

# Numbers 25:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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The specific mention 'in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi' grounds the general principle (Midianite treachery) in specific incidents. Peor refers to the location where Israel joined itself to Baal of Peor (25:3); Cozbi names the Midianite princess whose fornication with Zimri provoked plague (25:14-15). Specific naming prevents abstracting sin—real people in real places committed real rebellion. This specificity teaches that God's judgment addresses concrete historical sins, not merely theoretical wrongdoing. Scripture's detailed recording of both sins and judgments demonstrates divine justice's precision.

## Historical Context

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Baal Peor was likely a local manifestation of the Canaanite fertility god Baal, worshiped at Mount Peor. The worship involved ritual prostitution, combining sexual immorality with idolatry. This Canaanite religion promised agricultural fertility through sympathetic magic—enacting sexual acts with cult prostitutes to stimulate the gods to make land fertile. Israel's participation represented complete apostasy from Yahweh's covenant.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Scripture record specific names and places of sin rather than generalizing?
2. How does specific historical grounding of sin prevent us from abstracting away accountability?
3. What does God's detailed knowledge of specific sins teach about His justice?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲשֶׁר	בְּנַכְלִיָּה	מִן	לְכָה	מִן	הַמִּן	אֲרָרִים	בְּכִיָּה	מִן	לְכָה	מִן	הַמִּן	כִּי
H3588	For they vex	H1992	H0			you with their wiles	H834					
		H6887				H5231						
עַל	פָּעוֹר:	דְּבָר	עַל	לְכָה	מִן	נְכַל	וְ	דְּבָר	עַל	לְכָה	מִן	פָּעוֹר:
wherewith	they have beguiled	H5230	H0	H5921				H1697	and in the matter	for Peor's	H5921	H6465
דְּבָר	קָצֵב	בַּת	נְשָׁה	מִדְיָן	אֲחֹת	דְּבָר	פָּעוֹר:					
and in the matter	of Cozbi	the daughter	of a prince	of Midian	their sister	H1697	H3579	H1323	H5387	H4080	H269	
דְּבָר	בַּיּוֹם	הַמְּגַפֵּה	עַל	דְּבָר	פָּעוֹר:							
which was slain	in the day	of the plague	H5921	and in the matter	for Peor's	H1697	H3117	H4046	H5921	H1697	H6465	
הַמְּגַפֵּה	הַיּוֹם	אֲסֵךְ	תִּינְחֶה									
H1961	H310	of the plague	H4046									

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 2:14** (Parallel theme): 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.

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