

Numbers 25:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

Analysis

Verse 8 describes the execution in graphic detail—"and thrust both of them through." The specificity emphasizes the seriousness and publicity of the judgment. Scripture doesn't sanitize or romanticize the cost of maintaining covenant purity. Real consequences for real sin preserve the community. This sobering account warns that God takes His holiness seriously.

Historical Context

The names of both offenders are given (verse 14-15): Zimri, a Simeonite prince, and Cozbi, daughter of a Midianite chief. Their high social status made their sin especially influential and their judgment especially necessary. Leadership amplifies both the danger of sin and the importance of its judgment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Scripture's unflinching account of sin's consequences affect your view of holiness?
2. What sins are you tempted to minimize that God takes with deadly seriousness?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּצֵא	אַמְתָּר	אֶל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּקָבָה
And he went	after	of them through the man	of Israel	through into the tent
H935	H310	H376	H3478	H413 H6898
וְנִזְקַר	מֵאֲתָת	אֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְנִזְקַר
and thrust	H853	both	H853	of them through the man
H1856		H8147		of Israel
			H376	H3478 H853
בְּעִזָּה	אֶל	קָבָת	וְתִפְעַלְתָּ	מִעַל
and the woman	through	her belly	was stayed	So the plague
H802	H413	H6897	H6113	H4046 H5921
בְּנֵי	וְנִזְקַר			
from the children	of Israel			
H1121	H3478			