

Numbers

Chapter 25

- I. Introduction
 - a. In our previous lesson, we completed our study of Balaam
 - i. Well, nearly ☺
 - 1. There is something related to him in the first part of our lesson today
 - b. Today's lesson deals with the time following this issue with Balaam
- II. Commentary
 - a. **Verses 1-5**
 - i. The people of Israel "*began to whore with the daughters of Moab*"
 - 1. **Verse 2** explains what this means
 - a. The women of Moab invited Israel to worship their pagan gods
 - i. Israel accepted
 - 1. It's difficult to comprehend this considering all that Israel had seen
 - a. But, this is a common theme in their history
 - ii. Specifically, "*Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor*"
 - 1. This was brought on a the advice of Balaam
 - a. **Numbers 31:16**
 - i. When the people are getting vengeance on Midian, it is pointed out that Balaam actually brought this on
 - b. **Revelation 2:14**
 - i. Balaam actually taught Balak to do this
 - ii. Clearly, Balaam saw he couldn't curse Israel so he sought to help Balak overcome them another way
 - iii. This gives us a real insight into Balaam's character
 - 2. Sexual Immorality was also involved here (**Revelation 2:14**)
 - a. This is common with sinful practices including pagan worship
 - ii. God commands Moses to hang the chiefs of the people as a result of this sin
 - 1. This would cause God's anger to turn away
 - 2. Moses commands the judges to kill all of their men that had taken part in this pagan worship

b. **Verses 6-9**

- i. A man brought one of these Midianite women into his "*chamber*" apparently to commit sexual immorality with her
 1. He was in no way embarrassed to do it
 - a. He did it "*in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel*"
 2. Phinehas, Aaron's grandson, took a spear and pierced both of them through
 - a. As a result, the plague was stopped
 - i. But not before 24,000 people died as a result

c. **Verses 10-15**

- i. Phinehas is said to have been jealous with God's jealousy
 1. God even says that He didn't destroy the entire nation due to Phinehas' act of bravery
- ii. God promises that all future high priests were to come through the line of Phinehas due to his act here
- iii. The name of the man that brought the Midianite woman into the congregation was Zimri
 1. The woman's name was Cozbi

d. **Verses 16-19**

- i. God calls on Israel to strike down the Midianites because they had seduced Israel into idolatry
 1. This attack is actually recorded in Chapter 31