

PARSHAT BALAK  
NUMBERS 22:2-25:9  
14 TAMUZ 5781/24 JUNE 2021



*Open My Eyes in Wonder*  
Painting by Anne Neilson

“Open my eyes so that I may behold the wonders of Your Torah”  
Psalm 119:18

### OPEN MY EYES

1. The ass saw the angel of Adonai taking a stand in the path... (Numbers 22:23)
2. Then Adonai uncovered Balaam’s eyes and he saw... (Numbers 22:31)
3. The men were in great awe of Adonai; they offered a sacrifice to Adonai, and they made vows. (Jonah 1:16)

The people of Nineveh had trust in God... (Jonah 3:5)

The King of Nineveh rose from his throne...“Let everyone turn back from their evil ways and from the injustice of which they are guilty.” (Jonah 3:6-8)

4. They heard the sound of God moving about in the garden...and the man and his wife hid from Adonai... (Genesis 3:8)

5. “What may I curse that God has not cursed?” (Numbers 23:8) This wicked man sought out the precise moment of divine wrath, of which it is said: “God is wrathful each day” (Psalm 7:12) But this wrath lasts only for a moment, since it also says: “The compassion of God is all day long...” (Psalm 52:3) The entire goal of the wicked is to find that moment of wrath. The righteous, by contrast, seek out the good will of Heaven. “As for me, my prayer is for a time of good will” (Psalm 69:14). Even beyond that, they seek out the thread of grace that exists in this world. This world is indeed founded on judgment, but still a thread of grace is found each day. The righteous seek to find that point of grace or time of good will. The wicked by their evil qualities bring about divine wrath above. But we still find that goodness is more plentiful. When the righteous succeed in finding grace in this world, all that the wicked do is not able to take that grace from them. When the wicked seek to gain strength from that moment of anger that exists in heaven, God holds back the anger. This war goes on every day. It also takes place within the individual Jew, and we have to arouse the quality of grace every day. (Sefat Emet)
  
6. Prophets do not predict what will happen tomorrow. They announce a present that requires human choice and decision. It is a present in which the future is being prepared. (Martin Buber)