

Numbers 25:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

Phinehas 'took a javelin in his hand' and executed both the Israelite man and Midianite woman in the act of sin. This violent response to flagrant covenant violation stopped the plague (verse 8). Phinehas's decisive action demonstrated that tolerating open rebellion threatens the entire community. His zeal was commended (verses 10-13), not as license for vigilante justice but as appropriate response in unique crisis.

Historical Context

As Aaron's grandson, Phinehas held priestly office but here acted as enforcer of covenant holiness. His action recalled Levi's zeal after the golden calf (Exodus 32:25-29). This earned his family an everlasting priesthood (verse 13), showing God rewards those who prioritize His honor above human approval.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you balance mercy and grace with necessary defense of God's holiness?
2. What does it mean to be more concerned for God's honor than for popular opinion?

Interlinear Text

רָא	וְיֵהוָה	פִּינְחָס	בֶּן	אֶלְעָזָר	בֶּן	אַהֲרֹן	בֶּן	הַכֹּהֵן		
saw	And when Phinehas	the son	of Eleazar	the son	of Aaron	the priest				
H7200	H6372	H1121	H499	H1121	H175	H3548				

בָּיִדְוֹ	רַמְחָה	וְיָקָרָה	מִתְּזֵרֶר	בְּעֵד	הַמִּתְּמָרָה	וְיָקָרָה	בְּיַדְךָ	רַמְחָה	בְּיַדְךָ	בְּיַדְךָ
it he rose up	from among	the congregation	and took	a javelin	in his hand					
H6965	H8432	H5712	H3947	H7420	H3027					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 6:25 (Parallel theme): And Eleazar Aaron's son took him one of the daughters of Putiel to wife; and she bare him Phinehas: these are the heads of the fathers of the Levites according to their families.

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