

Timeline of Truth: God Gives Israel Victory Over the Midianites (Numbers 31)

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

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

a. Israel's First Generation in the Wilderness (10:11-19:22)

b. Israel's Second Generation in the Wilderness (20:1-36:13)

1. Moses Strikes the Rock (20:1-13)
2. Edom Refuses Israel and Aaron Dies (20:14-29)
3. Israel's Battles and the Fiery Serpents (21:1-

35)

4. Balaam and Balak (22:1-24:25)
5. Israel's Idolatry (25:1-18)
6. The Second Census (26:1-65)
7. God's Last Commands to Moses (27:12-23)
8. Offerings, Passover, Trumpets, Atonement Revisited (28:1-29:40)
9. Vows between a Husband and Wife (30:1-16)

<p>Numbers 31:1-5 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² "Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people." ³ So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the LORD on Midian. ⁴ "A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war." ⁵ So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from <i>each</i> tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.</p>	<p>1. God Commands Moses to _____ the Midianites</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God commands Israel to take _____ on the Midianites Numbers 25:17-18 "Harass the Midianites, and attack them; ¹⁸ "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." b. This will be the last military act that Moses will lead. c. Moses give the command to people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses explains why • Moses explains who – 1000 from each tribe • 12,000 in all
<p>⁶ Then Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from <i>each</i> tribe; he sent them to the war with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand. ⁷ And they warred against the Midianites, just as the LORD commanded Moses, and they killed all the males. ⁸ They killed the kings of Midian with <i>the rest of</i> those who were killed -- Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword.</p>	<p>2. Israel _____ with the Midianites</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The 12,000 men went to war <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phinehas went with them • They took the holy articles and the trumpets Numbers 10:8-9 ⁸ "The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and these shall be to you as an ordinance forever throughout your generations. ⁹ "When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies. b. Israel killed the Midianites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Kings are listed • Balaam the son of Beor also was killed
<p>⁹ And the children of Israel took the women of Midian captive, with their little ones, and took as spoil all their cattle, all their flocks, and all their goods. ¹⁰ They also burned with fire all the cities where they dwelt, and all their forts. ¹¹ And they took all the spoil and all the booty -- of man and beast. ¹² Then they brought the captives, the booty, and the spoil to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the congregation of the children of Israel, to the camp in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, <i>across from</i> Jericho. ¹³ And Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation, went to meet them outside the camp.</p>	<p>3. Israel Returns with _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. They took the women captive b. They took the children captive c. They took the animals captive d. They took all their possessions. e. They took everything to Moses, to the priests and to the rest of the congregation.

<p>¹⁵ And Moses said to them: "Have you kept all the women alive?" ¹⁶ "Look, these <i>women</i> caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.</p>	<p>4. Moses _____ the Men of Israel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The reason: They kept the women alive Why: The women had caused Israel to turn to Baal – and caused the plague amongst the people.
<p>¹⁷ "Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known a man intimately. ¹⁸ "But keep alive for yourselves all the young girls who have not known a man intimately. ¹⁹ "And as for you, remain outside the camp seven days; whoever has killed any person, and whoever has touched any slain, purify yourselves and your captives on the third day and on the seventh day. ²⁰ "Purify every garment, everything made of leather, everything woven of goats' <i>hair</i>, and everything made of wood."</p>	<p>5. Moses' Commands Concerning the _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the captives were to be killed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the males The women who have known a man intimately But not the young virgins Those who have killed anyone must wait outside the camp to purify themselves. Numbers 19:11-12 ¹¹ He who touches the dead body of anyone shall be unclean seven days. ¹² 'He shall purify himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; <i>then</i> he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not be clean.
<p>²¹ Then Eleazar the priest said to the men of war who had gone to the battle, "This <i>is</i> the ordinance of the law which the LORD commanded Moses: ²² "Only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead, ²³ "everything that can endure fire, you shall put through the fire, and it shall be clean; and it shall be purified with the water of purification. But all that cannot endure fire you shall put through water. ²⁴ "And you shall wash your clothes on the seventh day and be clean, and afterward you may come into the camp."</p>	<p>6. Eleazar Commands a _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The things which can be put through the fire will be cleansed by fire and then by the water of purification. The things which cannot be put through fire will just be cleansed by the water of purification. The men would complete their cleansing on the seventh day by watching their clothes.
<p>²⁵ Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²⁶ "Count up the plunder that was taken -- of man and beast -- you and Eleazar the priest and the chief fathers of the congregation; ²⁷ "and divide the plunder into two parts, between those who took part in the war, who went out to battle, and all the congregation. ²⁸ "And levy a tribute for the LORD on the men of war who went out to battle: one of every five hundred of the persons, the cattle, the donkeys, and the sheep; ²⁹ "take <i>it</i> from their half, and give <i>it</i> to Eleazar the priest as a heave offering to the LORD. ³⁰ "And from the children of Israel's half you shall take one of every fifty, drawn from the persons, the cattle, the donkeys, and the sheep, from all the livestock, and give them to the Levites who keep charge of the tabernacle of the LORD." ³¹ So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD commanded Moses.</p>	<p>7. Moses Commands that the Plunder Be _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> First division: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ½ to the men who went to battle ½ to the rest of the congregation Second division – from the men who went to battle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/500th to the priest. Third Division – from the congregation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/50th to the priest. The persons, cattle, donkeys and sheep.
<p>³² The booty remaining from the plunder, which the men of war had taken, was six hundred and seventy-five thousand sheep, ³³ seventy-two thousand cattle, ³⁴ sixty-one thousand donkeys, ³⁵ and thirty-two thousand persons in all, of women who had not known a man intimately. ³⁶ And the half, the portion for those who had gone out to war, was in number three hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred sheep; ³⁷ and the LORD's tribute of the sheep was six hundred and seventy-five. ³⁸ The cattle <i>were</i> thirty-six thousand, of which the LORD's tribute <i>was</i> seventy-two. ³⁹ The donkeys <i>were</i> thirty thousand five hundred, of which the LORD's tribute <i>was</i> sixty-one. ⁴⁰ The persons <i>were</i> sixteen thousand, of which the LORD's tribute <i>was</i> thirty-two persons. ⁴¹ So Moses gave the tribute <i>which was</i> the LORD's</p>	<p>8. The Plunder is _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moses divided it as he was commanded.

<p>heave offering to Eleazar the priest, as the LORD commanded Moses. ⁴² And from the children of Israel's half, which Moses separated from the men who fought -- ⁴³ now the half belonging to the congregation was three hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred sheep, ⁴⁴ thirty-six thousand cattle, ⁴⁵ thirty thousand five hundred donkeys, ⁴⁶ and sixteen thousand persons - ⁴⁷ and from the children of Israel's half Moses took one of every fifty, drawn from man and beast, and gave them to the Levites, who kept charge of the tabernacle of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.</p>	
<p>⁴⁸ Then the officers who <i>were</i> over thousands of the army, the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, came near to Moses; ⁴⁹ and they said to Moses, "Your servants have taken a count of the men of war who <i>are</i> under our command, and not a man of us is missing. ⁵⁰ "Therefore we have brought an offering for the LORD, what every man found of ornaments of gold: armllets and bracelets and signet rings and earrings and necklaces, to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD." ⁵¹ So Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from them, all the fashioned ornaments. ⁵² And all the gold of the offering that they offered to the LORD, from the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, was sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty shekels. ⁵³ (The men of war had taken spoil, every man for himself.) ⁵⁴ And Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the tabernacle of meeting as a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD.</p>	<p>9. The Captains Bring an _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The captains _____ brought an offering. Why? They took a count and no one was missing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The obvious conclusion is that God _____ these men as they fought. What? They brought an offering of ornaments of gold. Why? To make _____. Lit. "to cover over our souls" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this case, atonement does not deal with an acknowledgement of sin. Atonement here has to deal with an acknowledgement that God did something which was undeserved. It is an offering of thankfulness to God for undeserved provision. The offering was used in the tabernacle as a _____ – something to be remembered.