



## STATS

40<sup>th</sup> of 54 sedras; 7<sup>th</sup> of 10 in Bamidbar. Written on 177.8 lines (ranks 35<sup>th</sup>).

2 Parshiyot; 1 closed, 1 open.

There are 2 one-parsha sedras (Vayeitzei, Mikeitz), and then this one, on the fewest parshiyot in a sedra list.

104 pesukim - rank 34 (8<sup>th</sup> Bamidbar).

1455 words - ranks 33 (8<sup>th</sup> Bamidbar).

5357 letters - rank 35 (8<sup>th</sup> Bamidbar).

Balak is close to average for the Torah's sedras but is on the small side for Bamidbar.



## MITZVOT

Balak is one of 17 sedras in the Torah without mitzvot.

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## A SHORT VORT

BY RABBI CHANUCH YERES  
RAV, BEIT KNESSET BEIT YISRAEL, YEMIN MOSHE

יעמד מלאך ה' במשעול הכרמים גדר מזה וגדר מזה (כב:כד)

"Then the angel of G-d stood in a hollow way between the vineyards, a fence on this side and a fence on that side." (22:24)

Rashi explains that the usage of the word "fence" without further description, implies the fence to have been made of stone.

Why is it important for Rashi to share with us the material of which the wall was made?

The Sefer Toldot Yitzchak (Rabbi Yitzchak Karo 1475-1535, Spain-Jerusalem) offers an answer. In Parshat Vayetzei, Lavan and Yaakov founded a covenant by means of constructing a stone monument. "This heap of stone is a witness, and this pillar shall be a witness, that I will not go past this heap to your side to harm you and you will not go past this heap and pillar to my side to harm me" (31:52). Bilaam was a descendant of Lavan (Talmud Sanhedrin 105). By breaching this ancient agreement of Lavan and Yaakov, by attempting to curse Israel, the appropriate reaction is to punish Bilaam using stone- the very material that was used in building that original covenant. The very witness (stone) of that covenant was used to exact the price of Bilaam becoming lame (Talmud Sanhedrin 106). - Shabbat Shalom

רפואה שלמה  
Peleg Shabtai ben Chaviva Leah

Refuah Shleima to  
Kenny Lerner