

BIBLE CLASS 03.04.2025 Numbers 31

YAHWEH'S VENGEANCE ON MIDIAN.

We may remember how in how in Numbers 24 Balaam predicted that a sceptre would arise out of Israel that will would destroy all the children of 'sheth' which means all the children of 'tumult' which means uproar, such as in the noise in battle. So now Israel's wilderness wanderings were at an end. Now Yahweh the God of Israel spoke to Moses to avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites who had persuaded Balaam to curse Israel. Then Yahweh informed Moses that after they had done this Moses would be gathered unto his people,(that is Moses would die). Moses then spoke to the people for the last time commanding them to arm themselves for war against the Midianites. From each of the twelve tribes of Israel a thousand men each prepared for war. With them they were to take Phineas the grandson of Eleazar the High Priest who had succeeded Aaron. Eleazar could not do this because the High Priest could not have any contact with the dead. When Israel went to war as required by God the priest carried the Ark or the Covenant. The march into the Promised Land was preceded by the Ark of the Covenant, signifying that Yahweh their God was with them. Included in the Holy instrument for was were the Silver Trumpets. When they were sounded in time of War the Israelites were reminded of the promise that they would be remembered before their God and would be remembered before God. In like manner when there is Ecclesial conflict faith prayer is required to overcome the false charges of the adversaries.

The Battle took place and the Israelites fought against the Midianites and they killed every male. This prevented the ability of the Midianites propagate their kind, but this war actually erased only those who died in the war whereas in fact there were other Midianite tribes who later rose to dominate Israel

Judges 6:3-6 And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the

Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; *for* both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it. And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD. (Jdg 6:3-6)

However they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; *namely*, Evi, (covetous) and Rekem, (glamorous) and Zur, (Rock) and Hur (whiteness or Splendour), and Reba, (forth part),_ five kings of Midian: **Balaam also the son of Beor** they slew with the sword. (Numbers 31:8) The death of this renowned false prophet foreshadows the False Prophet of Babylon the Great otherwise known as Catholicism whose high priest, the Pope thrives on deception, as did Balaam meaning Waster of the people!

So the victorious army of Israel took all the women of Midian captive with their little ones, and took the spoil of all their cattle, and all their flocks, and all their goods. (Num 31:9) And they brought the captives, and the prey, and the spoil, unto Moses, and Eleazar the priest, and unto the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the camp at the plains of Moab, which *are* by Jordan *near* Jericho.

Moses, and Eleazar the priest, and all the princes of the congregation, went to meet them without the camp. **1:14** When Moses saw that the soldiers had brought many midianite women with them he was exceedingly angry because these had not been killed, because it was these Moabitish women that seduced the Israelite men and leading them to adultery Moses was angry with the officers of the army, *with* the captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, which came from the battle And Moses said unto them, Have you saved all the women alive? (31:15) Behold, these

caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD. (Num 31:16 &17) Moses therefore instructed them to kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that has known man by lying with him. **Numbers 31:18** But he instructed the men that the the female children, that have not known a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves. (Numb. 1:17 & 18)

Moses then instructed all the men in the army to remain outside the camp for seven days. Anyone who had killed a person or touched any of the slain were to purify themselves and their captives for seven days. Once on the third day and again on the seventh, followed by cleansing (washing) themselves and their clothing and all that was made from skin, goat's hair or wood. Eleazar the High Priest then describes to the soldiers further information regarding the difference between clean and unclean. All metals for example gold, silver, copper, iron, tin and led were regarded as clean. Everything that could abide or pass through the fire, was regarded as clean. Nevertheless it would also be purified by the water of separation.

The rule of cleansing, types the cleansing of the saints at the millennium. Until the warriors were properly cleansed they were excluded from entering into the camp, but with the seventh millennium all the faithful in Christ who will be cleansed from the burden of sin's flesh and be given garments of purity and everlasting life. **1Co 3:13** Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

When the cleansing was complete the Israelite army's officers, made a census of the numbers in the army and it was found no Israelite soldier of any rank died in the battle. Therefore it was decided that in gratitude for Yahweh's protection the army wished to make a gift also called an oblation to Yahweh. This was a collection from all the

Soldiers, of the spoil they had taken from the Midianites of Jewels of gold of chains and bracelets, rings and earrings and tablets. The worth of the gold (which represents a tried faith) amounted to sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty shekels. This Moses and Eleazar the priest brought it into the Tabernacle of the Congregation. In addition the booty also consisted of 61,000 asses. As they then journeyed northward they would have plenty of transport to bear the burdens.