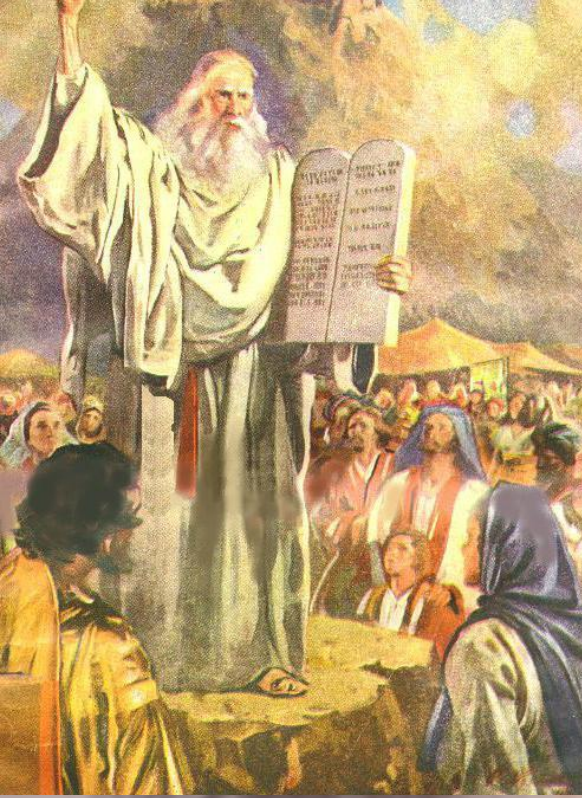


# NUMBERS 25: MOUNTAIN TOP TO VALLEY



- Balaam and Balak incident has ended
- A new rebellion begins
- Hebrews begin cavorting with the Moabites and Midianites
- This is the NEW generation of Hebrews who is rebelling
- The 1<sup>st</sup> generation of the Exodus is now dead



# ISRAEL AT SHITTIM

- **Shittim** = Acacia tree
- Israel was unaware of the Balaam and Balak effort against them
- Tradition is that Balaam suggested that Balak get Israel to worship Moab's gods
- **Chemosh**, chief Ba'al of the Moabites
- Religious prostitution part of the ritual in worshipping a fertility god



SHITTIM  
ACACIA TREE



# HIGH-HANDED SINS



- The “whoring” Israel committed were high-handed sins in the form of idolatry
- National rebellion
- Yehoveh orders the “chiefs” to be executed
- Hanging means to be “impaled” on a pole
- The leadership was to blame for this national apostasy
- Death of the chiefs was to atone for the nation

# “HIS BLOOD IS ON HIS OWN HEAD”



- Peace at the price of “showing respect” for a false god is wrong!
- Punishment and discipline have NOT ended for the Believer
- But eternal condemnation HAS ended for the faithful!
- The Lord will NOT accept the blood of an animal in atonement for a high-handed sin
- Moses did NOT order the Tribal Chiefs to die, instead he ordered lesser leaders to be executed
- Moses made a political move
- Tribal Chiefs would not have submitted to death, and their people would have risen up against Moses

# PHINEHAS



- Plague was raging among Israel for their sin
- Hebrew man brings a Midianite woman into the camp of Israel
- Parades her by the Tabernacle
- Phinehas, a priest, follows the couple to the man's tent, and there kills them with a spear
- Belly = reproductive organs

# PHINEHAS' ACT STOPPED THE PLAGUE

- 24,000 Israelites died
- Ancient Rabbis were troubled by this act
- Phinehas acted in righteous anger as protector of the Lord's holiness
- Yehoveh even granted Phinehas His SHALOM
- The Lord declares that Phinehas would follow his father Eleazar as High Priest, and be the priestly clam



# tone of the chapter shifts after the execution

- The Lord's justice is met
- The plague ends
- The newest Exodus generation has learned a terrible lesson
- Yehoveh demonstrated His kindness and His severity
- The Lord declares war on the Midianites (allies of Moab) for their part in seducing Israel to worship false gods
- A census would be needed before the battle

# NUMBERS 26: CONQUEST



- Final 11 chapters begin process of possessing Canaan
  - First census (Num.1,2) was of the 1<sup>st</sup> Exodus generation
  - This census (Num. 26) is of the next generation
  - Two purposes:
    - 1) Military
    - 2) Land allotment
- Israel on east bank of Jordan River, across from Jericho



<i>Tribes</i>	<i>Census (year 2)</i>	<i>Census (year 40)</i>	<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
1. Reuben	46,500	43,730		2,770
2. Simeon	59,300	22,200		37,100
3. Gad	45,650	40,500		5,150
4. Judah	74,600	76,500	1,900	
5. Issachar	54,400	64,300	9,900	
6. Zebulun	57,400	60,500	3,100	
7. Ephraim	40,500	32,500		8,000
8. Manasseh	32,200	52,700	20,500	
9. Benjamin	35,400	45,600	10,200	
10. Dan	62,700	64,400	1,700	
11. Asher	41,500	53,600	11,900	
12. Naphtali	53,400	45,400		8,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>603,550</b>	<b>601,730</b>	<b>59,200</b>	<b>61,020</b>

- Descendants of Rueben and Korah still exist, even after many died when earth swallowed them up
- Manasseh had LARGEST population INCREASE
- Simeon had the LARGEST population DECREASE

# LAND ALLOTMENT

➤ TWO criteria:

1) Territory proportionate to size of tribe

2) By lot (chance)

➤ The lot determined the region, while the size of the tribe determined how MUCH land in that region a tribe would receive



# CENSUS OF THE LEVITES

- A fully separate census for the Levites
- 1) Levites no longer seen by God as part of Israel
- 2) Levites NOT entitled to land (territory)
- Instead were given 48 cities scattered throughout the 12 tribes' territories
- Number of Levite males were 23,000
- These were ONE MONTH and up
- The Israelite tribes counted males 20 YEARS and up to about age 50



# JACOB'S BLESSING

- Gen. 49:5 *“...Simeon and Levi are brothers; let not my soul enter their council.....they slew men in anger.....I will disperse them....scatter them in Israel...”*
- Simeon and Levi were NOW the smallest tribes
- 600,000 males died in the wilderness