### Numbers

## Chapter 25

1Well, it was while IsraEl was camped at SatTin that [many of] the people made themselves dirty by engaging in immoral sex with the daughters of MoAb. 2Then they started worshiping their idols, offering sacrifices to them and eating their sacrifices!  
  
3So IsraEl had become totally devoted to BeEl Phegor, which made Jehovah very angry with them.  
  
4And as a result, the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘Take all their leaders, then lay them out in the sunlight before Jehovah to make examples of them, and this will turn His anger away from IsraEl!’  
  
5Then Moses told the tribes of IsraEl:  
  
 ‘You must each kill any of your friends who have devoted themselves to BeEl Phegor.’  
  
6And just then, an IsraElite man came and led his brothers over to [have sex with] a MidiAnite woman… Doing this right in front of Moses and the whole gathering of the children of IsraEl that had been weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Proofs!  
  
7And when PhineAs (son of EliEzer and grandson of Aaron the Priest) saw this, he stood up in the midst of the gathering, took a spear in his hand, 8and he followed the IsraElite man right into his bedroom... There he ran the spear through the IsraElite man and through the woman’s womb!  
  
Well at that, the plague [that had come] on the children of IsraEl stopped.  
  
9But by then, 24,000 people had died.  
  
  
10Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 11‘PhineAs (son of EliEzer and grandson of Aaron the Priest) has brought an end to My rage against the children of IsraEl.  
  
 ‘And although I had become very zealous, I didn’t consume them all in My zeal. 12So, tell him that I’ll now make a sacred agreement of peace 13with him and with the offspring that descends from him.  
  
 ‘They will be Priests throughout the ages because of his zeal for his God, and because he paid for the sins of the children of IsraEl.’  
  
14Now, the name of the IsraElite man who was killed with the MidiAnite woman was ZamBri. He was SalMon’s son, and a leader of one of the lines of the Tribe of SymeOn.  
  
15The name of the MidiAnite woman who was killed was ChasBi. She was the daughter of Sur, who was a leader of the nation of OmMoth and a chief among the people of MidiAn.  
  
  
16Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 ‘Tell the children of IsraEl 17that the MidiAnites are to be considered their enemies! So from now on, they must be treated as a plague and destroyed!  
  
 18‘For the treachery that they used to trap you (as in the case of PhoGor and ChasBi, who was a daughter of a leader of MidiAn and who was killed on the day of the plague) has proven that they’re truly your enemies!’