

Joshua 22:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is the iniquity of Peor too little for us, from which we are not cleansed until this day, although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD,

Analysis

Is the iniquity of Peor too little for us, from which we are not cleansed until this day—The reference is to Numbers 25, where 24,000 Israelites died for worshiping Baal-Peor through sexual immorality with Moabite women. The Hebrew phrase "not cleansed" (לֹא טָהַרְנוּ, lo taharnu) suggests ongoing corporate guilt requiring continual covenant renewal.

Although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD—The plague (מִגַּפָּה, magephah) was stopped only by Phinehas's zealous action (Numbers 25:7-8), making it especially poignant that Phinehas himself leads this delegation. Having personally witnessed God's wrath against idolatry, he cannot tolerate another altar that might provoke divine judgment.

Historical Context

The Peor incident occurred approximately 40 years earlier, yet its trauma remained vivid. Phinehas received a covenant of perpetual priesthood for his zeal (Numbers 25:11-13), establishing his credibility as the leader of this investigation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How should past failures inform present vigilance without creating a spirit of fear or suspicion?
2. What does Phinehas's leadership demonstrate about those who have proven faithful in crisis being trusted in sensitive situations?
3. How can we remember God's past judgments without becoming paranoid or divisive?

Interlinear Text

לֹא אֲשֶׁר פָּעוּר עוֹן אֶת לֵב הַמַּעַט
too little H0 H853 Is the iniquity of Peor H834 H3808
H4592 H5771 H6465

וְיֵהָיָה הַיּוֹם עַד מָתַיְנו הַטֹּהַר רָנוּ
for us from which we are not cleansed H4480 H5704 until this day H2088 H1961
H2891 H3117

הֵן גַּף בְּעֵד תַּיְהוָה
although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD
H5063 H5712 H3068