

IN THE PLAINS OF MOAB

Numbers 25, 26

As the people of Israel were encamped on the plains of Moab, for the first time since they left Egypt they came into close contact with those who worshiped idols. See now what they did under these circumstances:

A. Summary of Israel's Activities: Read Numbers 25:1-5

1. In what place did the Israelites live? Numbers 25:1a

Locate this place on a map.

2. What did the people begin to do? Numbers 25:1b

3. Along with this, what other sin did they commit? Numbers 25:2

4. How did the Lord feel about this? Numbers 25:3

5. What did He tell Moses to do to turn away His anger? Numbers 25:4

6. To whom did Moses relay these instructions? Numbers 25:5

B. One Man's Activities: Read Numbers 25:6-15

1. As the people were weeping before the door of the Tabernacle, what did one of the men of Israel do? Numbers 25:6

2. Who decided to do something about this? Numbers 25:7a

3. What did he do? Numbers 25:7b-8a

4. What effect did this have for the Israelites? Numbers 25:8b

5. How many had died because of this plague? Numbers 25:9

6. What did God promise to Phinehas because he was zealous for the Lord's sake? Numbers 25:10-13

7. What were the names of the man and woman who were slain? Numbers 25:14a, 15a

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8. What was the man's position in Israel? Numbers 25:14b

9. Notice that the woman also was from a chief house in her country:
Numbers 25:15b

C. God's Command After These Activities: Read Numbers 25:16-18

1. What did God tell Moses to do after this? Numbers 25:16, 17

2. Why was he to do this? Numbers 25:18

D. The Second Numbering of Israel: Read Numbers 26:1-4, 51-65

1. After the plague mentioned above, what did God again tell Moses to do?
Numbers 26:1, 2

2. How many were included in the number counted? Numbers 26:51

(Compare this with the number of those counted in the wilderness of Sinai, before they began their journey northward: Numbers 1:46)

3. Who again were omitted from the number of warriors, and counted separately? Numbers 26:57a, 62

4. How many of those who were numbered now had been included in the previous numbering at Mt. Sinai? Numbers 26:64, 65

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why did the people of Israel behave as they did? Had God given any commands against such behavior? Why did they not obey these commands?

2. Do I ever go against the direct commandments of the Lord? What causes me to do this? How does the Lord feel when I do so? What must be the inevitable results of such actions? How could I prevent such actions, and their terrible results?
