

Numbers 25:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

Analysis

The plague killed 24,000 before Phinehas's action stopped it. The death toll demonstrates the corporate consequences of individual and communal sin. One person's zeal for God ended what many people's sin had begun. This teaches both the danger of tolerating sin and the power of one righteous person's decisive action for God's honor.

Historical Context

Paul references this incident in 1 Corinthians 10:8, giving a count of 23,000 in one day (possibly not including leaders executed separately). The discrepancy in numbers is minor; both emphasize the devastating consequence of sexual immorality and idolatry. This became a perpetual warning for God's people.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does one person's faithfulness benefit the entire community?
2. What sins tolerated in the church today threaten similar corporate judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְהִי וְ	בְּמִתְּהִלָּה	בְּמִתְּגַּפְתָּה	אַרְבָּעָה	וְעַשֶּׂר יָמִים	אֶלָּא:
H1961	And those that died	in the plague	and four	were twenty	thousand
	H4191	H4046	H702	H6242	H505

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:8 (Parallel theme): Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

Numbers 31:16 (Parallel theme): Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

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