## **BALAK**

The theme (if you can call it that) of several GMs that I have found over the years, deals with the threat from Bil'am (and Balak) and what we can call our antidote or vaccination against their threats, or words to that effect.

Let's start with the threat. Bamidbar 23:4 (in Parshat Balak) -

וֹאַמרן פֿר וֹאַיִרן בּּפּוּוֹבֿוּז: אָע-הָּבֹּאַע ניפּוּוֹבּוּזִע, אֿרָכְעּי וֹתְּפָּר אָׁרְנְצִים אָרְ-בּּלְאָם וֹנִּאכּוּר אָלְיִּוּ

"God appeared to Bil'am. 'I have set up seven altars,' said [Bil'am] to [God], 'and I have sacrificed a bull and ram as a burnt offering on each altar.'"

Bil'am and Balak did this more than once, with the goal of gaining G-d's okay for them to 'bless' the People of Israel.

What is our greatest protection for those who seek to harm us - physically or spiritually? Take a look at Bamidbar 15:40 - a pasuk and concept which we are well acquainted.

וְהָיִיתֵם הָדְשִׁים לֵאֵקְהֵיכֵם: רָבִּוַעַן הִּוְכָּרִוּ וַעֲשִּׁיתָם אֶת־כָּכ<sup>ּר</sup>בּוּצְוֹהְגִי

"You will thus remember and keep all My commandments, and be holy to your God."

There is no stronger protection that Bnei Yisrael as a people and each of us as members of Klal Yisrael, can have than Torah and Mitzvot.

These two p'sukim are GMs at 3707.

And let's add a GM with AT-BASH, which for our Balak pasuk is 5636. Only one pasuk in all of Tanach has a regular Gimatriya of 5636, D'varim 26:3 (in Parshat Ki Tavo) -

וּבָאהָ אֶל-הַכּהֵן אֲשֶׁר וִיְהָיָה בַּיָּבְוִים קי״הוָה אָ׳להֶּיךְ כִּי־בְּאתִי אֶל-הָאָרץ קי״הוָה אָ׳להֶיךְ כִּי־בְּאתִי אֶל-הָאָרץ אָשֶּׁר וִשְׁבַּע י״הוָה כִּיִּבְאתִי אָל-הָאָרץ

And you shall come to the kohen who will be [serving] in those days, and say to him, "I declare this day to HaShem, your God, that I have come to the land which HaShem swore to our forefathers to give us."

The mitzva of Bikurim is the epitome of the Mitzvot of the Land, and also serves as our vaccine against the threats of our enemies.