



Rice Memorial MBC

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Faithful God, Unfaithful People

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **November 5, 2017**

Numbers 25:10-13; 1 Samuel 2:30-36

Introduction: None are more fatally bewitched (fascinate [excite and allure {tempt} irresistibly or powerfully]) than those that are bewitched by their own lusts (DESIREs). Here is, **I.** The sin of Israel they were **enticed** by the **daughters** of Moab both **to whoredom** and to **idolatry**, Numbers 25:1-3. **II.** The punishment of this SIN by the hand of the magistrate (Numbers 25:4, 5) and by the immediate hand of God, Numbers 25:9. **III.** The pious zeal of Phinehas in slaying **Zimri** and **Cozbi**, two impudent (shameless) sinners, Numbers 25:6,8,14,15. **IV.** God's commendation of the zeal of Phinehas, Numbers 25:10-13. **V. Enmity** (hostility, HATRED) put between the **Israelites** and the **Midianites**, their tempters, as (like) at first between the woman and the serpent, Numbers 25:16-18, &c. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/numbers-25.html>)

Numbers 25:1-9, And Israel abode in Shittim, and the **people** began to commit **whoredom** with the **daughters of Moab**. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of **THEIR** gods: and the people did **eat**, and **bowed down TO their gods**. And Israel **joined** himself unto **Baalpeor**: and the **anger** of the LORD (Yahweh) was kindled against Israel. 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. And Moses said unto the **judges** of Israel, **SLAY ye every one his men** that were **joined unto Baalpeor**. 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. 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; 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 (slaughter)** was stayed from the children of Israel. And those that **died** in the **plague (slaughter)** were **twenty and four thousand**.

NOTE: ...those that died in the plague were **twenty and four thousand**. The apostle says 23,000 1 Corinthians 10:8. Moses **INCLUDES** **those that were HANGED** against the sun, in the time of the **plague (slaughter)**, as well as those that were taken off by it, even **ALL that died** on this account; the apostle only those that "fell", which cannot with propriety be said of those that were hanged, who might be **1000** and so their numbers agree; but of this and other ways of removing this difficulty See Gill on 1 Corinthians 10:8. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/numbers-25.html>)

1 Corinthians 10:8, Neither let us commit **fornication**, as **SOME** of them committed, and **FELL** in one day **THREE and twenty thousand**.

Hebrews 13:4, Marriage is **honourable (valuable, regarded with esteem)** in all, and the **bed undefiled (PURE)**: but whoremongers and adulterers God will **JUDGE**.

Numbers 25:10-11, And the LORD (Yahweh) spake unto **Moses**, saying, **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** (filled with religious zeal [enthusiasm, affection {LOVE}]) for MY SAKE among them, that I consumed NOT the children of Israel in my **jealousy**.

NOTE: Their weeping and praying prevailed NOT till this piece of **necessary JUSTICE** was done. If magistrates do NOT take care to punish SIN, God will but their justice will be the best **prevention** of **his judgment**, as in the case of Achan, Joshua 7:13. 2. He put an honour upon Phinehas. Though he did no more than it was **his duty** to do as a **judge**, yet because he did it with extraordinary zeal against sin, and for the honour of God and Israel, and did it when the other judges, out of RESPECT to **Zimri's character** as a **prince**, were **afraid**, and declined doing it, therefore God showed himself particularly well pleased with him, and it was counted to him **for righteousness**, Psalm 106:31. There is nothing lost by venturing for God. If Zimri's relations bore him a grudge for it, and his friends might censure him as indiscreet in this violent and hasty execution, what needed he care, while **God accepted him?** In a good thing we should be zealously affected. (1.) Phinehas, upon this occasion, though a **young man**, is pronounced his **country's patriot** (person who LOVES his country, and zealously supports and defends it and its interests) and **best friend**, Num. 25:11. He has turned away my wrath from the children of Israel. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/numbers-25.html>)

Psalms 106:30-31, Then stood up **Phinehas**, and executed **judgment** (remarkable punishment): and so the plague was stayed.

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

Numbers 25:12-13, Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him **my COVENANT of peace**: 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 (reconciliation)** for the children of Israel.

NOTE: My covenant of peace - of an everlasting priesthood - As the word peace implied all kinds of blessings, both spiritual and temporal, it may mean no more here than the promise of God, to grant him and his family the utmost **prosperity** in reference to BOTH worlds. The everlasting priesthood refers properly to the priesthood of Christ which was shadowed out by the priesthood under the law; no matter in what family it was continued. Therefore the כהנה עולם kehunnath olam, or **eternal priesthood**, does NOT merely refer to any sacerdotal (priestly) ministrations which should be continued in the family of Phinehas, during the Mosaic dispensation, but to that **priesthood of Christ typified** (symbolized) by that of **Aaron** and his **successors**. The priesthood alone is **everlasting**, and a **covenant** or grant of that was made to Phinehas, and his descendants. 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, (see 1 Chron. 6:4, 1 Chron. 6:15;), and **fifteen** from their return to the time of Antiochus Eupator, the **last** of whom was Onias, slain by Lysias. **EZRA**, the great priest and scribe, was of this line, Ezra 7:1, Ezra 7:5. 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**, 1 Chronicles 6:50, in which it continued in the whole about **950 years**. Probably the Maccabees were of the same family; but though this is NOT certain, there is no evidence against it. See Calmet. God therefore sufficiently **fulfilled his promise**; he gave to him and his descendants almost the utmost temporal length that could be given of that priesthood which is, in its own nature, eternal. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/numbers-25.html>)

1 Samuel 2:12-17, Now the **sons** of **Eli** were **sons of Belial (worthlessness, wickedness)**; they knew NOT the LORD (Yahweh). And the priests' custom with the people [was, that], when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in **seething (to boil up; hence, to be done in cooking)**, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. **So they did in Shiloh** unto all the **Israelites** that came thither. Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, **Give flesh to roast for the priest**; for he will NOT have sodden flesh of thee, but raw. And if any man said unto him, Let them NOT fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, **Nay**; but thou shalt **give it me now**: and **if NOT, I will take it by force**. Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

NOTE: ...sin of the young men was very great before the Lord,... That is, the sons of Eli; for they were the ringleaders who SET these **bad examples**, which other priests followed, and therefore the sin is ascribed to them; and which was sadly aggravated by taking what was NOT their own, and by taking it in a forcible manner, and before the Lord had his part in the offering, and all this done in the tabernacle, **IN the presence of God**; which plainly showed that they **had NOT the FEAR of God before their eyes**, nor any sense of his omniscience (quality of knowing all things at once) and omnipresence (presence in every place at the same time), any more than of his holiness and justice:

..abhorred the offering of the Lord; it was irksome and disagreeable to them to bring their sacrifices, when they SAW the LAW of God was NOT attended to, and the rules of sacrificing were NOT observed...

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/1-samuel-2.html>)

Thought 1. The Commands of Yahweh should be seen being obeyed in the worship place.

1 John 3:23, And this is **HIS COMMANDMENT**, That we should **BELIEVE on the name (authority)** of his son Jesus Christ AND **LOVE** one another, AS he gave us commandment.

John 13:34, A new commandment I give unto you, That ye **LOVE** one another; **AS (like) I have LOVED you**, that ye also **LOVE** one another.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5, Charity (LOVE) **suffereth long**, and is **kind (act benevolently)** (with good will, freeheartedly); charity **envieth NOT**; charity **vaunteth (boast) NOT** itself, is NOT **puffed up**, Doth NOT behave itself **unseemly (act unbecoming [harsh, improper])** seeketh NOT her **OWN** (opinion, view), is NOT easily provoked, **thinketh** (imagine, believe) no evil...

1 Samuel 2:27-30, And there **came a man of God** unto **Eli**, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD (Yahweh), Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be **my priest**, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel? **Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering**, which I have commanded in my habitation; and **honourest thy sons ABOVE me**, to make yourselves fat with the **chiefest** of all the offerings of Israel my people? Wherefore the LORD (Yahweh) 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 (GLORIFY) me I will honour (GLORIFY)**, and THEY that **despise (disesteem [consider with disregard, disapprobation {a disapproving}, dislike]) me** shall be **lightly esteemed (trifling [being of small value or importance], vile [worthless])**.

NOTE: Be it spoken, to the everlasting reputation of religion or of serious godliness, that it gives honour (GLORY) to God and puts honour (GLORY) upon men. By it we seek and **serve the glory of God**, and he will be behind-hand with none that do so, but **HERE**

and hereafter will secure their GLORY. The way to be truly great is to be truly good. If we **humble** and **deny ourselves** in any thing to honour (GLORIFY) God, and have a single eye to him in it, we may depend upon this promise, he will put the best honour (GLORY) upon us. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/1-samuel-2.html>)

Psalms 29:2, Give unto **the LORD** (Yahweh) the **GLORY due** unto **his name...**

Psalms 84:11 ... the LORD (Yahweh) **will give GRACE** and **GLORY**: NO GOOD thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

1 Samuel 2:31-32, Behold, the days come, that I will **cut off thine ARM (force, strength)**, and the **arm (power)** of thy father's house, that there shall NOT be an old man in thine house. 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.

NOTE: ...cut off thine arm - I will destroy the strength, power, and influence of thy family. **...see an enemy in my habitation** - Every version and almost every commentator understands this clause differently. The word צַר *tsar*, which we translate an **enemy**, and the Vulgate *aemulum*, a **rival** (antagonist), signifies calamity; and this is the best sense to understand it in here. The calamity which he saw was the defeat of the Israelites, the **capture of the ark**, the **death** of his **wicked sons**, and the **triumph** of the **Philistines**. All this he SAW, that is, knew to have taken place, before he met with his own tragic death. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/acc/1-samuel-2.html>)

1 Samuel 2:33-34, 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. 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.

NOTE: They shall die both of them - Hophni and Phinehas were both **killed** very shortly after in the great battle with the Philistines in which the Israelites were completely routed, and the **ark taken**. See 1 Samuel 4:1-11
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/acc/1-samuel-2.html>)

1 Samuel 2:35-36, 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. 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.

NOTE: ...I will raise me up a faithful priest. 1. This was fulfilled in **Zadoc**, of the family of Eleazar, who came into Abiathar's place in the beginning of Solomon's reign, and was faithful to his trust; and the high priests were of his posterity as long as the Levitical priesthood continued. ... **2.** It has its FULL accomplishment in the **priesthood of Christ**, that merciful and faithful high priest whom God raised up when the Levitical priesthood was thrown off, who in all things **DID his father's MIND**, and for whom God will **build a sure house**, build it on a rock, so that the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/1-samuel-2.html>)

NOTE: A morsel of bread - A **mouthful**; what might be sufficient to keep body and soul together. See the sin and its punishment. They formerly pampered themselves, and fed to the full on the Lord's sacrifices; and now they are reduced to a morsel of bread. ...They wasted the Lord's heritage, and now **they BEG their bread!**
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/acc/1-samuel-2.html>)