

FUN PARSHA MATCHING CHALLENGE

ARE Pharaoh and Balak CONNECTED?

Shalom students,

As you know, our holy Torah is the word of G-d dictated word by word to Moshe to write down. Hashem could have chosen to write down different episodes in the Torah or used different words to describe the same episode but He **intentionally chose the exact words** we have in the Torah. That means that every word counts and has deep meaning beyond just the plain meaning.

Did you know that some **apparently unrelated episodes** in the Torah are **actually connected** with many matching words and actions and themes in the same chronological order? This is NOT by chance.

Let's have some fun and compare the episode of **Pharaoh trying to destroy the Bnei Yisrael** to the episode of **Balak trying to 'destroy' the Bnei Yisrael** when they were in the desert.

INSTRUCTIONS

So open up your Chumash to two places: The beginning of Parsha Shemot at **Shemot 1:1** and to Parsha **Balak** at **Bamidbar 22:2**.

Compare the '**Pharaoh**' episode (Shemot 1:1 - Shemot 1:22) to the **Balak** episode (Bamidbar 22:2 - Bamidbar 23:12). Read both episodes and **compare them carefully** and **write down** on the back of this sheet all **Matching words** and **Matching events/themes** that you spot. You can work in teams if you wish. Only write down 'significant' matching words that do not appear often - not words like 'and' or 'said'.

Post Challenge Discussions and Questions:

- 1) How many matches did you find?
- 2) Read Chapter 12 that discusses the matches.
- 3) Discuss the chapter and your own ideas.

Teacher copy:

FUN PARSHA MATCHING CHALLENGE

Comparing Torah Episodes - Pharoah and Balak

Student Objectives: 1) To Convey in a fun and challenging way the message that every word and event in the Torah counts so as to increase their attention to detail when studying Torah. 2) To enhance their abilities to identify, understand and compare episodes. 3) To increase their awe of the holiness of our Torah and its secrets.

Hello students,

As you know, our holy Torah is the word of G-d dictated word by word to Moshe to write down. Hashem could have chosen to write down different episodes in the Torah or used different words to describe the same episode but He **intentionally chose the exact words** we have in the Torah. That means that every word counts and has deep meaning beyond just the plain meaning.

Did you know that some **apparently unrelated episodes** in the Torah are **actually connected** with many matching words and actions and themes in the same chronological order? This is NOT by chance.

Let's have some fun and compare the episode of **Pharoah trying to destroy the Bnei Yisrael** to the episode of **Balak trying to 'destroy' the Bnei Yisrael** when they were in the desert. So open up your Chumash to two places: The beginning of Parsha Shemot at **Shemot 1:1** and to Parsha **Balak** at **Bamidbar 22:2**.

Compare the 'Pharaoh episode (Shemot 1:1 to Shemot 1:22) to the Balak episode (Bamidbar 22:2- Bamidbar 23:12. Read both episodes and **compare them carefully** and write down all **Matching words** and **Matching events/themes** that you spot. You can work in teams if you wish. Only write down 'significant' matching words that do not appear often - not words like 'and'.

Post Challenge discussion:

This can be the same day or the next. Groups mention the matches they found and the teacher can write them on the board. After it is established that so many matches can not be by chance you then ask for possible explanations as to what the parallels mean - what the message is. You can then offer the explanations written in this book and students can discuss it and add their own thoughts. Finally, the students can then read (if you have copies) the relevant chapter in this book to read all the parallels, see how the textual, thematic and Rashi comparative analysis was done and how everything was laid out in order to **enhance their abilities to analyze text, understand themes and compare texts when studying Chumash.**

Contact us at ederyav@gmail.com or at www.ParallelsintheTorah.com if you want any help or other Parsha Matching Challenges for other Parshas or have comments.

To order copies of the book *Parallels in the Torah* with the chapters that list all the parallels/answers to the Parsha Challenges please:

[Click Here To Order a Copy of *Parallels in the Torah*](#)

