



1

IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 25

While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. ² These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. ³ So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. ⁴ And the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the LORD, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel." ⁵ And Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor."

2

IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 25

⁶ And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁷ When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand ⁸ and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. ⁹ Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.

3

IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 25

¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, ¹¹ "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy. ¹² Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace, ¹³ and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.'"

4

IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 25

¹⁴ The name of the slain man of Israel, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, chief of a father's house belonging to the Simeonites. ¹⁵ And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur, who was the tribal head of a father's house in Midian.

¹⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁷ "Harass the Midianites and strike them down, ¹⁸ for they have harassed you with their wives, with which they beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of the chief of Midian, their sister, who was killed on the day of the plague on account of Peor."

5

IN THE WILDERNESS

Resist Sin And Remain Faithful!

6

IN THE WILDERNESS

Temptation Led Israel to Rebel Yet Again

- On the verge of success, Israel fell into sin again
- Forbidden sex, food, and worship (verses 1-2)
- God’s righteous wrath boiled over (verses 3-5)
- Phinehas dealt with a particularly defiant sinner (verses 6-9)

7

IN THE WILDERNESS

God Blesses Those Who Remain Faithful and Punishes Those Encouraging Sin

- God blessed Phinehas for being zealous for His reputation and holiness (verses 10-13)
- God condemned those responsible for sin to death (verses 14-18)
- This is a timeless principle affirmed by Jesus (see Matthew 18:6-7, Revelation 2:14-17, 25-26)

8

IN THE WILDERNESS

You’re On God’s Mission - Resist Sin and Remain Faithful!

- The world, the flesh, and the devil will try to tempt you away from God’s mission
- Resist whatever yokes you to the world, the flesh, or the devil (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7)
- God gives you everything you need to resist or escape temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- What are you doing with what tempts YOU?

9
