



Punishment and Reward

Numbers 25:6-18

Sin Affects Everyone



- The family of Zimri passively accepted what he was doing.
- The parents of Zimri and Kozbi were both leaders.
- At the tent of meeting, all of Israel's leaders saw what was happening and did nothing to prevent it.
- The sins that leaders knowingly choose to condone or tolerate become sins for which the leaders are also responsible.
- Sadly, today a parent's commitment to their children is greater than their commitment to God and to His Word.
- God commanded that all of Israel's leaders be put to death in broad daylight!

Phinehas



- Phinehas knew, as all Israel should have known, that God had forbidden immorality and idolatry.
- Phinehas knew that those who practiced immorality were to be put to death.
- Filled with zeal for God, Phinehas stood up in the middle of the assembly, took a spear in hand and killed both the Israelite and his girlfriend.
- Phinehas not only put an end to the sin of these two people, but he also brought an end to the plague that God placed upon Israel.
- As a result of his zealous act, God made a “covenant of peace” with Phinehas and his descendants, assuring them a permanent priestly role.

A Blessing



- The plague on Israel was terminated, and a blessing was pronounced upon Phinehas and his descendants.
- A curse was also made upon the enemies of God, those who sought the downfall of Israel.
- God spared His people through the action of one righteous man.
- God commanded Moses to see to it that the Midianites, along with Balaam, were destroyed for their treachery.
- This passage does not justify violence in seeking justice in the name of God.
- God has ordained human government as the means by which justice is imposed.

Sin



- Israel fell into sin because its leaders were not doing their job, part of which was to remove evil from the nation.
- Israel's leaders were guilty and worthy of death for knowing about sin and doing nothing about it.
- It is distressing that a significant number of Americans brush aside the immorality of its leaders.
- Those who lead must be a person of character and courage.
- The sin of the nation was in remaining passive, even though they knew how they were to respond to sin.
- Phinehas was a leader who truly stood before his people.

Sin In The Camp



- Sin is like a cancer; the longer we leave it alone, the more likely it is to kill us.
- Paul described sin as a kind of leaven that would corrupt the whole church.
- The Bible warns us about being soft on sin.
- Immorality is deadly, so we must deal with it as a deadly disease.
- God rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked.

Conclusion

A painting depicting Balaam riding a white bull. Balaam is wearing a brown robe and a turban, holding a staff. A dog is in the foreground, looking towards the viewer. The background is a dark, textured landscape.

- When Balaam was used of God to speak words of blessing on the nation Israel, he received a great deal of prominence.
- When Balaam chose to deliberately oppose Israel and bring the nation under God's wrath, he disappeared.
- The events of Numbers 25 were the fruit of Balaam's labors.
- If it were not for the faithfulness of God, we would be hopeless.
- It is not our faithfulness to God which assures us of His promises but His faithfulness to us.