

Numbers 25

Chapter 25 of 36 · 18 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Israel's Sin with Moabite Women

¹ And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

² And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

³ And Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

⁴ And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.

⁵ And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baal-peor.

The Zeal of Phinehas

⁶ And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

⁷ And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;

⁸ And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

9 And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

10 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

11 Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.

12 Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:

13 And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

14 Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites.

15 And the name of the Midianitish woman that was slain was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian.

16 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

17 Vex the Midianites, and smite them:

18 For they vex you with their wiles, wherewith they have beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Peor's sake.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Covenant — בְּרִית (Berit)

Covenant, treaty

The Hebrew **berit** (בְּרִית) denotes a covenant—a binding agreement, often ratified by blood sacrifice. God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) structure redemptive history, culminating in the New Covenant.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Sacrifice — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Wrath — אַף (Aph)

Wrath, anger

The Hebrew **aph** (אַף) literally means 'nose' or 'nostrils,' idiomatically expressing wrath or anger—God's righteous indignation against sin. Yet God is 'slow to anger' (Exodus 34:6) and 'abundant in mercy.'

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 25:1 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 33:49; Joshua 2:1; Micah 6:5; 1 Corinthians 10:8.

References Israel: Joshua 3:1; Revelation 2:14

Numbers 25:2

Sacrifice: Psalms 106:28; 1 Corinthians 10:20. **References God:** Exodus 20:5. **Parallel theme:** Joshua 22:17; Hosea 9:10

Numbers 25:3 **References Lord:** Joshua 22:17. **References Israel:** Hosea 9:10

Numbers 25:4

References Lord: Deuteronomy 4:3; 13:17; 21:23; 2 Samuel 21:6. **References Israel:** Numbers 25:11

Numbers 25:5 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 18:21; 1 Kings 18:40

Numbers 25:6 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 22:4; Joel 2:17

Numbers 25:7 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 6:25

Numbers 25:9 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 31:16; 1 Corinthians 10:8

Numbers 25:11 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 20:5; Deuteronomy 32:16; 32:21; 1 Kings 14:22; Psalms 78:58; Zephaniah 3:8; 1 Corinthians 10:22; 2 Corinthians 11:2. **Judgment:** Zephaniah 1:18

Numbers 25:12 **Covenant:** Isaiah 54:10; Ezekiel 34:25; Malachi 3:1

Numbers 25:13 **Creation:** Hebrews 2:17. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 106:31; Jeremiah 33:18; 33:22. **Eternal Life:** Exodus 40:15. **References God:** 1 Peter 2:5

Numbers 25:15 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 31:8; Joshua 13:21

Numbers 25:18 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 2:14

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