

Joshua 13:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Balaam also the son of Beor, the soothsayer, did the children of Israel slay with the sword among them that were slain by them.

Analysis

With the princes of Midian, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba— These five Midianite princes (נְשִׂאֵי מִדְיָן, nesi'ei Midyan) were vassals or allies of Sihon. Their names are preserved in Scripture as historical record and theological testimony: Evi (אֵוִי), Rekem (רֶקֶם), Zur (צוּר), Hur (חֹר), and Reba (רֶבֶעַ). Numbers 31:8 records their deaths during Israel's war against Midian, revenge for the Baal-peor seduction (Numbers 25).

Which were dukes of Sihon, dwelling in the country— The Hebrew nesikei Sichon (נְסִיקֵי סִיחֹן, "dukes/princes of Sihon") indicates feudal-like relationships where local rulers governed under Sihon's authority. Their defeat dismantled not just one king but an entire political network. This illustrates that spiritual warfare targets not isolated sins but systems of rebellion. The collapse of these five princes with their overlord demonstrates that God's judgment on wicked leadership cascades through entire power structures.

Historical Context

The Midianites were nomadic descendants of Abraham through Keturah (Genesis 25:1-2), inhabiting regions from the Sinai Peninsula to Transjordan. Their alliance with Moab against Israel (Numbers 22-25) combined Balaam's curse attempt with sexual-religious seduction at Baal-peor. The five princes likely governed city-states

within Sihon's kingdom, a common Ancient Near Eastern political structure where regional rulers paid tribute to a dominant king.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the defeat of multiple allied rulers with Sihon teach about how God dismantles networks of evil, not just individual sins?
2. How does Midian's use of sexual seduction as spiritual warfare inform understanding of Satan's strategies against God's people?
3. Why might God have preserved the names of these five defeated princes in Scripture?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	בַּלַּעַם	בְּנֵי	בְּעֹר	הַקֹּזִיטִים	וְהָרָגוּ	בְּנֵי
H853	Balaam	also the son	of Beor	the soothsayer	slay	also the son
	H1109	H1121	H1160	H7080	H2026	H1121
לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּחֶרֶב	אֶל	חַלְלֵיהֶם:			
of Israel	with the sword	among them	that were slain			
H3478	H2719	H413	H2491			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 31:8 (Word): And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.

Revelation 2:14 (References Israel): But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac

to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

2 Peter 2:15 (Parallel theme): Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Jude 1:11 (Parallel theme): Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Numbers 24:1 (References Israel): And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness.