

NUMBERS 25:10-13; I SAMUEL 2:30-36

LESSON: FAITHFUL GOD, UNFAITHFUL PEOPLE —November 5, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 25:1-9 ¹¹⁻³ While Israel was camped at Shittim (Acacia Grove), the men began to have sex with the Moabite women. It started when the women invited the men to their sex-and-religion worship. They ate together and then worshiped their gods. Israel ended up joining in the worship of the Baal of Peor. God was furious, His anger blazing out against Israel.

25:4 God said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of Israel and kill them by hanging, leaving them publicly exposed in order to turn God's anger away from Israel." **25:5** Moses issued orders to the judges of Israel: "Each of you must execute the men under your jurisdiction who joined in the worship of Baal Peor."

25:6-9 Just then, while everyone was weeping in penitence at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, an Israelite man, flaunting his behavior in front of Moses and the whole assembly, paraded a Midianite woman into his family tent. Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw what he was doing, grabbed his spear, and followed them into the tent. With one thrust he drove the spear through the two of them, the man of Israel and the woman, right through their private parts. That stopped the plague from continuing among the people of Israel. But 24,000 had already died (MSG).

LESSON: I. PRIESTLY COVENANT Numbers 25:10-13

25:10 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,—God speaks clear instructions to Moses on priestly matter.

25:11 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. Phinehas was the son of Eleazar. Eleazar was the third son of Aaron the priest. This makes Phinehas the grandson of Aaron. God is giving a grand introduction of Phinehas' lineage. Phinehas was the one who stopped God's anger against His people (the People of Israel), because he was as zealous for God's honor as He Himself is. Therefore, God didn't kill all the People of Israel in Phinehas' zeal.

25:12 Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:— So, Moses was to announce that God is making a Covenant of Peace with Phinehas.

25:13 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. Phinehas and his descendants are thereby joined in a Covenant of Eternal Priesthood, because he was zealous for his God and thereby made atonement for the People of Israel.

¹ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+25&version=MSG>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 14-18

25:14-15 ²The name of the man of Israel who was killed with the Midianite woman was Zimri son of Salu, the head of the Simeonite family. And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi daughter of Zur, a tribal chief of a Midianite family.

25:16-18 God spoke to Moses: *"From here on make the Midianites your enemies. Fight them tooth and nail. They turned out to be your enemies when they seduced you in the business of Peor and that woman Cozbi, daughter of a Midianite leader, the woman who was killed at the time of the plague in the matter of Peor"* (MSG).

II. PRIESTLY REBELLION I Samuel 2:30-34

INTRODUCTION:

³In this chapter 2 we deal with Eli the high priest and the corrupt and evil behavior of his two sons (Hophni and Phinehas) concerning the sacrificial offerings. It is evident, as we read, that Eli was not just a father who needed to deal with his rebellious sons but, in a more serious vain, he was the high priest who was ignoring the sins of priests who were under his jurisdiction. This was a very serious matter and, as a result, the Lord took the necessary disciplinary action that Eli would not take. Eli was guilty of honoring his sons above God, by letting them continue in their sinful ways. As religious leaders, they may have thought they could get away with it, but God, who is just, brought judgement.

(1S)2:30 Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. We find out that in this verse when God speaks, He makes mention of Eli's house and the house of his father, which shows that he is a descendant of Aaron and was therefore chosen to offer offerings to God; to wear an ephod, and to perform the other functions of the priests. The Lord God of Israel also said that Eli's house and the house of his father were to walk before Him forever, but..., there is a *"but!"* The honor and privilege of the office have now been dishonored. So, it was ridiculous to think that what they were doing could continue. He's saying, I will honor those who honor Me and I will despise those who despise Me.

(1S)2:31 Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house. Lo, the days are coming for God's judgment. He will cut off the arm of Eli's father's house. The *"arm"*, in this case, is speaking of descendants. No kinsman of his shall reach old age; days cut off; no one will make it to old age in his house. The fulfillment of this prediction is seen in I Kings 2:26-27.

(1S)2:32 And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever. Judgment begins at the house of God! God makes it known that Eli would see trouble in the house of the Lord (My habitation). The first trouble

² <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+25&version=MSG>

³ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-wicked-sons-of-eli-while-samuel-remains-true/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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happened in chapter 4. God repeats Himself again, *"no one in the family will grow old."*

(1S)2:33 And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age. The NASB explains this verse better: *"Yet I will not cut off every man of yours from My altar so that your eyes will fail from weeping and your soul grieve, and all the increase of your house will die in the prime of life."* Good things will be going on in Israel, but the man not cut off will cry his eyes out and be full of grief, for no one in his family will live to enjoy it. That person that's left to serve at God's Altar will have a hard life, with many tears causing his eyes to lose strength.

(1S)2:34 And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them. God says He'll even give a sign; proof that He is going to do what He says. It will be that Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will die on the same day. It came to pass in chapter 4:11, 17. Eli heard this message from the messenger of the Lord.

III. PRIESTLY PROMISE I Samuel 2:35-36

(1S)2:35 And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever. Eli and his sons were not faithful, so God said He would raise up a faithful priest *"who will do according to what is in My heart"* and *"in My mind."* God will build him a *"sure"* (permanent and enduring house), and *"he will walk before God's anointed forever."* This prophecy shows that the priesthood did not die with Eli. Historically, after the death of Eli, the priestly functions were taken over by Samuel who had been trained by Eli. Looking up the lineage of Samuel to see how he could perform priestly duties brought me to Elkanah, his father.

⁴Elkanah lived at Ramathaim in the district of Zuph. His genealogy is also found in a pedigree of the Kohathites (1 Chronicles 6:3-15) [descendants of Kohath, son of Levi], and in that of Heman, his great-grandson (1 Chronicles 6:18-22). According to the genealogical tables in Chronicles, Elkanah was a Levite - a fact not mentioned in the books of Samuel. (Other References: <https://davidskorupa.wordpress.com/2008/01/21/samuels-levitical-ancestry/>).

Whatever and whomever God needs at a particular time, He raises them up to do the task. Samuel— *He grew in favour with the Lord and with man (2:26). And he ministered unto the Lord before Eli (3:1).* God was getting him ready; raising him up for the proper time to be used. But His first duty fell into the capacity of being a prophet. God spoke to Samuel when he was a child in the care of Eli. God gave him a message of judgment for the house of Eli. *And all Israel from Dan even to Bersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord (3:20).* Upon Eli hearing the death of his two sons and the mention of the Ark of God from the messenger of the Lord, he fell and broke his neck and died. Upon the daughter-in-law hearing that the Ark of God was taken, and her father-in-law and husband were dead, she went into labor pains and bore a son whom she called Ichabod. So, with the Ark of God taken by the Philistines, the priests of Dagon couldn't even touch it, for they were destroyed and smote with emerods. The Philistines finally decided to send the Ark of God back to Israel. Going back we knew that Eli was priest, but also in 4:18 we see that Eli had judged Israel forty years. Which brings me to Samuel in chapter 7 when the Philistines came against Israel, Samuel judged the children of Israel (7:6) and the people asked him not to cease crying unto the Lord for them. Samuel then offered a burnt offering. God received the prayers and offering from Samuel and the people knew that God helped them. So we can say that Samuel acted and ministered in the capacity of a priest in chapter 7. If he was not accepted by God, he would have been cut down like the priests of Dagon. In

⁴ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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chapter 8 the elders came to Samuel wanting a king to judge them, for Samuel was then old and his sons did not walk in his ways. Chapter 12:1-3 explains that he has walked before all Israel since childhood. And he stands before the Lord and his anointed king. Samuel anointed the first two kings: Saul (10:1; 15:1) and David (16:13). Samuel walked before God's anointed kings. "Forever" would include the lineage of David where the Messiah is a descendant. Samuel served as the first prophet; he served as priest, and he served as the last judge.

(1S)2:36 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread. The message of judgment continues in that it will come to pass that the descendants that are left in Eli's house will come and bow down and become beggars for money and food saying, *"give me a job among the priests so that I may eat a piece of bread; have enough to eat."* They will not live a blessed life.

SUMMARY:

God speaks to Moses telling him of Phinehas' zeal (son of Eleazar). He was as zealous as God Himself, thereby turning away God's anger from the children of Israel and God did not consume them. So, Moses was to announce that God is making a Covenant of Peace with Phinehas. God promises that Phinehas and his seed after him will have an everlasting priesthood because of what Phinehas had done. His zealousness for his God, thereby brought atonement for the children of Israel (**Numbers 25:10-13**).

The Lord God of Israel makes mention of Eli's house and the house of his father. They were to walk before Him forever, but it's ridiculous to think that what they're doing can continue. God goes on to say that He will honor those who honor Him, and will despise those who despise Him. No kinsman in Eli's house will reach old age. God makes it known that Eli would see trouble in God's house. But the man that will not be cut off will serve at God's Altar and will see it and weep. God says He'll even give a sign; proof that He is going to do what He says. It will be that Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will die on the same day (**1 Samuel 2:30-34**).

God will raise up a faithful priest, that will do according to His heart and His mind and God will build him a sure house and that priest will walk before His anointed forever. After a while, everyone that's left (children, grand-children and grand-children's children) in Eli's house will come and bow down and become beggars for money and food, asking for a job among the priests, so that they will have enough to eat (**1 Samuel 2:35-36**).