

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" (אֲלֹתָה נָא, lo taharnu) suggests ongoing corporate guilt requiring continual covenant renewal.

Although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD—The plague (הַמָּגֵפָה, 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 אָשֶׁר פָּעָו וְלֹא אָשֶׁר בְּנֵי הַמִּשְׁעָט

too little H0 H853 Is the iniquity of Peor H834 H3808

H4592

H5771

H6465

לֹא בְּנֵי הַטְּבָע רָנוּ

for us from which we are not cleansed

H2891

H4480

H5704

until this day

H2088

H1961

H3117

בְּגַעַת

although there was a plague

H5063

בְּצִבְאֹת

in the congregation

H5712

יְהֹוָה!

of the LORD

H3068

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