

Numbers 25:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The identification of the Midianite woman—'Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian'—shows this was not random fornication but a high-level alliance between Israelite and Midianite nobility. The Hebrew construction emphasizes her royal lineage. This political-sexual alliance sought to unite Israel with Midian through intermarriage, exactly what Balaam had counseled (31:16). The naming of both parties emphasizes that God knows individual sin—no sin is anonymous before Him. Both participants bore responsibility.

Historical Context

Zur was one of five Midianite kings killed in Israel's later vengeance (Numbers 31:8). His daughter's involvement in seducing Israel was part of systematic strategy to corrupt them. The incident at Baal Peor combined idolatry (worshiping Moabite gods), sexual immorality (ritual prostitution), and political alliance (tribal intermarriage). This three-fold corruption required severe judgment to prevent Israel's complete apostasy.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do political expediency and sexual immorality often combine in covenant unfaithfulness?
2. What does God's knowledge of individual participants teach about accountability?
3. How should we respond to systematic strategies to corrupt God's people?

Interlinear Text

וְשֵׁם	הָאִשָּׁה	הַמָּכָה	הַמִּדְיָנִית	כְּזָבִי	בֵּת
And the name	woman	that was slain	of the Midianitish	was Cozbi	the daughter
H8034	H802	H5221	H4084	H3579	H1323
צֹר	רֹאשׁ	אֶמָּה	בֵּית	אֶבְי	הוּא:
of Zur	he was head	over a people	house	and of a chief	in Midian
H6698	H7218	H523	H1004	H1	H4080

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 31:8 (Parallel theme): 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.

Joshua 13:21 (Parallel theme): And all the cities of the plain, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, which reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses smote with the princes of Midian, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, which were dukes of Sihon, dwelling in the country.