

RaYBaSH's The Weekly Way
Parashah # 40 Balak
B'midbar/Numbers 22:2-25:9,
By: Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Num. 23:26

But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?

Balaam, the pagan prophet to the Gentiles. Jewish tradition says Balaam is to the Gentiles as Moses is to the Hebrews. He apparently had an association with many gods including YHWH the God of Israel. HE figured to be able to best and assuredly curse Israel, Balaam went to consult their god. He thought he might be able to strike some kind of a deal with YHWH. Little did Balaam know the God of Israel doesn't take bribes, is not fickle like the gods of the other nations and He loves and has pledged His allegiance to this people. As a result the curses Balaam was hired to pronounce on Israel came out as blessings. Almost like in Jim Carey's movie, "Liar, Liar" where he used to be a lying lawyer for magical reasons could only tell the truth about EVERYTHING!

Besides no one can curse Israel but Israel herself (Deut. 27-28) and no one can punish Israel but God. But how does Israel continue to gain the blessings and favor of YHWH their God?

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

So what does God do to those who set out to harm Israel?

Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!
-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr