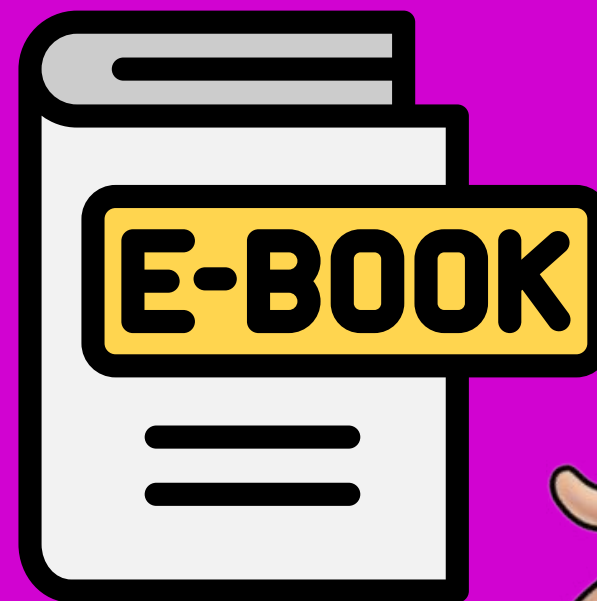


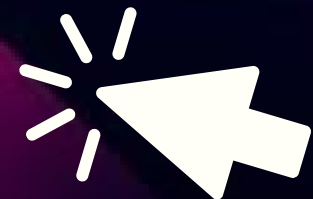


# SHAZAK PARSHA JUNIOR

## Balak!



[CLICK HERE](#)



# Bad Balak

This name of this week's Parsha is Balak. **BALAK** is the name of a king, the very bad, mean king of the people of Moav.

Balak had heard all about the miracles HaShem was doing for Bnei Yisrael, and he was afraid that they would soon win a war against him and take away his land.



**"There is only one person who can stop them," Balak said to the leaders of Midyan. "It's the Prophet Bilam, whom HaShem has given the gift of telling the future."**



בַּלַּק  
ת

If he will curse **BNEI YISRAEL**,  
we can be sure that terrible  
things will happen to them -  
and not to us!



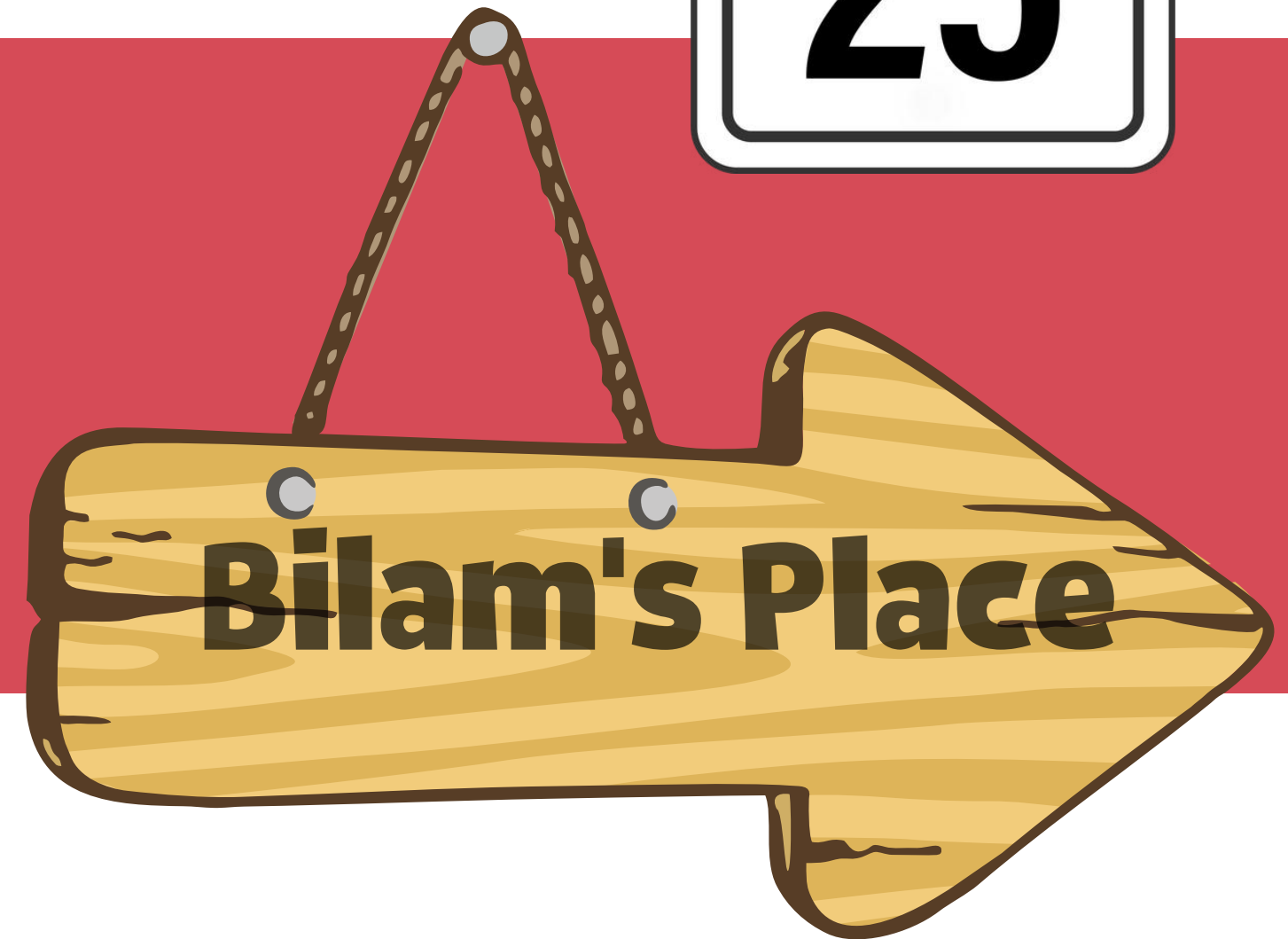
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל



# Bad Balak Begs Bilam

**Balak got right to work.**

**“I am giving you a very important job,” he told a group of very important messengers. “Go right away to Bilam, and convince him to curse the Jews. Tell him I will pay him plenty of money.”**

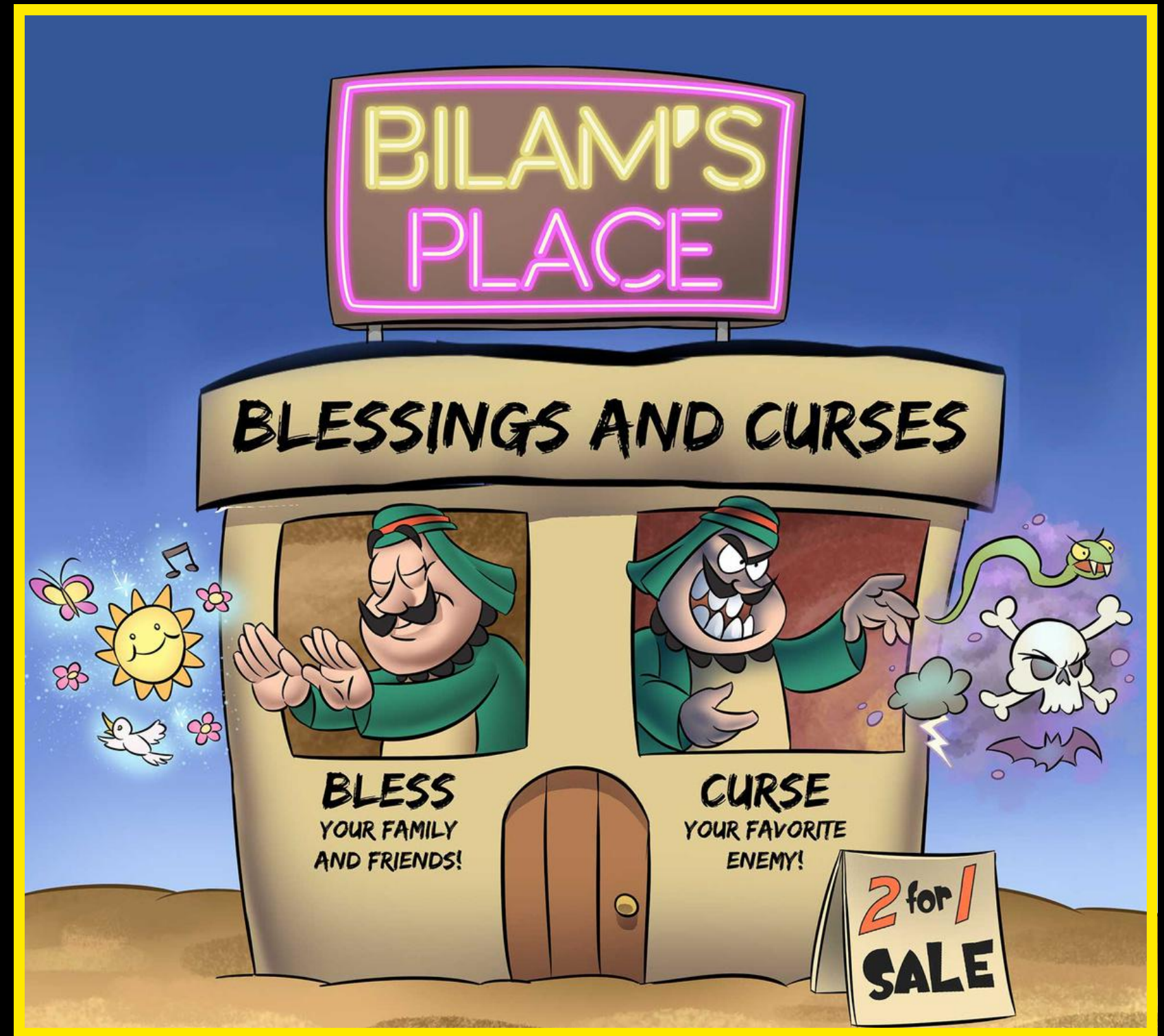


**Off went the messengers, straight to the home of Bilam, who was not quite ready to go with them.**

"Well, I really have to ask HaShem whether or not I should go with you," **BILAM** said. "If HaShem tells me his answer tonight, I should be able to give you my answer tomorrow morning. So just stick around for a bit."



בלעם



**That night, HaShem appeared to Bilam and the answer was clear:**

**"Do NOT go with the messengers of Moav!"**

# Bilam's Big NO

The next **MORNING**, Bilam told the king's messengers:

Sorry guys, HaShem told me NO. So as much as I would love to go with you, and get all that money your king promised, I cannot do it!



בְּקֹר

**NO!**

# Disappointed, the messengers returned to King Balak with the bad news.

"What? He said NO?" screamed the angry **KING**. "We must try again. This time, I'll send **MORE** important messengers and offer Bilam a lot **MORE** gold and silver!"



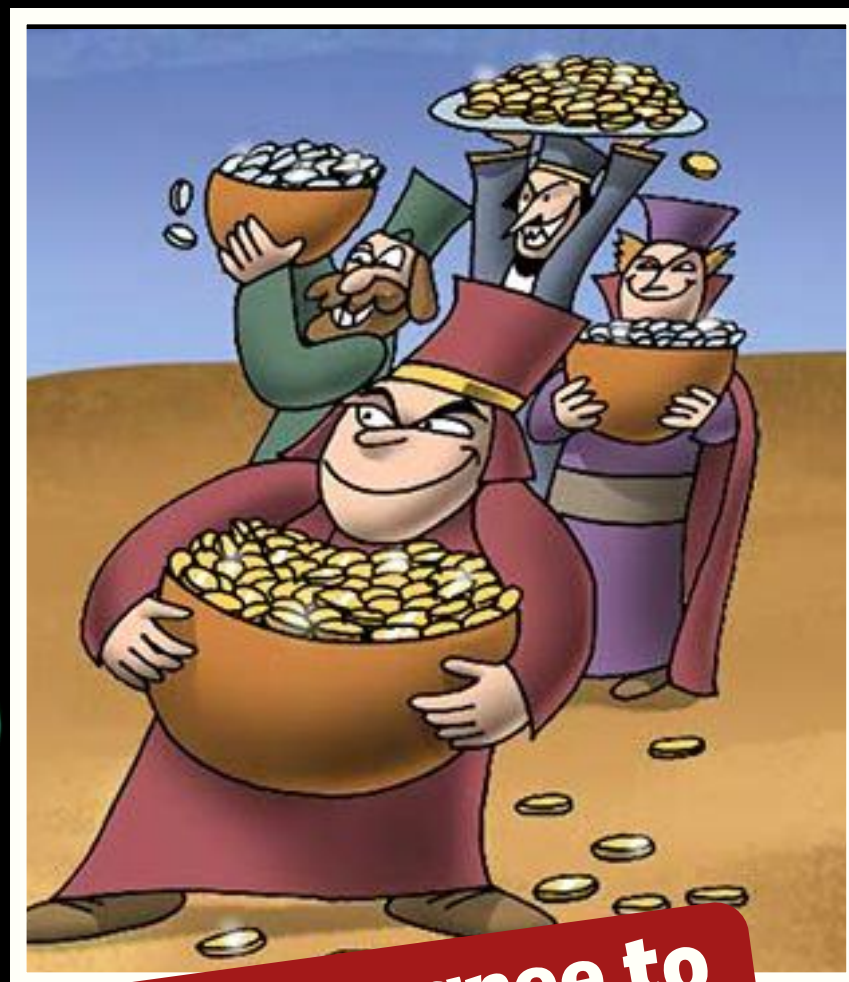
מַלְאָכִים



# More Gold, More Silver, More Begging

"Bilam," the new messengers said when they arrived at his house. "King Balak really wants you. See this **GOLD AND SILVER?**" they said as they pointed to the piles of riches.

זהב וכסף



"It will all be yours if you only agree to come back with us and curse the Jews!"



Once again, in the middle of the **NIGHT**, HaShem appeared to Bilam.

לילה  
לילה



**"I already told you DO NOT CURSE Bnei Yisrael. But, if you really want to, go ahead, but I am warning you... You will only say the words that I put in your mouth! Nothing more... nothing less."**

# The Invisible Angel

The next morning, Bilam was so excited to harm the Jewish people that he jumped out of bed and got his **DONKEY** ready for the long trip all by himself... no help from his helpless helpers.

He did not mind the hard work. After all, he could not wait to earn all that money! And he was soooooo very happy to curse the Jews!



**Bilam may have been excited,  
but not HaShem.**



תָּמוֹר

Bilam was soon riding along, dreaming of the gold and silver that would soon be his. Suddenly, the donkey saw HaShem's angel right in front of him, waving a long, sharp **SWORD!** But Bilam saw nothing at all.

**"Hee, haw!"**

The donkey quickly stepped off the road.

**"You silly animal!"** shouted Bilam, as he angrily hit the donkey with his stick. **"Where do you think you are going? Get back on the road!"**



The donkey had no choice and stepped back on the road.

# Pushed Against the Wall

The angel soon appeared again, blocking the donkey. He was coming closer and closer, waving his sharp sword from side to side.

“Hee, haw! Hee, haw!”



Trying to escape, the donkey pressed against the wall – and guess what? Bilam’s **FOOT** got hurt!

**CRUNCH!**

**OUCH!**

yelled the angry Bilam as he hit the donkey again.



# Donkey Talk!

**Soon after, the donkey saw the angel for a third time.**

**This time the donkey was trapped between stone fences on both sides. So, she simply sat down and refused to budge.**



**"What in the world is going on here?!" yelled Bilam, as he hit the poor animal for the third time. "Get moving, you lazy donkey!"**



**But the donkey could not move. Suddenly, HaShem caused the donkey to speak.**

**"What have I done to you, Bilam?" she asked.**

**"Huh?" said Bilam, looking around. "Who said that?"**

**"And why did you hit me?" continued the donkey. "Don't you know? That stick hurts! And you hit me with it three times! What did I ever do to you?"**

**"Well, you weren't listening to me!" replied the surprised Bilam, who was starting to sweat.**

**"I've always done what you've asked me to."**



**"Did you ever think that perhaps I have a good reason for not listening to you this time?"**

Then, HaShem finally let Bilam see the **ANGEL** standing in front of him with his sword flashing in the air.

**Bilam bowed to the ground, trembling with fear.**



**"I have sinned!" cried Bilam to the angel. "Should I go back home or continue on my trip?"**

**"You may go with King Balak's messengers," answered the angel. "But BEWARE, you will be able to say only what HaShem wants you to say. Nothing more... nothing less."**

## Seven Sets of Sacrifices

**Bilam continued on his way to Moav, and by the next morning, he was shaking hands with King Balak and preparing to curse the Jewish People.**

**The king and his officers followed Bilam to a mountaintop where they had a good view of part of the Jewish nation.**

**“Now what?” asked Balak impatiently.**



**He could not wait to finally harm the Jewish People!**

**“First we need to offer sacrifices to HaShem!” Bilam answered. “Quickly, go build 7 altars. On each one, offer a bull and a ram. Meanwhile, I’ll climb the **MOUNTAIN** and find just the right spot and just the right moment to speak to HaShem.”**

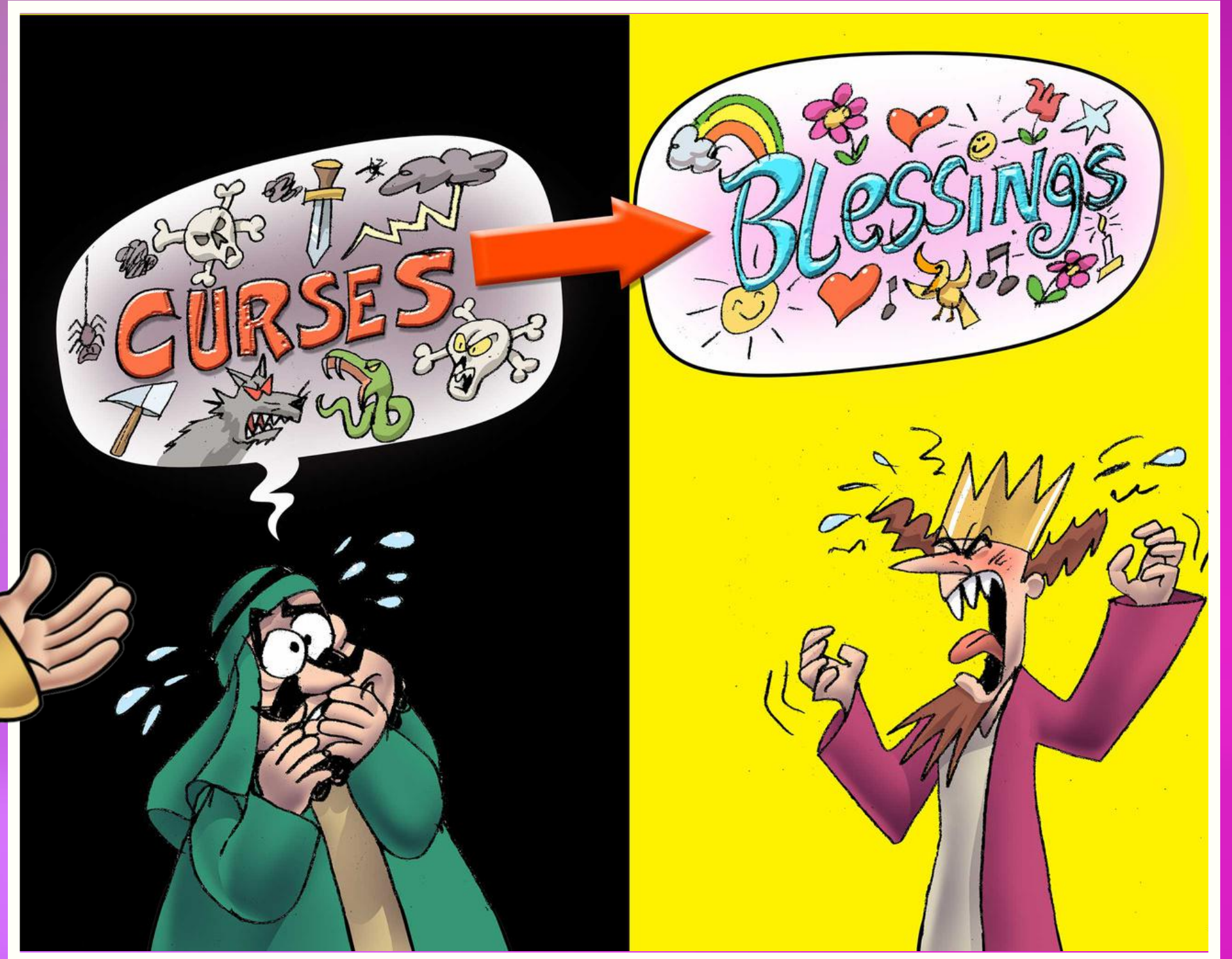


**פר**

**HaShem soon answered Bilam, "Return to King Balak and say only what I tell you to say."**

**And guess what? Instead of curses for the Jews... HaShem put blessings into Bilam's mouth!**

**"The Jewish people are great just like Avraham and Sarah, Yitzchak and Rivkah, and Yaakov, Rachel and Leah," Bilam said in a strong voice. "They stand strong in their holiness, like solid rocks and hills!"**



**"Oops! What's going on here?!"  
Bilam thought to himself.**

# “So Sorry, Sir”

“What was that?” shouted angry King Balak as he was getting even more angry. “Curses, I want curses, not blessings!”



“I’m so sorry sir,” answered Bilam, who was getting very nervous. “It was an accident. It wasn’t me! Please believe me!”



I really tried my best to curse the Jewish People, but I had no choice. Whatever words HaShem puts in my mouth are the words that come out. No more... no less!



# Bad Balak, Bad Bilam and Blessed Blessings... Again

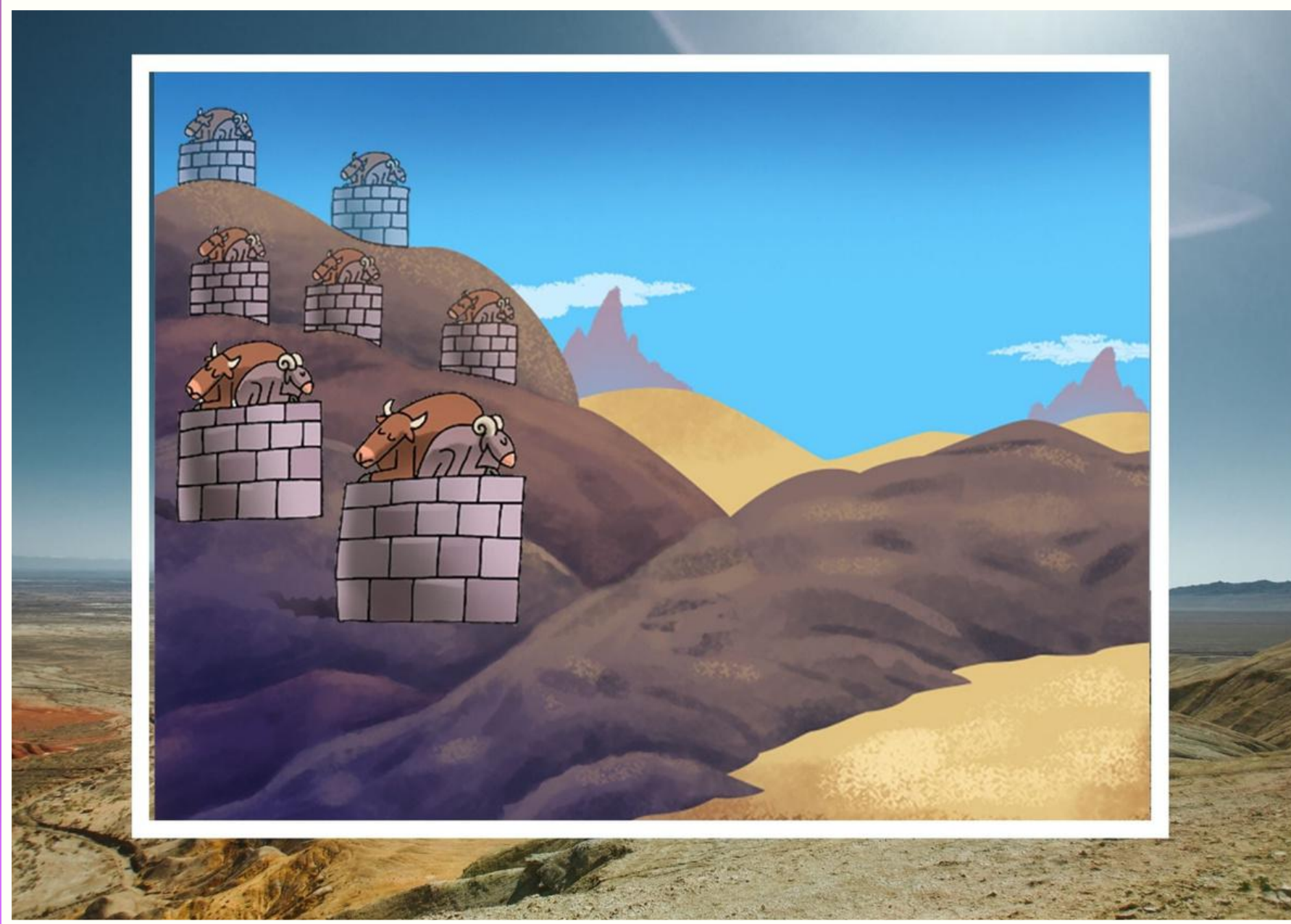
**Balak was not ready to give up.**



**Let's try another spot. Come with me to another high place, and we'll try again.**



Once again, Balak built 7 altars.  
And once again, they sacrificed a  
ram and a bull on each one.



And once again, Bilam tried to curse Bnei Yisrael...  
And once again, blessings came out of his mouth!

“Get up, Balak, and listen to these words,” he began. “HaShem loves His people forever - even when they sin. They deserve **BLESSINGS**, not curses.”

ברכות  
T:



# The Royal Tantrum

And now, for a third time, Balak took Bilam to a different high place, where they offered even more sacrifices.

**Bilam took a deep breath.**  
As he looked out at the tents of the Jews, the spirit of HaShem rested upon him and he called out...

**Mah Tovu Ohalecha Yaakov,  
Mishkinosecha Yisrael!**  
How good are your tents, Yaakov,  
and your homes, Nation of Israel!

**מַה טּוֹבוֹ אֹהֶלְיְךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל**

**No matter how hard he tried,  
Bilam could not say anything bad  
about Bnei Yisrael!**





**Balak was so upset he jumped up and down while he clapped his hands angrily. Up and down, clap, clap, clap. Up and down, clap, clap, clap. The king was having a royal tantrum, and Bilam was getting very nervous.**



# Bye Bye Bad Balak and Bad Bilam

**Bilam felt his power getting weaker and weaker.  
But quickly, he had one last blessing to say:**

*I see way off in the future, there will be a king, a grandson of Dovid HaMelech, and he is none other than Melech HaMoshiach. He will win over all the enemies of Bnei Yisrael, including the nations of Moav and Amalek.*



**“Can’t you do anything right?” yelled the angry king, once again jumping up and down.**



**Not only can't you curse,  
now you're telling me  
about the bright future  
of my enemies, the  
Jewish people... and our  
great nation's total  
defeat?!**



**Bad Balak and Bad Bilam finally realized that  
their evil plan would not work. They could only  
do what HaShem wanted, no more... no less.**

**And so, Bilam had no choice but to go home  
all alone with no gold and no silver. He had  
tried so hard to do the wrong thing, but  
HaShem did not let him.**



**WHAT'S  
NEXT?**

Next week, in Parshas Pinchas, we will discover how a special man named Pinchas gets a very special reward from HaShem.



  
**Shazak!**

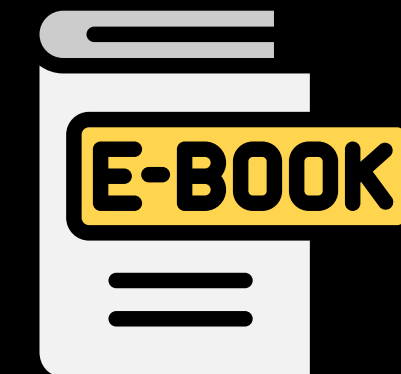


We will also meet five very special sisters...

And learn even more about the Jewish holidays.



Stay tuned and you'll learn all about it in Shazak Parsha Junior – **Parshas Pinchas!**

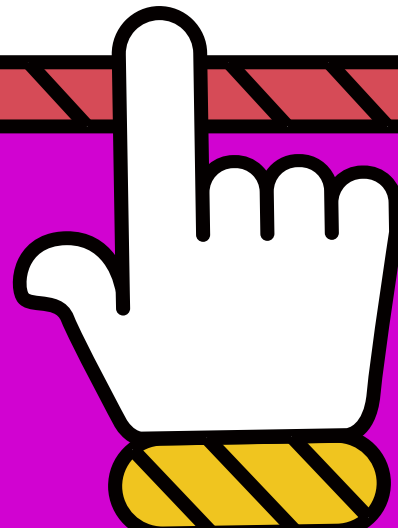
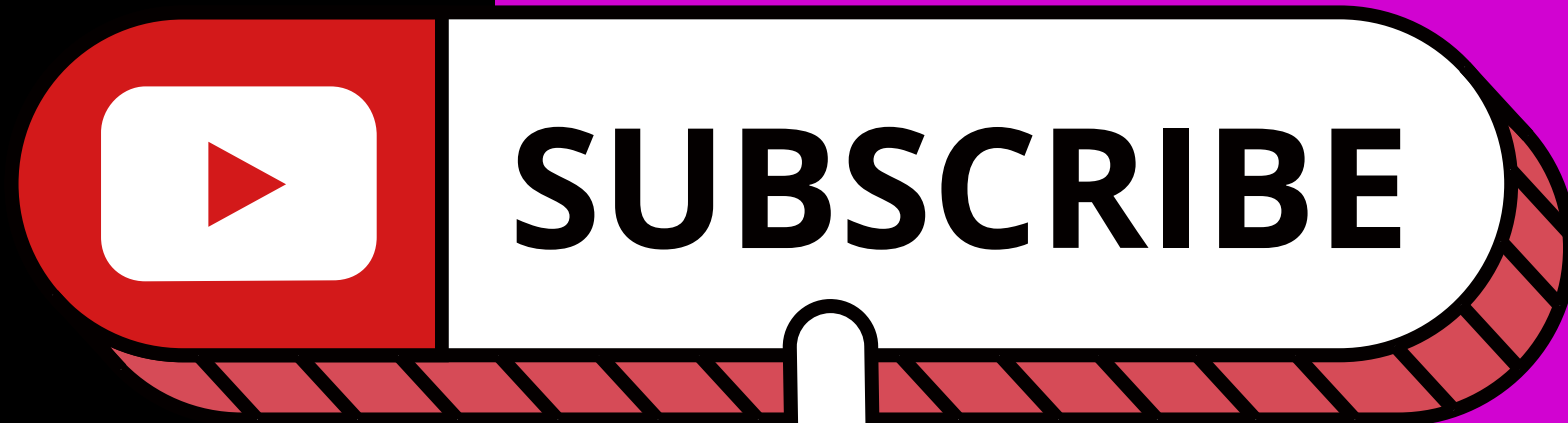




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