

THE LIVES OF THE PROPHETS MOSES 28

NUMBERS 25:1

1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

NUMBERS 25:2

2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

NUMBERS 25:3

3 And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

NUMBERS 25:4

4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.

NUMBERS 25:3

3 And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

This fall in morality was soon followed by their fall in religion. Baal was a general name for "lord" and "peor" for a mount in Moab. The real name of this lord of the mount was Chemosh, whose worship was celebrated by the grossest obscenity.

Archaeological discoveries have revealed that the devotees of Baal practiced prostitution as a part of their worship. This sordid practice was adopted by the Israelites.

NUMBERS 25:4

4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.

NUMBERS 25:5

5 And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor.

NUMBERS 25:6

6 And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses,

and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

NUMBERS 25:7

7 And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;

NUMBERS 25:8

8 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 belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

TENT. Heb. kubbah, a high and vaulted pleasure tent, used in the worship of Baal.

PSALM 106:30

30 Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed.

PSALM 106:31

31 And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generations for evermore.

NUMBERS 25:9

9 And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

I CORINTHIANS 10:8

8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

NUMBERS 25:10

10 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

NUMBERS 25:11

11 Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.

PSALM 69:9

9 For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

NUMBERS 25:11

11 Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.

NUMBERS 25:12

12 Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:

The reward given to Phinehas was that his descendants would enjoy possession of the priesthood. That priesthood continued, except for the interval of the priesthood of Eli, without interruption until the collapse of the nation in 586 B. C.

The Jews reckon twelve high priests of the race of Phinehas, from this time to the days of Solomon, nine more from that time to the captivity, and fifteen from their return to the time of Antiochus Eupator.

Ezra, the great priest and scribe, was of this line. The family of Ithamar, uncle of Phinehas, had the priesthood for about 150 years;

but it was restored to the family of Phinehas in the person of Zadok the priest, in which it continued in the whole about 950 years.

NUMBERS 25:13

13 And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

NUMBERS 25:14

14 Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites.

NUMBERS 25:15

15 And the name of the Midianitish woman that was slain was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian.

NUMBERS 25:16

16 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

NUMBERS 25:17

17 Vex the Midianites, and smite them:

NUMBERS 25:18

18 For they vex you with their wiles, wherewith they have beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Peor's sake.