### Numbers

## Chapter 31

[Editor note: The story resumes here.]  
  
  
1Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 2‘I want you to avenge the wrongs that the MidiAnites have committed against the children of IsraEl. And after that, you’ll be added to your people.’  
  
3So Moses spoke to the people and said:  
  
 ‘Arm yourselves, then stand before Jehovah in battle lines and [prepare yourselves] to bring the Lord’s vengeance upon MidiAn… 4Select 1,000 from each of the tribes of the children of IsraEl to go to war!’  
  
5So they counted off the 1,000 from each Tribe of IsraEl – 12,000 men – and armed them for war.  
  
6Then Moses sent them off, along with PhineAs (son of EliEzer the Priest and the grandson of Aaron) carrying the holy instruments and the signal trumpets, 7and they arranged themselves in battle lines against MidiAn, just as Jehovah had commanded Moses… And they went and destroyed them!  
  
8Thereafter, they killed the 5 kings of MidiAn (Evi, Rocon, Sur, Ur, and Roboc)… And they even killed BalaAm (son of BeOr) with a sword, along with all the rest!  
  
  
9Then (after they’d destroyed their army) they took all the women of MidiAn as captives, along with their food, cattle, and all their possessions, 10and they burned all their cities, villages, and homes with fire… 11They plundered everything, including the people and their animals.  
  
12So they carried all the captives, spoils, and loot (planning to give them to Moses, EliEzer the Priest, and to divide them among the children of IsraEl) back to their camp in the plains of MoAb, which was near the JorDan River [across from] JeriCho.  
  
13Then Moses, EliEzer (the Priest), and all the leaders of the gathering went to their camp to meet their army. 14But Moses was furious with the captains of the army (the leaders of thousands and of hundreds) that had returned from the battle, 15for he asked them:  
  
 ‘Why have you kept these women alive?  
  
 16‘They were the ones [who listened to] BalaAm and misled the children of IsraEl by inciting their revolt and by teaching them to despise the word of Jehovah at PhoGor… And that’s why Jehovah sent a plague on the gathering!  
  
 17‘So now, kill all the men, destroy all their food, and kill all the women whom you know aren’t virgins… 18You may spare any women whom you suspect are virgins.  
  
 19‘Then, all who have killed or touched dead bodies must stay outside of our camp for 7 days; and thereafter, you and those whom you’ve captured must be purified on the 3rd day and on the 7th day.  
  
 20‘You must also purify all your clothes, all your leather utensils, all your goatskin items, and all your wooden bowls.’  
  
  
21Then EliEzer (the Priest) said to the men from the army that had just returned from battle:  
  
 ‘This is what the Law that Jehovah gave to Moses says:  
  
 22‘The items of gold, silver, brass, iron, lead, and tin 23must be passed through fire to be cleansed. And whatever can’t be passed through a fire must be sprinkled with the purifying water to be made clean.  
  
 24‘Then on the 7th day, you must be cleansed and you must wash your clothes.  
Only after that, may you enter our camp.’  
  
  
25Well, the Lord then spoke to Moses again and said:  
  
 26‘I want you and EliEzer the Priest to take an inventory of the captured people and animals. 27Then you must divide them among the soldiers that went out to battle and with the rest of the gathering.  
  
 28‘Also, as a tribute to Jehovah from the warriors that went out to battle; take 1 out of every 500 of the people, oxen, sheep, and burros, 29and give them to EliEzer the Priest as the first fruits of Jehovah.  
  
 30‘Then, from among those things that are given to the children of IsraEl, you should take 1 out of 50 of the people, oxen, sheep, and burros, and give them to the Levites who teach at the Tent of Jehovah.’  
  
31So Moses and EliEzer (the Priest) did just as the Lord had commanded Moses.  
  
  
[Editor note: Now follows records of the plunder. The story continues in Numbers 32:1.]  
  
  
32The plunder that was given to the soldiers included:  
  
 • 675,000 sheep,  
 • 3372,000 oxen, 34and  
 • 61,000 burros.  
  
35There were also 32,000 virgins who were given to them… 36Half of everything was given to the soldiers that went to war.  
  
And of the 337,500 sheep, 37they offered 675 sheep as a tribute to Jehovah.  
  
38Of their 36,000 oxen, they gave 72 as a tribute to Jehovah.  
  
39Of their 30,500 burros, they gave 61 as a tribute to Jehovah.  
  
40And of the 16,000 people, they gave 32 of them as a tribute to Jehovah.  
  
41For Moses presented all the tributes as a wave offering to Jehovah God, [and they were given] to EliEzer the Priest (just as the Lord had commanded Moses) 42from the half that belonged to the children of IsraEl whom Moses had separated as soldiers.  
  
  
43Thereafter, 337,500 sheep were divided among the gathering as their half, 44plus:  
  
 • 36,000 oxen,  
 • 4530,500 burros, 46and  
 • 16,000 people.  
  
47And from their half, Moses took a 1/50th of the people and the cattle, and gave them to the Levites who teach at the Tent of Jehovah, as the Lord had commanded Moses.  
  
  
48Well then, all those who’d been appointed as officers over the army (the captains of thousands and of hundreds) approached Moses and said:  
  
 49‘Your servants have counted the men of war among us, and none have been lost.  
  
 50‘So, those among us who found things that were made of gold, such as armlets, chains, rings, bracelets, and hair clasps have brought them as our gift to Jehovah, to pay for our sins.’  
  
51And when Moses and EliEzer (the Priest) accepted all the items of gold from them, 52[they found that] the gold that the captains of thousands and of hundreds offered to Jehovah was valued at 16,750 silver coins.  
  
53However, the soldiers kept the rest of the loot for themselves.  
  
54Then Moses and EliEzer (the Priest) took all the gold items that the captains of thousands and hundreds had contributed and placed it all in the Tent of Proofs to serve as a reminder to the children of IsraEl, there in front of Jehovah.