

shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because *he was jealous for his God* and *made atonement for the people of Israel.*”

Inescapable Responsibility (25:14-18)

¹⁴ The name of *the slain man of Israel*, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, chief of a father's house belonging to the Simeonites. ¹⁵ And the name of *the Midianite woman who was killed* was Cozbi the daughter of Zur, who was *the tribal head of a father's house in Midian.*

¹⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁷ “*Harass the Midianites and strike them down,*” ¹⁸ for they have harassed you with their wives, with which they beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of the chief of Midian, their sister, who was killed on the day of the plague on account of Peor.”

Key Application

Jesus took responsibility for the sins of his people, making the hard but necessary choice to die for us. In the end he will sort the righteous from the wicked!

- ✓ Wheat from Tares (Matthew 13:24-30)
- ✓ Wheat from Chaff (Matthew 3:12)
- ✓ Fishermen Nets (Matthew 13:47-50)

Matthew 13:41–43

⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and *they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,* ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#30 in Series] (Numbers 15–25) *Forty Years in the Wilderness: Part 15*

Seduction & Godly Jealousy – Numbers 25

Sermon Outline – December 27, 2015

Children's Sermon: What is Most Dangerous?

- ❖ Give me examples of dangerous things.
- ❖ What do you think is most dangerous to you?

Jeremiah 17:9–10

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? ¹⁰ “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

Big Picture

Notes:

Chapters 22-25: Further Protection from the LORD

1. The Folly of God's Enemies: Balaam & Balak (23-24)
2. *Seduction by Moab* (25; Cf. 31:16 – Balaam's advice)

The Danger of Idolatry

Key Idea

The enemy within is far more dangerous than the enemy without.

Sex & Idolatry (25:1-3)

Revelation 2:14 (Cf. Numbers 31:16)

But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold *the teaching of Balaam*, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might *eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.*

¹ While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to *whore with the daughters of Moab.* ² These invited the people to *the sacrifices of their gods*, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. ³ So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. (Cf. vs. 6 & 8)

Sex & Idolatry in Our Culture (Practical Naturalism/Atheism)

Secular: not spiritual; of or relating to the physical world and not the spiritual world; not religious

Secularism: the belief that religion should not play a role in government, education, or other public parts of society ¹

“Noel Biderman, the entrepreneur behind [**Ashley Madison, the infamous adultery website that was hacked**], was proud of his business, declaring that ‘monogamy, in my opinion, is a failed experiment.’” ²

David Marr. “God’s warriors are locked in a barbaric, futile battle against marriage equality.”

“This goes much deeper than bigotry. It’s about claiming the most intimate power over believers, the power to forbid any sex without the blessing of the church. That means never before marriage; never outside marriage; and, of course, never with the same sex. These ancient rules were law for centuries. Judges and police were supposed to jump to the aid of bishops and preachers. The noose and the stake sent the worst offenders to hell. Shame did the rest.” ³

How are we tempted to answer these charges?

- Capitulate... (Let’s stay out of the bedroom...)
- Argue... (They don’t believe the Bible, so...)

Romans 1:18, 21, 30–32

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness **suppress the truth**. ...

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ...
...³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though **they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die**, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

What Does God Think of Rebellion & Idolatry? (25:4-9)

God’s Judgment Has Always Been Under Assault

“...the doctrine of the judgment of God is one of the fundamental targets of the devil’s assault. He began to question it right away in the Garden of Eden when he said to Eve, “You will not surely die” (Genesis 3:4).” ⁴

¹ Merriam-Webster

² **Al Mohler.** Article August 27, 2015. *Ashley Madison and the Death of Monogamy.*

³ **David Marr.** *God’s warriors are locked in a barbaric, futile battle against marriage equality.*

⁴ Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God’s presence in the wilderness* (p. 296). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

⁴ And the LORD said to Moses, “**Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the LORD, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel.**” ⁵ And Moses said to the judges of Israel, “**Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor.**”

⁶ And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁷ When **Phinehas** the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand ⁸ and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and **pierced both of them**, the man of Israel and the woman **through her belly.** Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. ⁹ Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.

Who is God Going to Judge on Judgment Day?

Psalm 110:5–6

⁵ The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. ⁶ **He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses;** he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.

Romans 2:5

But because of your hard and impenitent heart *you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.*

Key Conclusion

God will judge the wicked!

Covenantal Leadership

Moses & Leaders (vs. 4-5)

God’s Jealousy? (25:10-13)

¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, ¹¹ “**Phinehas** the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that **he was jealous with my jealousy** among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in **my jealousy.**” ¹² Therefore say, “Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace, ¹³ and it