



NUMBERS 25:1-9

Bible Study

MT. ZION FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

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VISION

The vision of the Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Virginia will reach and reproduce within its surrounding community, a people inspired and equipped with a passion for the truth of God's Word and His compassion for others who will be enablers of change.



THEME

MOVING FORWARD

AS A

GROWING CHURCH



Numbers 25:1-9 (MSG)

CORRUPTING THE CAMP

While Israel was camped at Shittim (Acacia Grove), the men began to have sex with the Moabite women. It started when the women invited the men to their sex-and-religion worship. They ate together and then worshiped their gods. Israel ended up joining in the worship of the Baal of Peor. GOD was furious, His anger blazing



Numbers 25:1-9 (MSG)

CORRUPTING THE CAMP

out against Israel. ⁴ GOD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of Israel and kill them by hanging, leaving them publicly exposed in order to turn GOD’s anger away from Israel.” ⁵ Moses issued orders to the judges of Israel: “Each of you must execute the men under your jurisdiction who joined in the worship of Baal Peor.”



CORRUPTING THE CAMP

6-9 Just then, while everyone was weeping in penitence at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, an Israelite man, flaunting his behavior in front of Moses and the whole assembly, paraded a Midianite woman into his family tent. Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw what he was doing, grabbed his spear, and followed them into the tent.



CORRUPTING THE CAMP

With one thrust he drove the spear through the two of them, the man of Israel and the woman, right through their midsections. That stopped the plague from continuing among the People of Israel. But 24,000 had already died.



CORRUPTING THE CAMP

NOT long before Israel was to enter the promised land, **great** sin entered the camp and caused thousands to die in judgment. Our verse tells the story in a nutshell. It tells of the *wickedness of Israel* and the *wrath of God*.



CORRUPTING THE CAMP

Wickedness of Israel. “Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor.” Who is *Baal-peor*? Let’s define *baal* first. Simply stated it means “lord,” “master,” or “ruler.” Baal became a technical name for the gods of the Canaanites. There was not just one god named Baal, but there were many Baals (many Canaanite “lords”).



CORRUPTING THE CAMP

This statement tells us two things about Israel—*their corrupt creed and their corrupt conduct.*

Wickedness of Israel. “Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor.” Who is *Baal-peor*? This statement tells us two things about Israel—*their corrupt creed and their corrupt conduct.*



CORRUPTING THE CAMP

First, Israel's *corrupt creed*. Baal-peor was the name of the idol god which the Midianites worshiped. Israel mixed with the Midianites and ended up participating in their idol worship. Their participation was not casual, for they “*joined*” to Baal-peor. The word “*joined*” means to be fastened or bound to something.



CORRUPTING THE CAMP

Israel became very involved in idol worship. They became fervent and dedicated idol worshipers.

Second, Israel's *corrupt conduct*. The worship of Baal-peor involved gross licentiousness. Sexual immorality and perversion were part of their worship. This reminds us that belief affects behavior.



CORRUPTING THE CAMP

Bad *creed* produces bad conduct.

When the Israelites turned from Jehovah to worship idols, their *conduct became corrupt*.

Wrath of God. “The anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.” This sentence tells us two things about God’s wrath—the fact of God’s wrath and the firing of God’s wrath



CORRUPTING THE CAMP

First, the *fact* of God's wrath. Some want to speak only of the love of God. The greatness of God's love is an incredible truth. But do not ignore the fact that God also has wrath. Many times, in Scripture in both Old and New Testaments we read of the wrath of God. When you ignore this truth, you do so to your eternal peril.



CORRUPTING THE CAMP

Second, the *firing* of God's wrath. That which "*kindled*" or fired up God's wrath was wickedness. Israel's sin "*kindled*" the wrath of God against them. God's wrath is holy. It is only sin that stirs up the wrath of God. Today we do not get upset about sin. That is one of our big problems in society. But God gets upset about sin and brings judgment upon it.



Numbers 27:12–23 (MSG)

Successor of Moses

Next Week

“The LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him.” ([Numbers 27:18](#))

