

QUESTIONS FOR PARSHIOT CHUKAT-BALAK 5769  
by Rabbi Edward Davis

**I. From the Text**

1. What was the Red Heifer used for? (19:11-22)
2. According to the literal text, why were Moshe and Aharon being denied entry into Eretz Yisrael? (20:12)
3. Who succeeded Aharon as Kohen Gadol? (20:28)
4. What did Balak want from Bilaam? (22:6)
5. How many sacrifices did Balak end up offering to Hashem?

**II. From Rashi**

6. How do we derive that during their travels in the desert Hashem provided a well of water in the merit of Miriam? (20:2)
7. What was the sin of Moshe and Aharon according to Rashi? (20:10-12)
8. Why did Moav now fear Bnei Yisrael? (22:2)
9. What did Bilaam prophesy for the offspring of Yitro? (24:21)
10. How did the Moabite women entice the Israelite men to commit idolatry with Baal Peor? (25:2)

**III. From the Rabbis**

11. Aharon, the Kohen Gadol, was not permitted to prepare the Red Heifer since he was involved in the preparation of the Golden Calf. (a) Who prepared the Red Heifer commanded in the Torah? (b) In the future generations is the preparation of the Red Heifer to be performed by the Kohen Gadol (he was not involved in the Golden Calf)?
12. Moshe brought forth water from a special rock. Where have we seen this rock before? (Ramban 20:8)
13. Why did Hashem grant the non-Jewish world a prophet as great as Bilaam? (Ramban on Deut. 34:10)

**IV. Relationships**

- a) Yehudah – Shailah
- b) Peretz – Nachshon
- c) Tamar – Serach
- d) Levi – Lavan
- e) Terach – Nachor Jr.

## ANSWERS FOR PARSHIOT CHUKAT-BALAK 5769

1. The Red Heifer was used to purify a person who became impure (Tamei) by contact with a dead body.
2. Moshe and Aharon failed to sanctify God's name in the eyes of Bnei Yisrael when Moshe and Aharon brought forth water for them to drink in the desert.
3. Elazar, Aharon's son.
4. Balak wanted Bilaam to curse Bnei Yisrael, enabling Moav to defeat Bnei Yisrael in battle and drive them away.
5. 42.
6. As soon as Miriam died the Torah records that there was no water for the people.
7. They struck the rock instead of speaking to it.
8. Moav had relied upon Sichon and Og for protection. Bnei Yisrael easily defeated Sichon and Og. So now Moav felt in danger.
9. The descendents of Yitro will be outstanding Torah scholars.
10. The Moabite women invited the Jewish men to feast and drink. When the men were sexually aroused the Moabite women drew out their Baal Peor idols from their robes and insisted that the Jewish men bow to them.
11. (a) Elazar, the assistant to the Kohen Gadol, prepared the Red Heifer in the Torah. (b) It is a matter of disagreement among Sages as to who in the future would be preparing the Red Heifer.
12. The angel revealed this rock to Hagar when her son Yishmael was dying of thirst (Genesis 21:19); Moshe obtained water from the rock nearly 40 years earlier (Exodus 17:6); the rock traveled with the people in the desert. After Miriam's death it ceased to give water and was hidden.
13. God gave non-Jews a prophet so that the non-Jews could not complain to God that had they been given a prophet they would have been as righteous as Israel.

### **Relationships:**

- a) Father Yehudah
- b) Great-great-grandfather Peretz
- c) Aunt Tamar
- d) Grandfather Lavan
- e) Father Terach