



Holy Chutzpa Balak 2012

Read the story of Balaam and Balak if you are not familiar with it (Bamidbar 22-24 especially Bamidbar 22:7-20).

1. Bamidbar 22:7-8

<p>The elders of Moab and the elders of Midian, versed in divination, set out. They came to Balaam and gave him Balak's message. He said to them, "Spend the night here, and I shall reply to you as the L-rd may instruct me." So the Moabite dignitaries stayed with Balaam.</p>	<p>וַיֵּלְכוּ זִקְנֵי מוֹאָב, וְזִקְנֵי מִדְיָן, וְקֹסְמִים, בְּיָדָם; וַיָּבֹאוּ, אֶל-בְּלָעַם, וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלָיו, דְּבַר־בָּלָק. וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֵיהֶם, לִינוּ פֹה הַלַּיְלָה, וְהִשְׁבֹּתִי אִתְּכֶם דָּבָר, כַּאֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר ה' אֵלַי; וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׂרֵי-מוֹאָב, עִם-בְּלָעַם.</p>
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Where did the officers of Midian go?

2. Bamidbar 22:12

<p>But G-d said to Balaam, "Do not go with them. You may not curse that people for they are blessed."</p>	<p>וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בְּלָעַם, לֹא תֵלֵךְ עִמָּהֶם; לֹא תֹארוּ אֶת-הָעָם, כִּי בְרוּךְ הוּא.</p>
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3. Bamidbar 22:20

<p>That night G-d came to Balaam and said to him, "If these men have come to invite you, you may go with them. But whatever I command you, that you shall do."</p>	<p>וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל-בְּלָעַם, לַיְלָה, וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אִם-לִקְרֹא לְךָ בָּאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים, קוּם לְךָ אִתָּם; וְאֵךְ, אֶת-הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר-אֲדַבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ--אֵתוֹ תַעֲשֶׂה.</p>
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Explain in what way G-d changed G-d's mind. How do you account for this?

4. Sanhedrin 105a

<p>"So the Moabite dignitaries stayed with Balaam." But where had the elders of Midian gone? — As soon as he said to them, "Spend the night here, and I shall reply to you as the L-rd may instruct me." they reasoned, Does any father hate his son! R. Nahman said: Impudence, even against Heaven, is of avail: at first it is written, "Do not go with them," yet subsequently it is said, "You may go with them."</p>	<p>וישבו שרי מואב עם בלעם ושרי מדין להיכן אזול כיון דאמר להו לינו פה הלילה והשבותי אתכם דבר אמרו כלום יש אב ששונא את בנו אמר רב נחמן חוצפא אפילו כלפי שמיא מהני מעיקרא כתיב לא תלך עמהם ולבסוף כתיב קום לך אתם</p>
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Why did the Midianites leave?

Who is the "father" a metaphor for?

What other examples do you know of arguing against G-d? (Read Breishit 18 and Shmot 32:32).