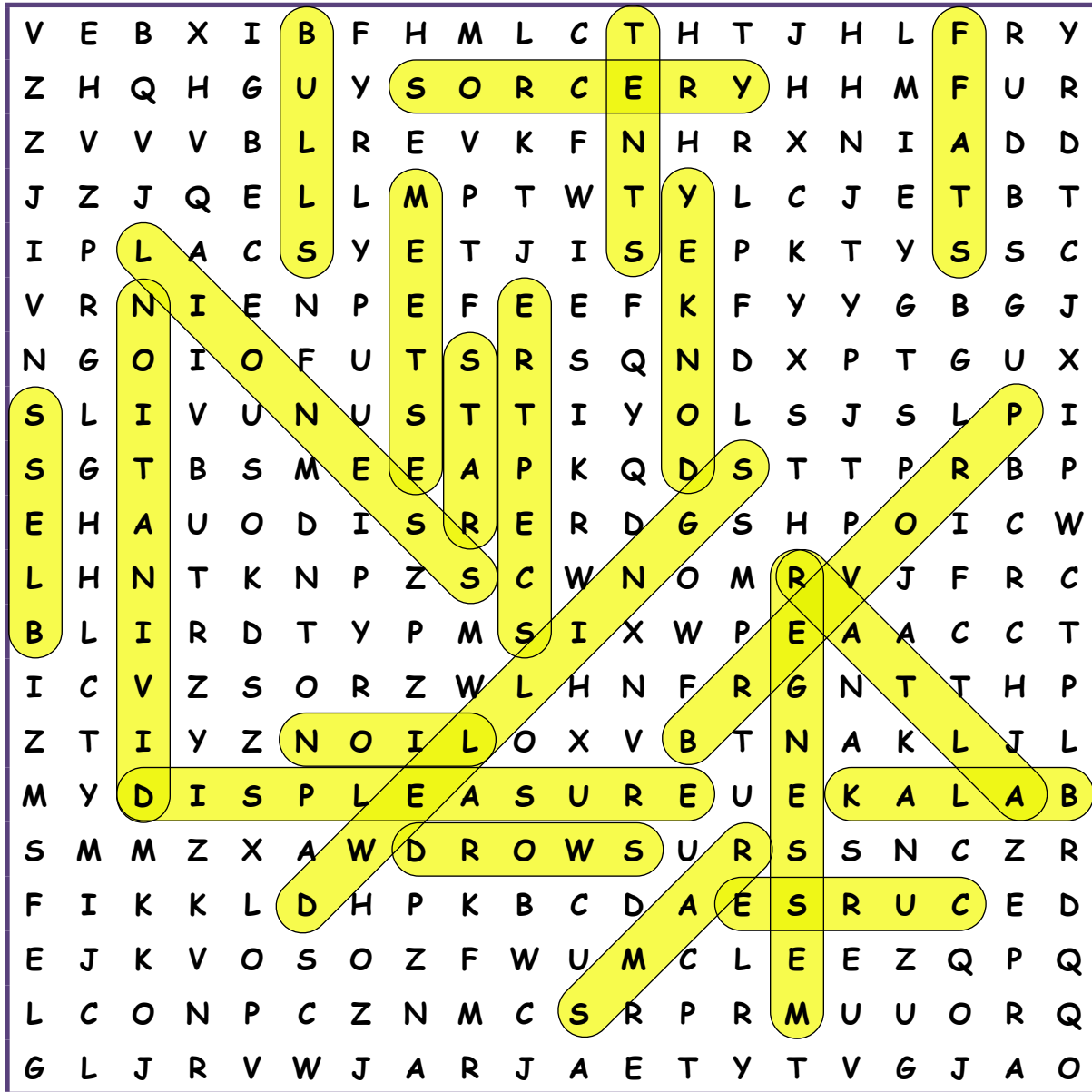
BALAK
BLESS
CURSE
DIVINATION
DISPLEASURE
MESSENGER
SWORD

DONKEY
STAFF
ALTAR
BULLS
RAMS
PROVERB
SORCERY

LIONESS
LION
ESTEEM
TENTS
DWELLINGS
STAR
SCEPTRE



Answer Key



BALAK
BLESS
CURSE
DIVINATION
DISPLEASURE
MESSENGER
SWORD

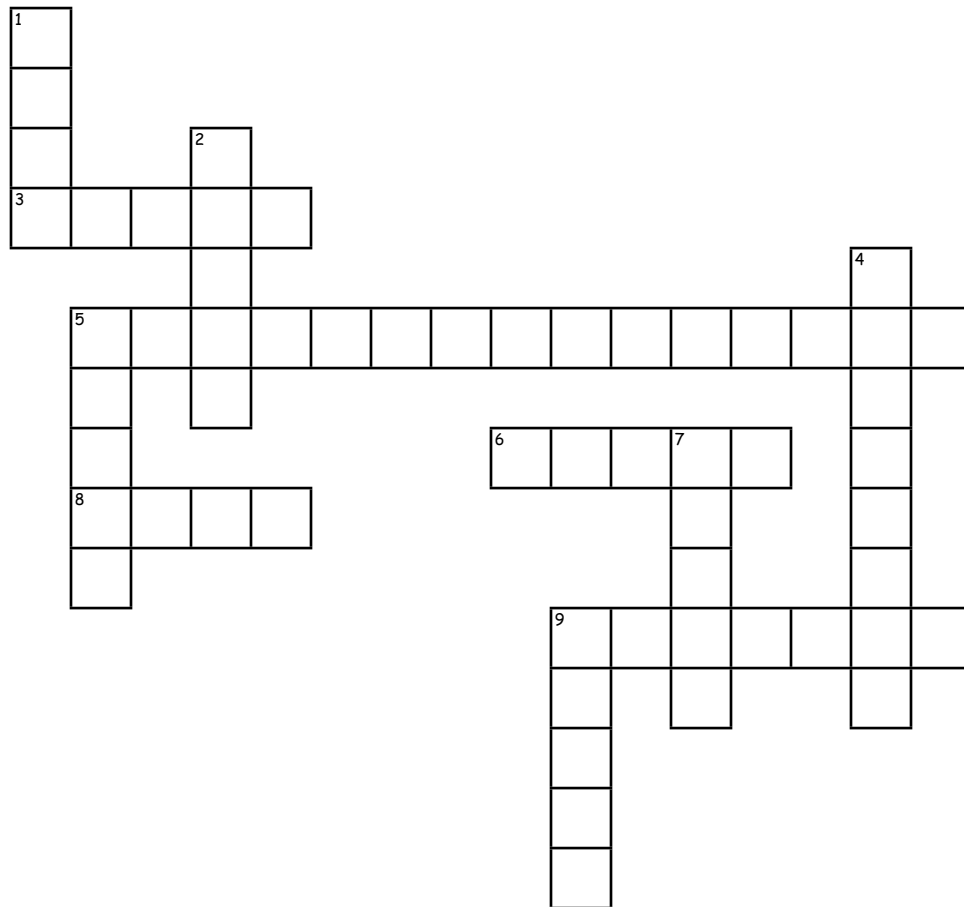
DONKEY
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BULLS
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SORCERY

LIONESS
LION
ESTEEM
TENTS
DWELLINGS
STAR
SCEPTRE



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Complete the crossword using words from this week's parsha.



Down

1. The children of Yisra'el were camped in the desert plains of _____ in this parsha.
2. The name of the sovereign of Mo'ab.

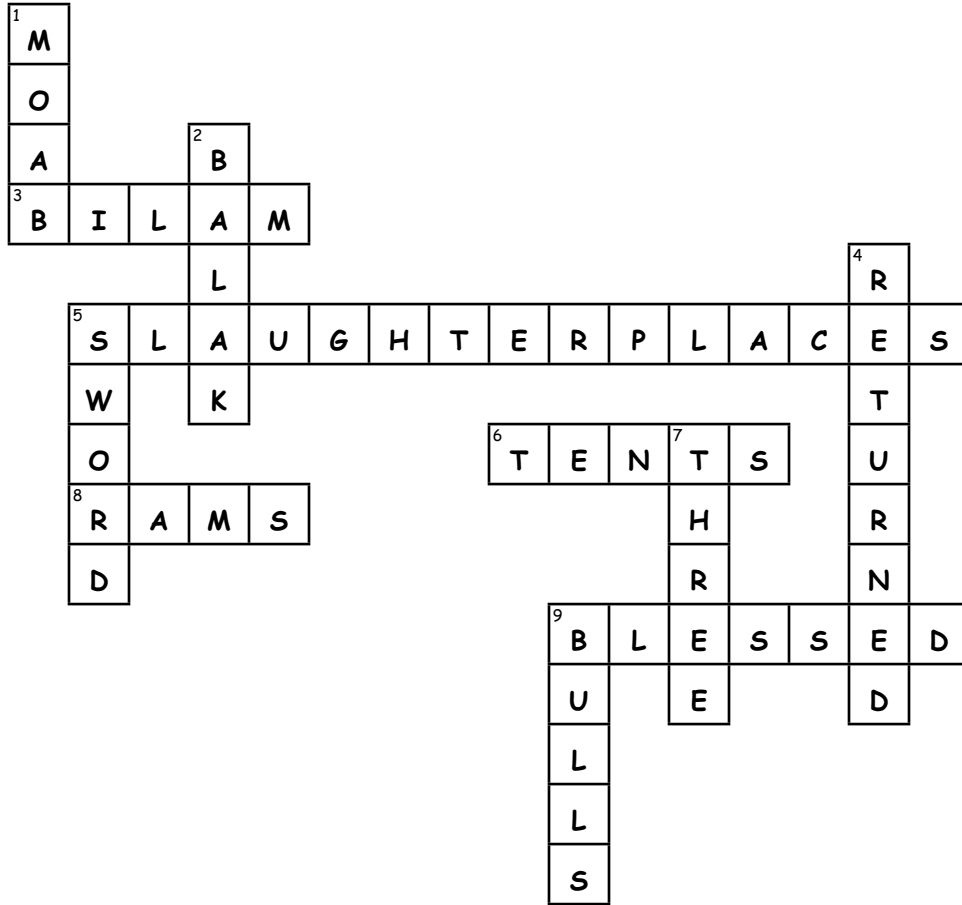
4. Bil'am and Balak each _____ to their places.
5. The Messenger of Yahweh had a _____ in his hand.
7. Bil'am struck his donkey _____ times.
9. Balak prepared 7 _____ and 7 rams.

Across

3. Balak wanted _____ to curse the Yisra'elites.
5. Bil'am told Balak to build 7 _____.
6. How good are your _____, O Ya'aqob!
8. Balak prepared 7 bulls and 7 _____.
9. Bil'am _____ Yisra'el instead of cursing them.



Answer Key



Down

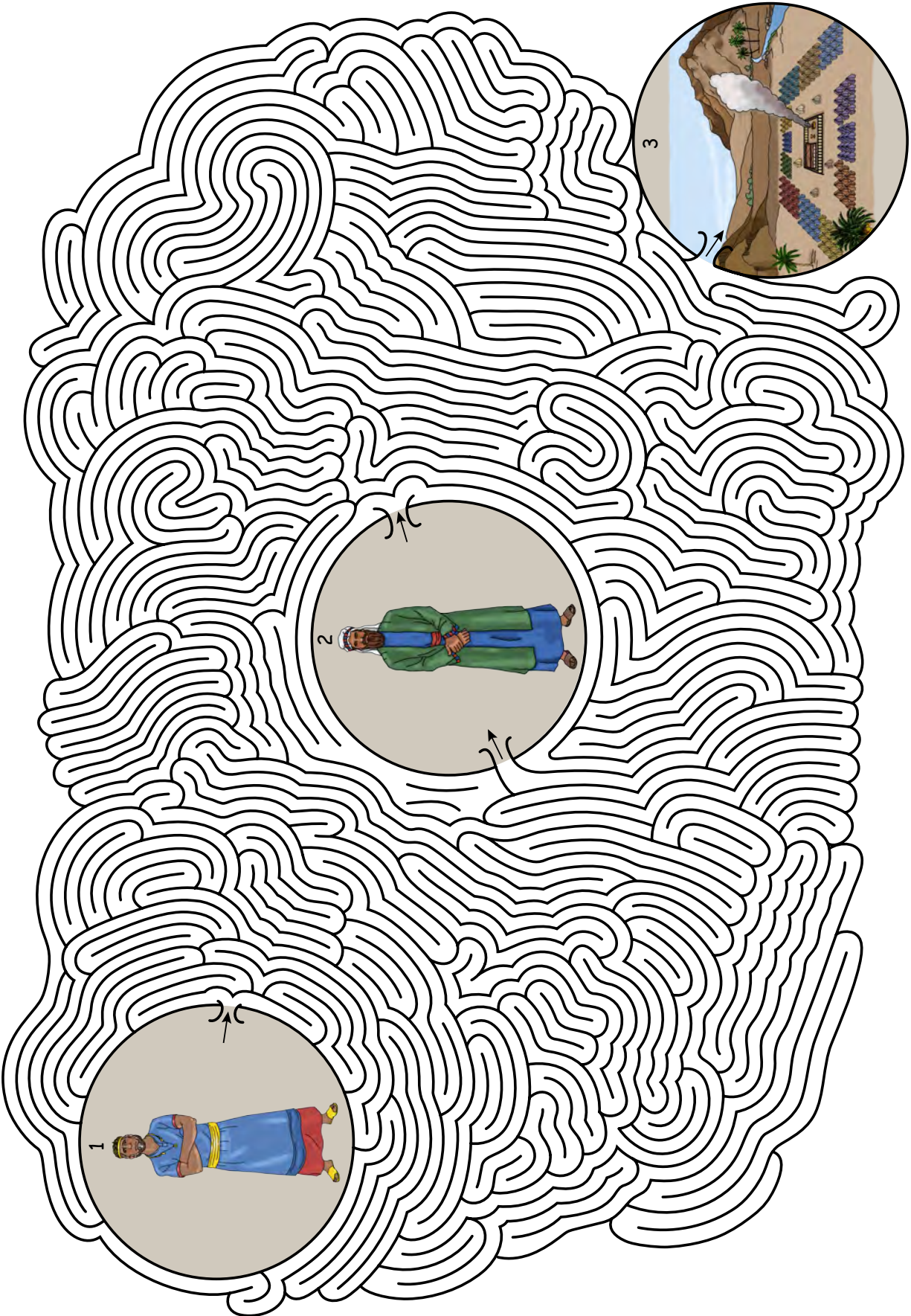
1. The children of Yisra'el were camped in the desert plains of **Mo'ab** in this parsha.
2. The name of the sovereign of Mo'ab.
Balak
4. Bil'am and Balak each **returned** to their places.
7. Bil'am struck his donkey **three** times.
8. Balak prepared 7 bulls and 7 **rams**.

Across

3. Balak wanted **Bil'am** to curse the Yisra'elites.
5. Bil'am told Balak to build 7 **slaughterplaces**.
6. How good are your **tents**, O Ya'aqob!
9. Bil'am **blessed** Yisra'el instead of cursing them.



MAZE



Precious Possessions

NOTEBOOK PAGE

Materials:

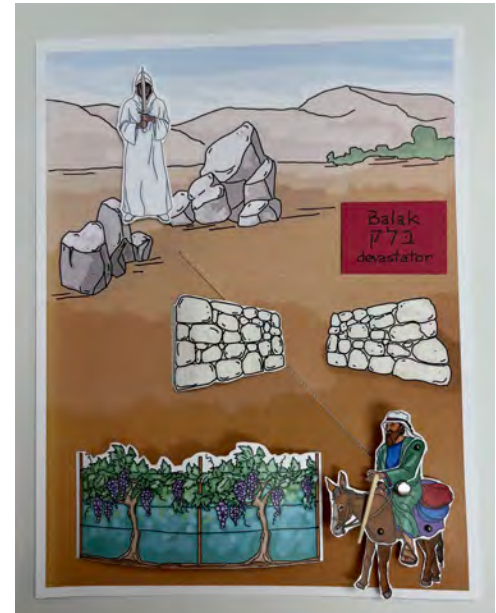
- Cardstock - white
- Toothpick - represents rod
- Brads - medium & small
- X-acto knife
- Puncturing tool
- Ruler
- Double-sided foam dimensionals
- Double-sided tape
- Glue dots or glue
- Coloring pencils, crayons, or markers
- Notebook Page Templates: Main Page & A (BW) or Main Page & B (color)

Parent/Teacher Preparation:

- Print Notebook Page Template of choice on white cardstock.

Bil'am's Loyal Donkey

Numbers 22:28



Instructions for the Notebook Page:

- Print Notebook Templates of choice on white cardstock.
- If using BW Templates, color using medium of choice.
- Cut out all Template pieces. (P1)
- Using an X-acto knife, make a slit in the dotted lines on the Main Page. (P2)

Connecting Bil'am and Donkey Legs

- Using a puncturing tool, poke holes through the circles on Bil'am and the donkey's body, the right arm and the donkey's legs. (P3a, P3b)
- Using a small brad, connect Bil'am's arm to his shoulder—make sure to place the arm in front of Bil'am's shoulder. (P4)



P1



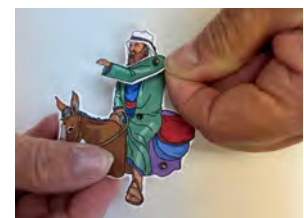
P2



P3a



P3b



P4

Instructions for the Notebook Page Cont'd:

- Using 2 small brads, connect the donkey's legs to his body—make sure to place the legs behind the donkey. (P5a, P5b)
- Place a glue dot or glue onto Bil'am's hand and lay a toothpick on it. You will need to shorten the toothpick. (P6)

Creating the Main Page

- Add foam dimensionals to the back of the Messenger and then place on the Main Page in between the rocks. (P7a, P7b)
- Using a ruler to assist you, create the folds on the tabs of the vineyard and the stone wall. (P8a, P8b, P8c)
- Run double-side tape onto the tabs of the vineyard and the stone wall. (P9a, P9b)
- Adhere the vineyard and the stone wall onto the Main Page where indicated. (P10)



P5a



P5b



P6



P7a



P7b



P8a



P8b



P8c



P9a



P9b

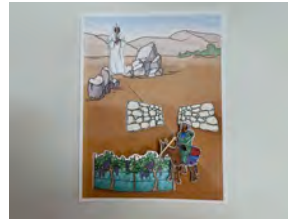


P10

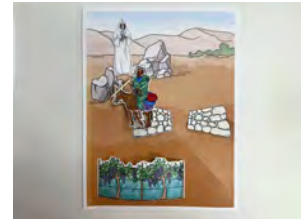
Instructions for the Notebook Page Cont'd:

Connecting Bil'am to the Main Page

- Insert a longer brad through the hole on Bil'am's waist and the slit on the Main Page making sure that he can slide up and down the slit. (P11a, P11b)



P11a



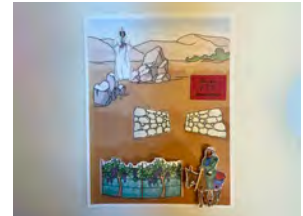
P11b

Hebrew Word

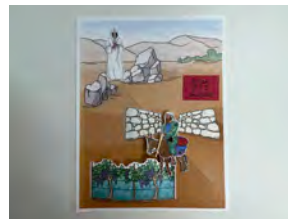
- Write the following directly onto the Main Page or a piece of colored cardstock and glue to the page: (P12)
 - 1) **Balak** 2) **בלק** 3) **Devastator**
- Bil'am and his donkey may be placed on the different sections where Bil'am's donkey tried to stop Bil'am from going forward. (P13a, P13b)
- The donkey can lay down at the end where the Messenger can be seen by Bil'am. (P14)



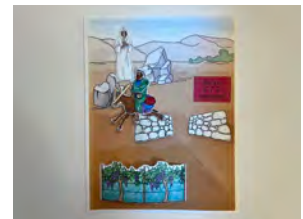
P12



P13a

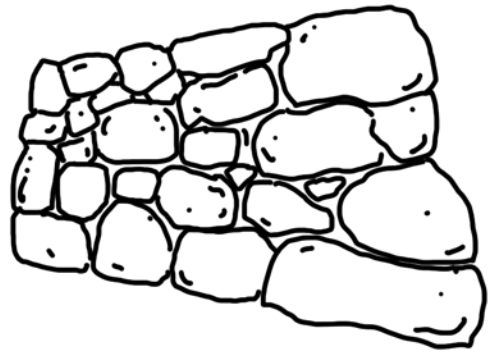
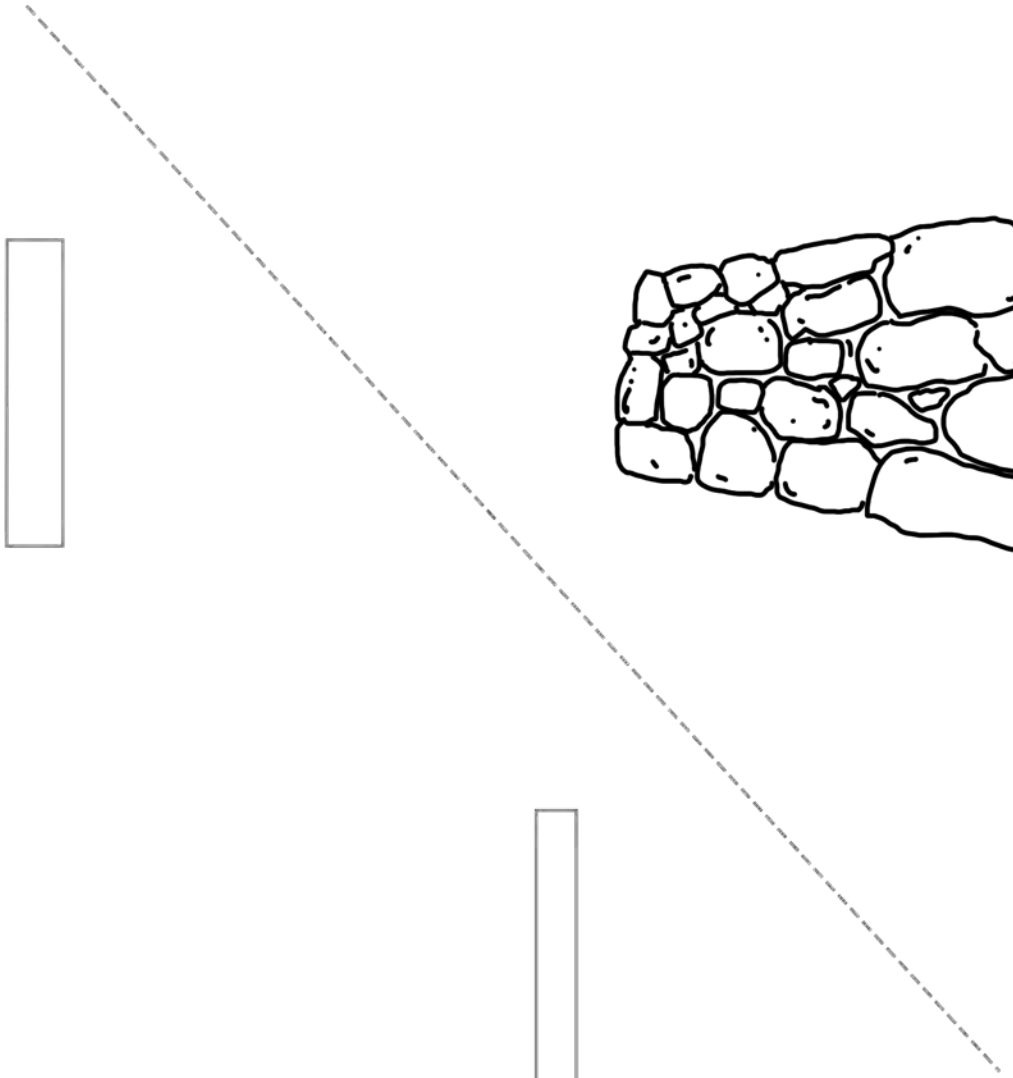
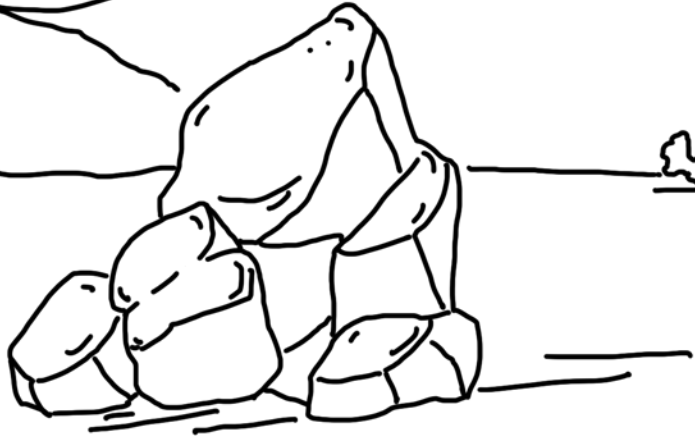


P13b

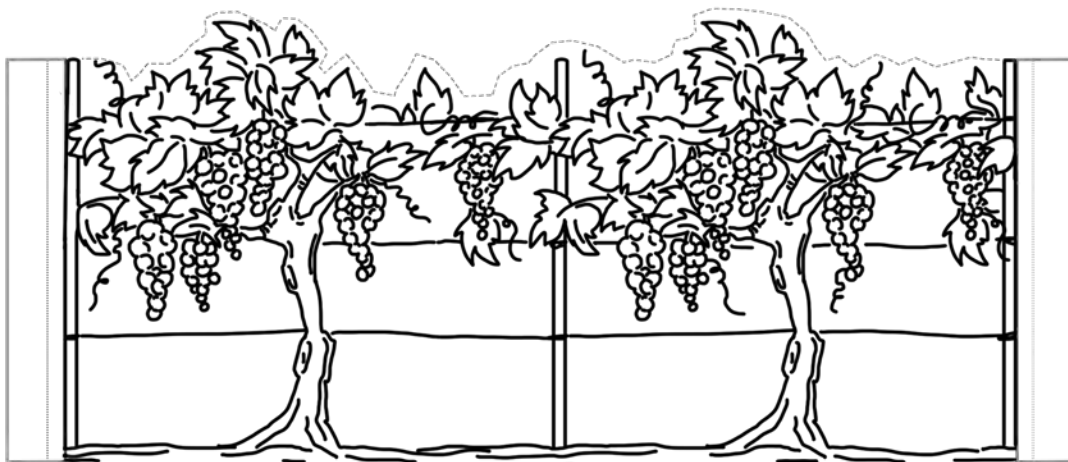
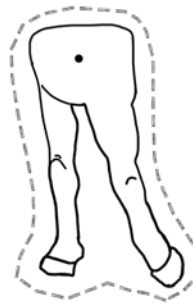
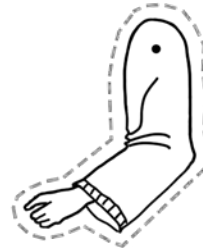
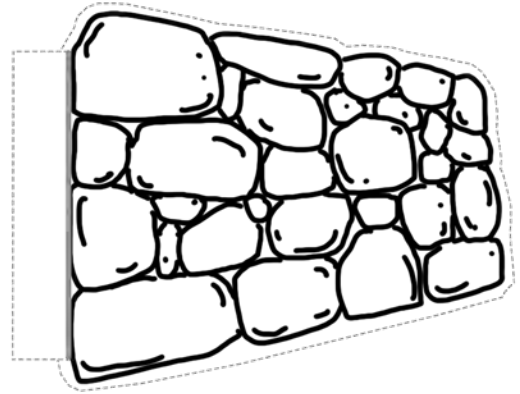


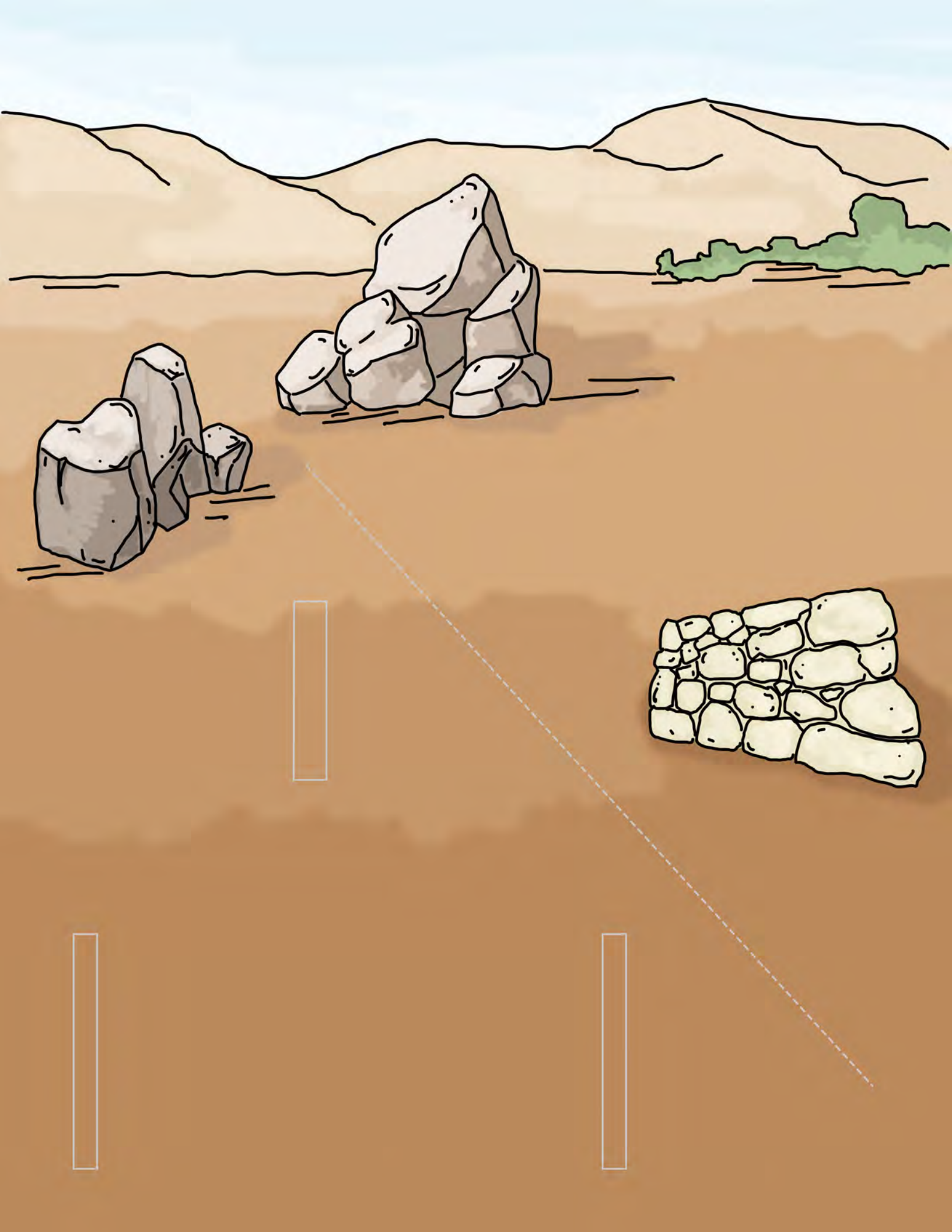
P14

You now have a visual representation of Bil'am riding his loyal donkey that saved him from being killed by the Messenger.

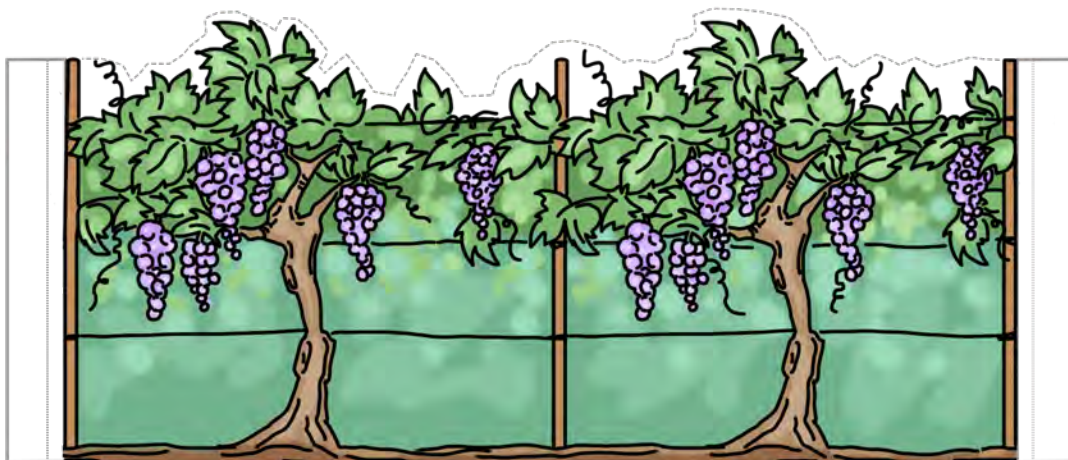
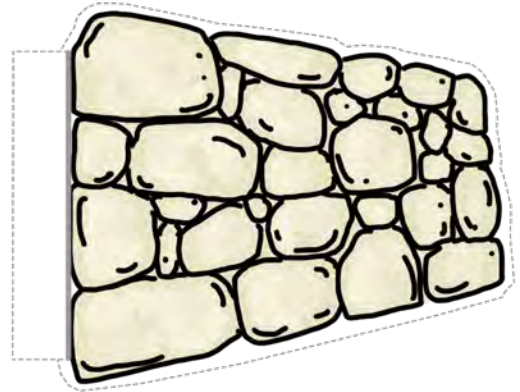


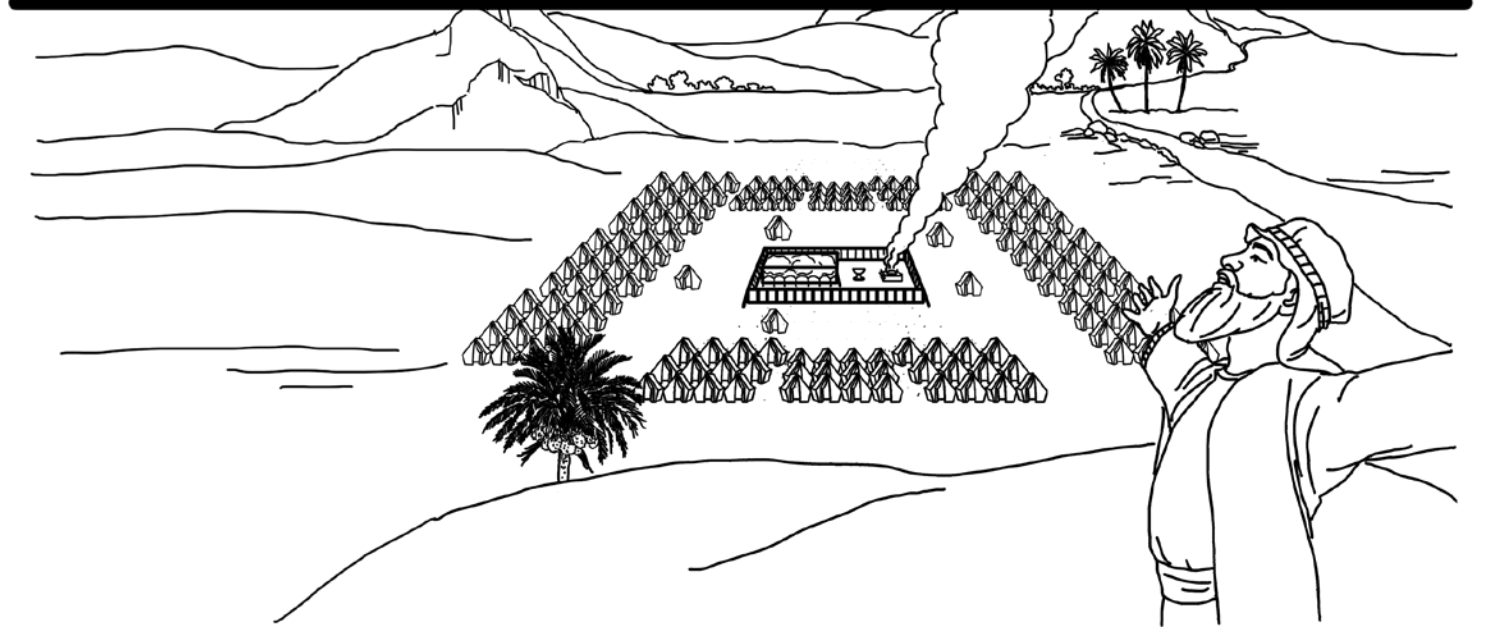
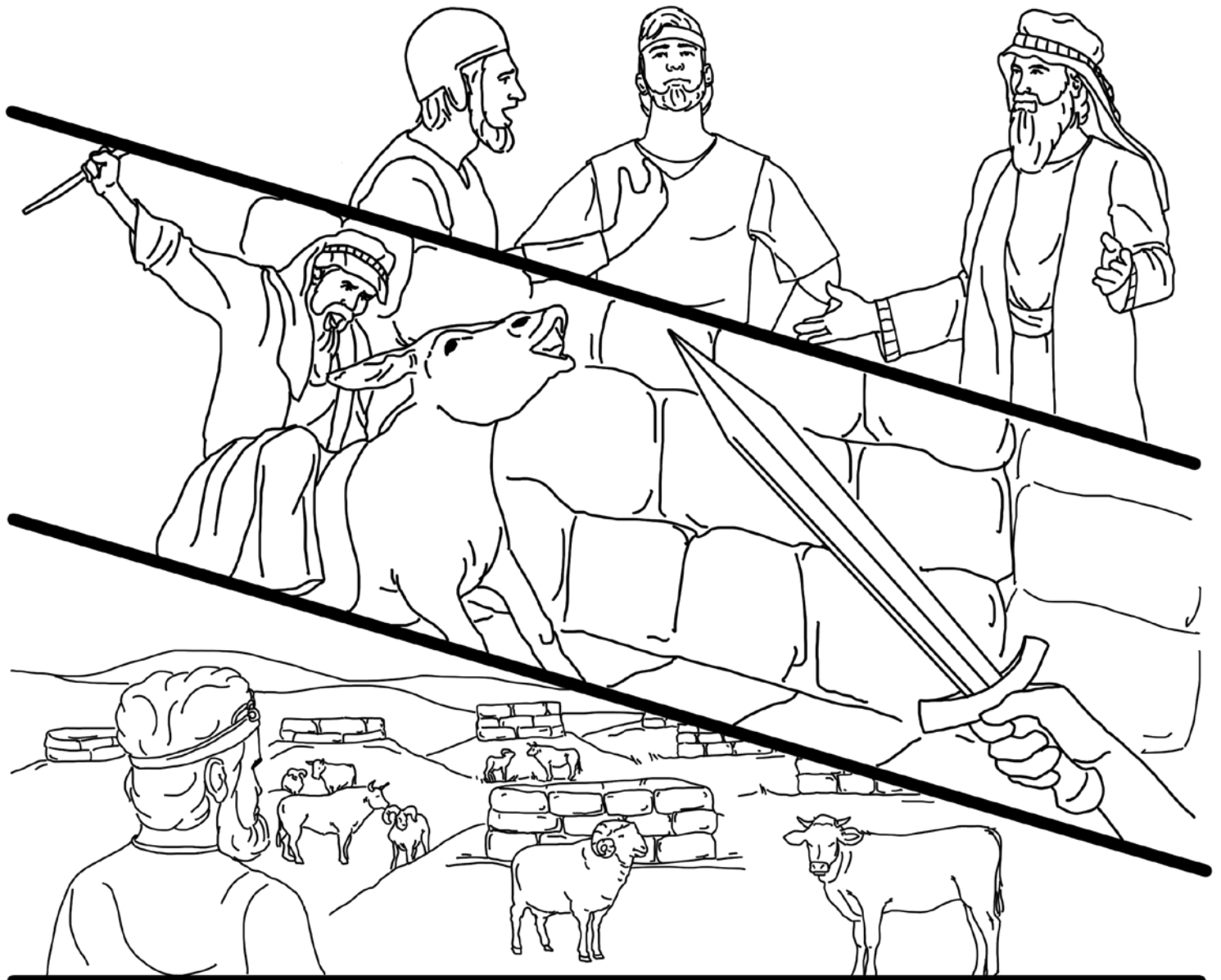
Notebook Template A (BW)





Notebook Template B (color)





Sweetness of Torah

SWEET SOUNDS OF TORAH

(Sing Praises to His Name)

Here is the link for this song:

https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/steveberkson/episodes/2017-07-01T19_08_46-07_00

Ma Tovu

Ma Tovu

O' Halecha Ya'aqob

Mish'ke'no'techa, Yisra'el

How goodly are Thy tents O' Jacob

Thy tabernacles Yisra'el

V' ani b' rov chas'decha

Ah'vo vei' te'cha

Esh'tach'aveh, El he'khal

Kad'sh'cha b' yira'te'cha

And in Thy great compassion

I will come into your house

There I will bow

There I will fear

Thy holiness O' Yah

O' Yah

Baruch haba b'shem Yahweh

Who comes in the name of Yahweh



SWEET TASTE OF TORAH

This snack relates to this week's parsha. Please take these as suggestions and make necessary changes based on your individual dietary needs.

Garden Cupcakes

Numbers 24:6



Ingredients:

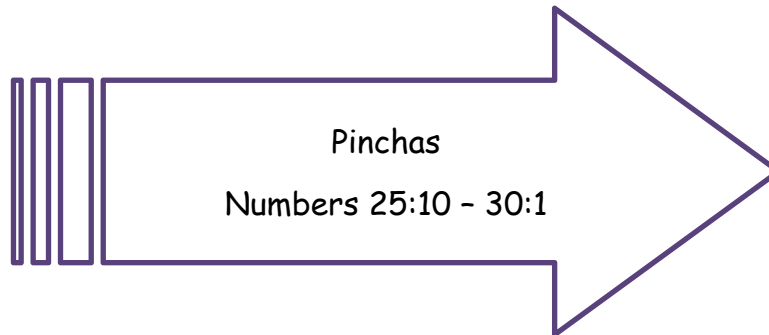
- Cake mix (of your choice)
- Frosting - green
- Edible flowers icing decorations

Instructions:

Make cupcakes according to the directions on the box. Using green frosting, frost the cupcakes. Decorate the cupcakes with the edible flowers. This snack represents the gardens that Bil'am saw in his vision when he blessed Yisra'el.

Next Week's Treasure Hunt

Next Week's Torah Portion



Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday:	Num. 25:10-18	The zeal of Phineas (Pinchas)
Tuesday:	Num. 26:1 - 27:11	A new census; The daughters of Tselophhad
Wednesday:	Num. 27:12-23	Yehoshua appointed Mosheh's successor
Thursday:	Num. 28	Daily, Sabbath and New Moon Offerings; Offerings for Spring Festivals
Friday:	Num. 29:1 - 30:1	Offerings for Fall Festivals