

**Timeline of Truth: God Punishes Idolatry (Numbers 25)**

**I. Israel at Mount Sinai (1-10:10)**

**II. Israel in the Wilderness (10:11-36:13)**

1. The Israelites Move (10:11-36)
2. Israel Complains (11:1-35)
3. Aaron and Miriam Complain (12:1-16)
4. The Spies and their Reports (13:1-33)
5. The Nation is Punished (14:1-45)
6. Laws Concerning Offerings in the Land of Israel (15:1-31)
7. A Man Works on the Sabbath and Tassels on Garments (15:32-41)
8. Men Challenge Moses (16:1-43)
9. Aaron’s Rod Buds (17:1-13)
10. Responsibilities and Provisions for the Priests and Levites (18:1-32)
11. Uncleaness and Cleansing (19:1-22)
12. Moses Strikes the Rock (20:1-13)
13. Edom Refuses Israel and Aaron Dies (20:14-29)
14. Israel’s Battles and the Fiery Serpents (21:1-35)
15. Balaam and Balak (22:1-24:25)

<p><b>Numbers 25:1-3</b> Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. <sup>2</sup> They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. <sup>3</sup> So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.</p>	<p><b>1. Israel _____ against the Lord</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Began to commit harlotry” – lit. “profaned the people to harlotry.”</li> <li>• Profane - חָלַל - <i>chalal</i> - pollute, defile, profane</li> </ul> <p>a. Israel allowed the women of Moab into the camp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The women of Moab led them to idol worship</li> <li>• They fellowshipped (ate) and worshipped (bowed down) to the gods of the Moabites</li> <li>• <b>Psalm 106:28</b> They joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, And ate sacrifices made to the dead.</li> </ul> <p>b. The people were joined to Baal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joined - used other places as:</li> <li>• 2 Samuel 20:8 - When they <i>were</i> at the large stone which <i>is</i> in Gibeon, Amasa came before them. Now Joab was dressed in battle armor; on it was a belt <i>with</i> a sword <b>fastened</b> in its sheath at his hips; and as he was going forward, it fell out.</li> <li>• Psalm 50:19 – You give your mouth to evil, And your tongue <b>frames</b> deceit.</li> <li>• Baal of Peor – a god of the Moabites</li> </ul> <p>c. God’s anger was aroused against Israel</p>
<p><sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel."</p>	<p><b>2. God Commands the Leaders to Be _____</b></p> <p>a. God commands Moses to take the leaders</p> <p>b. God commands the leaders to be hung.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lit. “take the heads of the people to be hung”</li> <li>• Out in the sun - lit. “In front of” or “in sight of the sun.”</li> </ul> <p>c. This would be done to turn away the anger of the Lord.</p>
<p><sup>5</sup> So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor."</p>	<p><b>3. Moses _____ the Lord</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lit. “Kill a man of the men being joined to Baal of Peor”</li> </ul>
<p><sup>6</sup> And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who <i>were</i></p>	<p><b>4. A Midianite Woman _____ at the Tabernacle</b></p> <p>a. While the people were weeping over this sin</p> <p>b. A man presents a Midianite woman to Moses and</p>

<p>weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.</p>	<p>the congregation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented - come near or to approach.</li> <li>While Israel was mourning over their sin, a man brings this foreign woman past the tabernacle with the purpose of participating in idolatry.</li> </ul>
<p><sup>7</sup> Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw <i>it</i>, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; <sup>8</sup> 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 body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. <sup>9</sup> And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.</p>	<p><b>5. Phinehas _____ Two People</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who is Phinehas – he is the son of Eleazar, the High Priest.</li> <li>Phinehas takes a javelin and kills both the man and the woman.</li> <li>At this point the plague that was sent for punishment of the children of Israel was stopped. Plague can also mean blow or slaughter.</li> <li>24,000 people died.</li> </ol>
<p><sup>10</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>11</sup> "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. <sup>12</sup> "Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; <sup>13</sup> and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.' "</p>	<p><b>6. Phinehas is Rewarded for His _____</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phinehas turned back God's wrath <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was zealous with God's zeal</li> <li>God was going to kill Israel in His Zeal</li> <li>The root of the word zeal is jealousy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>this does not mean a sinful jealousy that we often have</li> <li>This refers to a righteous jealousy that one desires what one deserves.</li> <li>Phinehas desired for the Lord the worship that the Lord rightfully desires for Himself</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>God rewards Phinehas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He received a covenant of peace (Ps 106:30)</li> <li>He received a covenant of an everlasting priesthood</li> <li>Because of his zeal and because he made atonement for the children of Israel.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><sup>14</sup> Now the name of the Israelite who was killed, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father's house among the Simeonites. <sup>15</sup> And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur; he was head of the people of a father's house in Midian.</p>	<p><b>7. The Two Who Died are _____</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Israelite: Zimri, son of Salu, a Simeonite. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He was one of the leaders of the tribe</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Midianite: Cozbi, daughter of Zur, a leader in Midian</li> </ol>
<p><sup>16</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>17</sup> "Harass the Midianites, and attack them; <sup>18</sup> "for they harassed you with their schemes by which they seduced you in the matter of Peor and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a leader of Midian, their sister, who was killed in the day of the plague because of Peor."</p>	<p><b>8. God Commands Israel to _____ the Midianites</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Israel is to harass and attack the Midianites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harass – bind or tie up</li> <li>Attack - smite</li> </ul> </li> <li>This is because Midian harassed Israel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harass is the same word as above</li> <li>Schemes - wiliness, craft, knavery</li> <li>Seduced - deceived</li> </ul> </li> <li>Cozbi seemed to be sent to Israel intentionally to lead the people to idol worship.</li> </ol>

- God deserves our worship and our attention – He does not ignore when we put anything else ahead of Him. (Col. 3:5)
- God sees and desires our faithfulness and will reward us for serving Him.
- We need to be careful whose company we are keeping – the wrong people can lead us astray.