

Psalm 106:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed.

Analysis

This verse celebrates Phinehas's intervention. 'Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment' describes his decisive action. He executed the Israelite man (Zimri) and Midianite woman (Cozbi) engaged in blatant immorality (Numbers 25:14-15). 'Executed judgment' (palal, פָּלָל) means to intervene, mediate, or arbitrate—Phinehas acted as God's instrument of justice. 'So the plague was stayed' shows his action stopped God's judgment. This demonstrates the principle that righteous zeal for God's honor can turn away wrath and protect the community. Phinehas prefigures Christ who 'stood up' and satisfied divine justice, ending the plague of sin and death.

Historical Context

Phinehas was Aaron's grandson, a priest who demonstrated that true spiritual leadership requires zeal for God's holiness, even when it's costly. His action earned him 'a covenant of peace' and perpetual priesthood for his descendants (Numbers 25:12-13). This Phinehas covenant was fulfilled through Zadok's line, which remained faithful during later apostasy. Phinehas's name means 'bronze serpent' or 'Nubian,' possibly indicating Egyptian heritage, yet he surpassed ethnic Israelites in covenant zeal.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Phinehas's action teach about the necessity of church discipline?
2. How can righteous zeal for God's honor protect the covenant community?
3. In what ways does Phinehas's intervention prefigure Christ's saving work?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲמֹד	פִּנְהָאָס	וַיַּעֲשֶׂה	וַיִּצְבַּא	וְהַמִּגְדָּה:
Then stood up	Phinehas	and executed judgment	was stayed	and so the plague
H5975	H6372	H6419	H6113	H4046

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 7:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

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