

# PARSHAS CHUKAS BALAK

בס"ד

Motiv8

M8

with R' Ori Strum



## PARSHAH OVERVIEW

**Chukas** discusses the Red Heifer, laws about a corpse, Miriam and Aharon's passing, attack of Amalek, more complaints from the Jews, and various battles.

**Balak** discusses the story of Bilam and the donkey, and the rise of Pinchas.



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## QUOTABLE QUOTE

*"Our common humanity precedes our religious differences."*

**Rabbi Lord J. Sacks zt"l**

## PARSHAH STATS

Chukas

Balak

Pesukim - 87

Pesukim - 104

Words - 1,245

Words - 1,455

Letters - 4,670

Letters - 5,356

Mitzvos - 3

Mitzvos - 0



## GEMATRIA



Hashem gave me a matana that I'd like to share with you. We know Miriam married Kalev. Amazingly, the gematria of **מרים הנביאה** is 363, and there is one verse in the Torah (Bamidbar 13:6) with this gematria: **למטה יהודה, כלב בן-יפנה**. Wow!

## THOUGHTS IN CHASSIDUS

Rebbe Yisroel Mikoznitz, in the Sefer Avodas Yisroel, says on the words **אשר אין בה מום אשר** לא עלה עליה על the following: Someone who things he already achieved perfection - אין - **אשר אין בה מום** - that is a sign that **לא עלה עליה עול** - he has not properly accepted upon himself the **עול מלכות שמים**, the yoke of Heaven.



## DID YOU KNOW



Among the benefits of kindness towards others is the positive psychological gain that occurs for both the giver and receiver. Research has shown that generosity and kindness are contagious, which means, the more you give and help, the more others will be influenced to act in kind (yes pun intended)

## QUICK VORT

The Torah tells us (20:1) **ותמת שם מרים** - And Miriam died **THERE**. What can we learn from this?

From our very introduction to the great Miriam back in Shemos, we are taught that she was a person who always looked out for others. It was Miriam who stood by a close distance and kept an eye out for her brother, Moshe.

When the Torah says, "And Miriam died **THERE**" perhaps it is offering her the greatest eulogy. She died **THERE**, not **HERE**. Her entire life was not "here," it was not about herself and her wants and desires.

Rather, her life was one of **שם**, **THERE**, a life of giving, a life of living for others, an existence that served the greater klal.

What an inspiring message for us to take in our lives. Let's strive to live a life of **שם**, being a giver, a leader, and a role model for others.  
**Have a holy Shabbos!**