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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Various information and topics that help the reader of the Bible understand the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ's teachings.

Numbers 31.

(2010).

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Towns, Cities Villages and Details of the People.

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Teach it, don't demand it.

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Numbers 31.

The following is a brief overview of the main topics.
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Vengeance on Midian and the death of Balaam.

When Moses fled from Egypt 40 years before the Exodus (Exod 2:15-21) he helped the daughters of Reuel (or Jethro) the priest of Midian, was invited to their encampment and married Zipporah, the priest's daughter.

Thus; the descendants of Moses had Midianite as well as Levite descent. Jethro, though priest of Midian, acknowledged Jehovah the God of Israel as supreme (Exod 18:11) but neither he nor his son Hobab, though very friendly to Moses, could bring themselves to join Israel (Num 10:29).

Toward the end of the life of Moses, Midian had apparently become confederate with Moab (Num 22:4). Through the counsel of Balaam, the Midianite women and girls wrought much harm in Israel and God commanded Moses to smite the nation (Num 25:16-18). Two hundred years later, in the days of Gideon, God delivered Israel into the hand of Midian for seven years (Judg 6:1-6). They allowed the Israelites to plough and to sow the seed, but the Midianites did the reaping. Gideon defeated them and slew their two kings Zebah and Zalmunna (Judg 7:21).

- The names of these kings and the princes of Midian Oreb and Zeeb (Judg 7:25) give us a picture of their civilization.

The LORD tells Moses to execute vengeance on Midian.

The LORD told Moses to avenge Israel on the Midianites and afterward Moses would be gathered to his people, so Moses told the people to arm men for war to execute the LORD'S vengeance on Midian. A thousand men from each tribe was provided to go to war, totalling 12,000 thousand men armed for war. Phinehas took trumpets in his hand to sound the alarm and Israel warred against Midian and killed every male.

- The men of war killed the 5 kings of Midian, **Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba.**

Balaam's Sin and his Death.

On Balaam's advice the woman of Midian caused Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor, they enticed Israel to turn to other gods causing the plague to come on congregation of the LORD.

Balaam was killed by Israel in the battle with Midian (Num 31:8).

Israel's men of war took captive of Midian the women their children, cattle, flocks and goods, but they burned all the cities and their encampments, they took the spoil to Moses, Eleazar the priest and the congregation, but Moses was angry with the officers of the army because they let all the women live, because it was these woman who on Balaam's advice had enticed Israel to turn to other gods.

Moses told Israel to; kill the remaining children, every woman who had known man by lying with him, but to keep for themselves all the young girls who have not known man.

Israel chosen men of war, their captives and their goods were to be purified.

Whoever had killed any person or touched any slain were to stay outside the camp for 7 days, they were to purify themselves and their captives and on the 3rd day and the 7th day. Every garment, article of skin, work of goats' hair and every article of wood was to be purified.

Everything must pass through fire or water to be clean.

The statute of the LORD for men who had gone to battle was to be that all the gold, silver, bronze, iron, the tin, lead and everything that could stand fire was to be passed through fire and then it would be clean. Whatever the men had taken in battle that could not stand fire was to pass through the water for impurity. Those who had become unclean were to remain outside the camp for 7 days, they were to wash their clothes on the 7th day and then they would be clean, then they could return to the camp.

Israel divides the plunder of battle into two parts between the warriors and the entire congregation.

The LORD told Moses and Eleazar to count the plunder of man and beast that was taken in the battle against Midian, and then count the heads of the 12 tribes of the and divide the plunder into two parts between the warriors and the entire congregation.

The men who went to war were to give out of their half of the spoil from every 500.

1 person ---- 1 oxen ---- 1 donkey ---- 1 of the flock.

For the LORD'S levy given to Eleazar the priest as a contribution to the LORD the people were to give out of their half of the spoil from every 50, 1 oxen, 1 donkey, 1 of all the flock and 1 of all the cattle to the Levites.

The total plunder that Israel's army took from Midian was: -

- 675,000 sheep.
- 72,000 cattle.
- 61,000 donkeys.
- 32,000 women who had not known man by lying with him.

All adult males were killed in battle and the male children were killed when captured.

The armies half of the plunder was: -

- 337,500 sheep and the LORD'S tribute was 675.
- 36,000 cattle and the LORD'S tribute was 72.
- 30,500 donkeys and the LORD'S tribute was 61.
- 16,000 women who had not known a man by lying with him and the LORD'S tribute was 32 persons.

All adult males were killed in battle and the male children were killed when captured. Moses gave the LORD'S tribute to Eleazar the priest as the LORD had commanded Moses.

The congregation's half of the plunder was: -

- 36,000 cattle.
- 30,500 donkeys.
- 16,000 women who had not known a man by lying with him and the LORD'S tribute was 32 persons.

All adult males were killed in battle and the male children were killed when captured. Moses took one person, donkey and cattle out of every 50 from the peoples half and gave them to the Levites.

Not one man of Israel's army was killed in the battle against Midian.

The officers and commanders told Moses the army has been counted and not one man was missing, each man that went to war had taken plunder for himself. The officers were bringing what each man found or took to make atonement for themselves before the LORD. Moses and Eleazar the priest received from the officers the gold and all the crafted articles and presented the contribution of gold to the LORD that the commanders and officers had brought to them.

- The men who went to war had taken for themselves 16,750 shekels of gold.

End.