

Chapters 21 – 22

As the Israelites continued their journey, a number of kings did battle with them.

One of these was Og, king of Bashan.

God said to Moses: "Do not be afraid of him, for I have given him into your power."
Israel then easily defeated Og and occupied his land.

The king of Moab also wanted to attack the Israelites, but before attacking, he consulted Balaam son of Beor who was a type of prophet and could see the future.

Several times the king asked Balaam to curse the Israelites, but each time he blessed them, because this is what God told him to do:

"You are not to curse this people, for they are blessed."

The king then summoned Balaam to his presence.

Balaam began his journey to the king, travelling on a donkey.

God sent an angel with a sword to block Balaam's way. The donkey could see the angel, so she left the road to make a detour.

Balaam hit her and made her return to the road. On the road the donkey again saw the angel and just lay down on the road.

Balaam was very angry and hit her with a stick.