

# Numbers 25:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they vex you with their wives, 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	בְּנוֹכְלִיָּהּ	לְכֶם	הֵם	צָרָה יָם	כִּי
H834		H0	H1992	<b>For they vex</b> H6887	H3588
		<b>you with their wiles</b> H5231			
וְעַל	פְּעֹרָה:	דָּבָר	עַל	לְכֶם	וְכָל וְ
H5921			H5921	H0	<b>wherewith they have beguiled</b> H5230
	<b>for Peor's</b> H6465	<b>and in the matter</b> H1697			
אֲחֹתָם	מִדְיָן	נָשׁ יָא	בֵּת	כֹּזְבִי	דָּבָר
H269	H4080	H5387	H1323	H3579	<b>and in the matter</b> H1697
	<b>of Midian</b>	<b>of a prince</b>	<b>the daughter</b>	<b>of Cozbi</b>	
פְּעֹרָה:	דָּבָר	עַל	הַמִּגַּף הַ:	בְּיוֹם	הַמִּגַּף הַ
	<b>and in the matter</b> H1697	H5921	H4046	H3117	<b>which was slain</b> H5221
<b>for Peor's</b> H6465					
			הַמִּגַּף הַ:	אֲחֵרִי	וְיָהּ
			<b>of the plague</b> H4046	H310	H1961

## 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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