

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
NUMBERS – 31- WAR AGAINST THE MIDIANITES

Say – Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the book of Numbers.

Numbers 31

Say – This is the last commission of Moses. The Midianites were nomadic people which means they had no home and were constantly looking about for pasture or were wanderers. The Midianites descended from Abraham and his wife Keturah, Genesis 25:2. Moses wife and father-in-law were Midianites and his father-in-law was a high priest of Midian. Remember the Midianites were responsible for teaching the Israelites to worship Baal and God commanded Moses and the Israelites to destroy them, Numbers 31:1-3

¹And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

²Avenge (be punished) the children of Israel of the Midianites: afterward shalt thou be gathered unto thy people.

³And Moses spake unto the people, saying, Arm some of yourselves unto the war, and let them go against the Midianites, and avenge the LORD of Midian. (God declared a holy war on the Midianites.)

⁴Of every tribe a thousand, throughout all the tribes of Israel, shall ye send to the war.

⁵So there were delivered out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand of every tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.

⁶And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of every tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war, with the holy instruments (vessels), and the trumpets to blow in his hand. (All orchestrated by God and His vengeance. Why a priest? A holy war requires a priest representing God with them. The Bible tells us “⁴And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. ⁵And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. ⁶And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.” Joshua 6:4-6)

⁷And they warred against the Midianites, as the LORD commanded Moses; and they slew all the males.

⁸And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword. (The Bible tells us “²¹And all the cities of the plain, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, which reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses smote with the princes of Midian, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, which were dukes of Sihon, dwelling in the country. ²²Balaam also the son of Beor, the soothsayer, did the children of Israel slay with the sword among them that were slain by them.” Joshua 13:21-22)

⁹And the children of Israel took all the women of Midian captives, and their little ones, and took the spoil of all their cattle, and all their flocks, and all their goods (They did not obey God; they took the women captives probably because of their sinful lifestyle.).

¹⁰And they burnt all their cities wherein they dwelt, and all their goodly castles, with fire.

¹¹And they took all the spoil, and all the prey, both of men and of beasts.

¹²And 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.

¹³And Moses, and Eleazar the priest, and all the princes of the congregation, went forth to meet them without the camp (Had shed blood so had to stay outside the camp until they were clean. See vs. 19-21 below.).

¹⁴And Moses was wroth with the officers of the host (the leadership), with the captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, which came from the battle.

¹⁵And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive?

¹⁶Behold, 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.

¹⁷Now therefore kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him. (The Bible tells us “²And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant (treaty) with them, nor shew mercy unto them: ³Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. ⁴For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. ⁵But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. ⁶For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. ⁷The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: ⁸But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), hath the LORD brought you

out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” Deuteronomy 7:2-8)

¹⁸But all the women children, that have not known a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves.

¹⁹And do ye abide without the camp seven days: whosoever hath killed any person, and whosoever hath touched any slain, purify both yourselves and your captives on the third day, and on the seventh day (the law not done away).

²⁰And purify all your raiment, and all that is made of skins, and all work of goats' hair, and all things made of wood.

²¹And Eleazar the priest said unto the men of war which went to the battle, This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD commanded Moses;

²²Only the gold, and the silver, the brass, the iron, the tin, and the lead,

²³Every thing that may abide the fire, ye shall make it go through the fire, and it shall be clean: nevertheless it shall be purified with the water of separation: and all that abideth not the fire ye shall make go through the water.

²⁴And ye shall wash your clothes on the seventh day, and ye shall be clean, and afterward ye shall come into the camp. (The Bible tells us “¹⁹And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day: and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be clean at even” Numbers 19:19).

Say – Here is the spoil which was taken from Midian. God told Moses and Eleazar how to divide it and they did as God commanded.

²⁵And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

²⁶Take the sum of the prey that was taken, both of man and of beast, thou, and Eleazar the priest, and the chief fathers of the congregation:

²⁷And divide the prey into two parts; between them that took the war upon them, who went out to battle, and between all the congregation:

²⁸And levy a tribute unto the LORD of the men of war which went out to battle: one soul of five hundred, both of the persons, and of the beeves (oxen or cattle), and of the asses, and of the sheep:

²⁹Take it of their half, and give it unto Eleazar the priest, for an heave offering of the LORD. (The Bible tells us “²⁵And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ²⁶Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave (gift) offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe. ³⁰And of the children of Israel's half, thou shalt take one portion of fifty, of the persons, of the beeves, of the

asses, and of the flocks, of all manner of beasts, and give them unto the Levites, which keep the charge of the tabernacle of the LORD" Numbers 18:25-26).

³¹And Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD commanded Moses.

³²And the booty, being the rest of the prey which the men of war had caught, was six hundred thousand and seventy thousand and five thousand sheep.

³³And threescore and twelve thousand beeves,

³⁴And threescore and one thousand asses,

³⁵And thirty and two thousand persons in all, of women that had not known man by lying with him. (Little girls or virgins, all integrated into the House of Israel – children of Abraham through his wife Keturah.)

³⁶And the half, which was the portion of them that went out to war, was in number three hundred thousand and seven and thirty thousand and five hundred sheep:

³⁷And the LORD'S tribute of the sheep was six hundred and threescore and fifteen.

³⁸And the beeves were thirty and six thousand; of which the LORD'S tribute was threescore and twelve.

³⁹And the asses were thirty thousand and five hundred; of which the LORD'S tribute was threescore and one.

⁴⁰And the persons were sixteen thousand; of which the LORD'S tribute was thirty and two persons.

⁴¹And Moses gave the tribute, which was the LORD'S heave offering, unto Eleazar the priest, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴²And of the children of Israel's half, which Moses divided from the men that warred,

⁴³(Now the half that pertained unto the congregation was three hundred thousand and thirty thousand and seven thousand and five hundred sheep,

⁴⁴And thirty and six thousand beeves,

⁴⁵And thirty thousand asses and five hundred,

⁴⁶And sixteen thousand persons;)

⁴⁷Even of the children of Israel's half, Moses took one portion of fifty, both of man and of beast, and gave them unto the Levites, which kept the charge of the tabernacle of the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴⁸And the officers which were over thousands of the host, the captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds, came near unto Moses:

⁴⁹And they said unto Moses, Thy servants have taken the sum of the men of war (Not one man of Israel was killed because it was a holy war against the Midianites led by God.) which are under our charge, and there lacketh not one man of us.

⁵⁰We have therefore brought an oblation for the LORD, what every man hath gotten, of jewels of gold, chains, and bracelets, rings, earrings, and tablets, to make an atonement for our souls before the LORD.

⁵¹And Moses and Eleazar the priest took the gold of them, even all wrought jewels.

⁵²And all the gold of the offering that they offered up to the LORD, of the captains of thousands, and of the captains of hundreds, was sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty shekels.

⁵³(For the men of war had taken spoil, every man for himself.)

⁵⁴And Moses and Eleazar the priest took the gold of the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the tabernacle of the congregation, for a memorial (to remember) for the children of Israel before the LORD.

MEMORY VERSE

And Moses spake unto the people, saying, Arm some of yourselves unto the war, and let them go against the Midianites, and avenge (punish) the LORD of Midian. (God declared a holy war on the Midianites).

Numbers 31:1-3

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

THE MIDIANITES

WHO WERE THE MIDIANITES? AFTER SARAH DIED,
"ABRAHAM TOOK A WIFE, AND HER NAME WAS KETURAH."
GENESIS 25:1.

AND KETURAH BARE HIM ZIMRAN, JOKSHAN, MEDAN, AND MIDIAN,
AND ISHBAK, AND SHUAH.

AND THE SONS OF MIDIAN; EPHAH, Epher, AND HANOCH AND
ABIDAH, AND ELDAAH. ALL THESE WERE THE CHILDREN OF KETURAH.

THE MIDIANITES WERE NOMADIC PEOPLE WHICH MEANS THEY HAD
NO HOME AND WERE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR PASTURE OR WERE
WANDERERS.

MOSES' WIFE AND FATHER-IN-LAW WERE MIDIANITES AND HIS
FATHER-IN-LAW WAS A HIGH PRIEST OF MIDIAN.

ALSO REMEMBER THE MIDIANITES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR
TEACHING THE ISRAELITES, ALL 12 TRIBES, TO WORSHIP BAAL-PEOR.
GOD COMMANDED MOSES AND THE ISRAELITES TO DESTROY THE
MIDIANITES, NUMBERS 31:1-3

WHO WAS BAAL-PEOR?

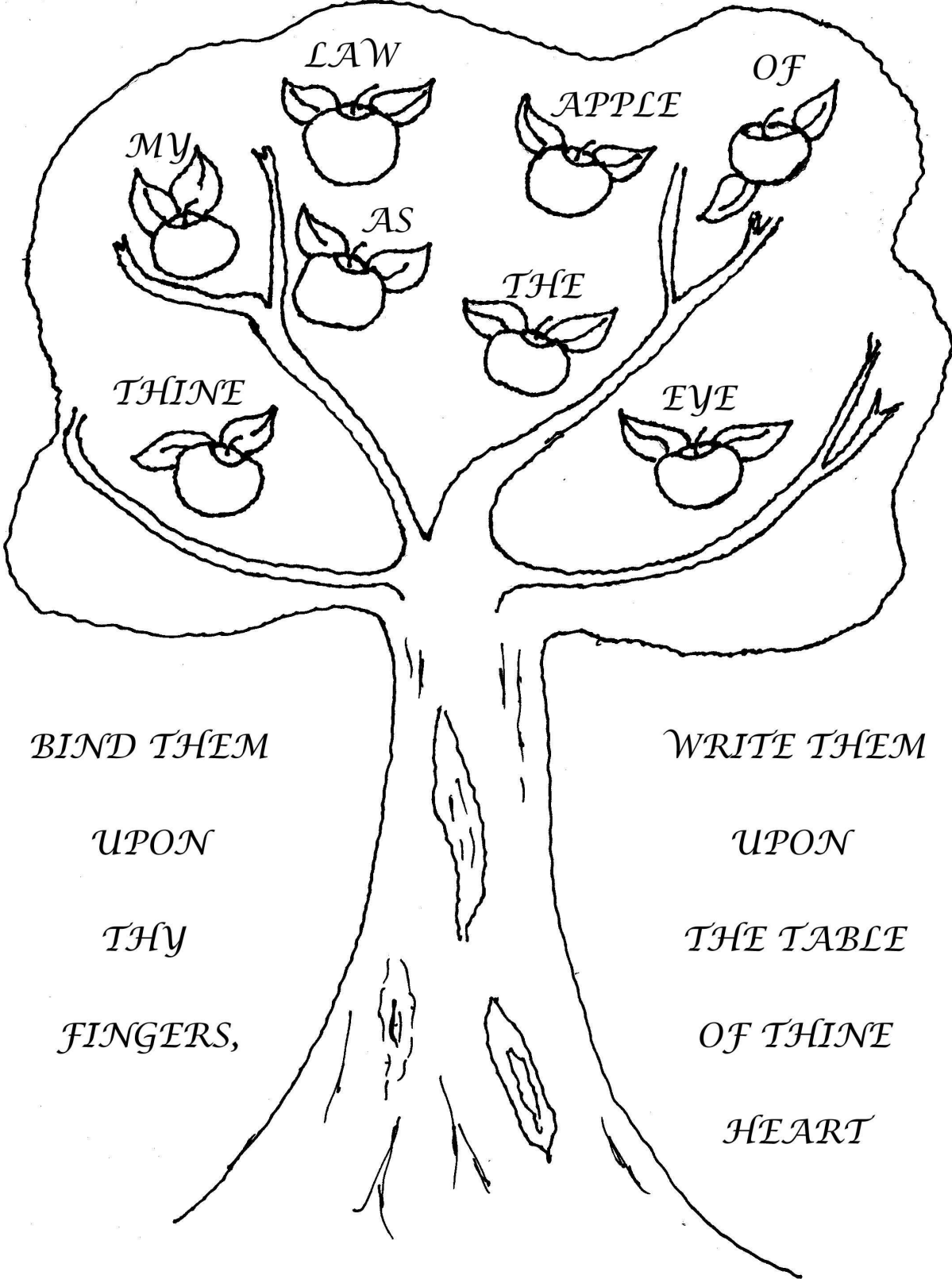
SHE WAS A MOABITE DEITY AND PROBABLY CHEMOSH, NUMBERS
21:29. SHE WAS WORSHIPPED AS A god OF WAR. (The new Bible
dictionary, pg. 104)

THIS FALSE god WAS NO MATCH FOR THE GOD OF ISRAEL; FOR GOD
WAS STRONGER THAN ALL THE CANAANITE gods.

SOLOMON INTRODUCED CHEMOSH INTO JERUSALEM TO PLEASE A
FOREIGN WIFE. BUT IT DISPLEASED GOD VERY MUCH, I KINGS 11:7.
JOSIAH PUT AN END TO THE WORSHIP OF CHEMOSH, 2 KINGS 23:13.
AND THE HIGH PLACES THAT WERE BEFORE JERUSALEM ... WHICH
SOLOMON THE KING OF ISRAEL ...AND FOR CHEMOSH THE
ABOMINATION OF THE MOABITES...DID THE KING DEFILE.
2 KINGS 23:13-15.

SOLOMON STOPPED LISTENING TO GOD.

KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, AND LIVE;



PROVERBS 7:2-3