

# Numbers 25:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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The statement 'Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor' describes covenant unfaithfulness through idolatry and immorality. The phrase 'joined himself' uses covenant language, indicating Israel's spiritual adultery by attaching to false gods. God's anger burning against Israel demonstrates that covenant privilege brings greater accountability—those who know God and reject Him face severe judgment. This incident, occurring on Canaan's threshold after forty years of discipline, showed the new generation's susceptibility to the same sins as their fathers.

## Historical Context

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Baal-peor was a local manifestation of the Canaanite fertility god Baal, worshiped at Mount Peor in Moab. Worship involved ritual prostitution, combining spiritual and physical adultery. This seduction came through Balaam's counsel to Moab (31:16), showing his persistent opposition to Israel despite inability to curse them. The plague killed 24,000 (verse 9), demonstrating judgment's severity. Paul later used this incident as a warning to Christians (1 Corinthians 10:8).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does spiritual adultery (idolatry) parallel physical adultery in seriousness and covenant violation?
2. What modern forms of Baal worship (materialism, sexuality, power) tempt God's people toward unfaithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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joined	And Israel	H0	לְבָעֵל בַּיְשָׁרָאֵל:	לְאַחֲרֵי פָּעָר וּרְאֵבֶר אֶת	was kindled and the anger	H2734 H639
H6775	H3478		H1187		H1187	

  

of the LORD	And Israel	H3068	בַּיְשָׁרָאֵל: יְהִי הָ	H3478
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## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 22:17** (References Lord): 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,

**Hosea 9:10** (References Israel): I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: but they went to Baal-peor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved.