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YouTube Prayer Link

Do not make enemies with God

(An important conflict between the Israelites and the Midianites)

The fear of God or the Supreme God is a universal belief. This faith emphasizes that people should be religious, humble, and not hostile to God, who is all-powerful, wise, and Creator of the universe and life. The core idea of this faith is reflected in a variety of cultures and religions, and the relevant verses in the Christian Bible convey this important message.

God-fearing faith: God-fearing is not fear or fear, but a form of devotion and reverence for God. This reverence makes people more humble and aware of their finitude and smallness vis-à-vis God. This humility helps shape one's character and morality.

Spiritual and Moral Guidance: God-fearing beliefs are often seen as a moral and ethical guide to the heart. It motivates people to do good and avoid evil in order to follow God's will. This faith helps shape a more kind and compassionate society.

Not being an enemy of God: Being at enmity with God means going against God's will and values, often leading to negative consequences. In Christianity, verses in the Bible emphasize that people may experience setbacks and difficulties when they disobey God's commands and teachings.

The belief in not being an enemy of God emphasizes the importance of God-fear, humility, and moral behavior. The core idea of this faith helps shape individuals and societies to be kinder, more loving, and harmonious. It also provides people with hope and comfort because it communicates God's forgiveness and mercy. Regardless of religious beliefs, this belief helps guide people to make positive moral and ethical choices in their daily lives.

Chapter 31 in the book of Numbers describes a conflict between Moses and the people of Israel against the Midianites. The Midianites were an ancient people in the Middle East at the time, and

according to the Bible, they lived in the Midianese region of the time of Moses. The Israelites were instructed to defeat the Midianites because they were involved in the act of inducing the Israelites to worship idols and sin. In this conflict, the Israelites defeated the Midianites and seized their property. This story is described in detail in Numbers 31.

Numbers 31 records an important war, an important conflict between the Israelites and the Midianites. In this war, the Israelites defeated the Midianites and seized their property. The battle is described in detail in the Bible, including details such as Moses' instructions and the later distribution of loot. The war is significant to Israel's historical and biblical narrative

31:32 In addition to the property seized by the soldiers, there were 675,000 sheep that were taken captive.

31:33 72,000 cattle.

31:34 Sixty-one thousand donkeys.

31:35 There were 32,000 women. All of them were not married.

31:17 Therefore, you will kill all the boys, and all the married girls.

31:18 But among girls, whoever does not marry, you can survive.

There are several passages in the Old Testament where God helped the Israelites in their war to protect them from enemy aggression. This protection is often seen as a grace and miracle of God to support Israel's faith and mission. Here are some examples from the Old Testament:

Exodus: God helped the Israelites escape slavery in Egypt and save them in the miracle of the Red Sea.

Joshua: When the Israelites entered the land of Canaan, God helped them to capture cities like Jericho.

Judges: In this book, God helps the Israelites against foreign enemies through the hands of judges (anointed leaders).

Samuel: God helped David become king of Israel and protected him in many wars.

Isaiah: There are many prophecies and promises about God's protection of Israel in this book.

These are some examples of what is recorded in the Old Testament of the Bible that emphasizes God's protection and assistance to ensure Israel's victory in the face of enemies and challenges. These stories have religious and sacred significance in the Bible and reflect Israel's relationship with God. Different scriptures and books provide different details and narratives, but they all emphasize God's support.

Together We pray

Dear God, we come to you at this moment to pray for the war that is taking place in the world. We pray for your mercy and peace to those affected by war.

Give your leaders the wisdom to find ways to peace, resolve differences, and promote reconciliation. Let them feel loved and guided by you in order to create a safer and fairer world.

We also pray that you will protect those in war zones, especially innocent civilians, women and children. Give them protection and shelter so that they are no longer plagued by violence and destruction.

Finally, we ask you to give us all hearts to care for misery and suffering in the world and to participate actively in the promotion of peace and justice. Let our actions bring hope and spread the idea of peace throughout the world.

With these prayers, we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHAPTER 31

Nu. 31:1 The LORD said to Moses,

Nu. 31:2 “Take vengeance on the Midianites for the Israelites. After that, you will be gathered to your people.”

Nu. 31:3 So Moses said to the people, “Arm some of your men to go to war against the Midianites and to carry out the LORD’s vengeance on them.

Nu. 31:4 Send into battle a thousand men from each of the tribes of Israel.”

Nu. 31:5 So twelve thousand men armed for battle, a thousand from each tribe, were supplied from the clans of Israel.

Nu. 31:6 Moses sent them into battle, a thousand from each tribe, along with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, who took with him articles from the sanctuary and the trumpets for signalling.

Nu. 31:7 They fought against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses, and killed every man.

Nu. 31:8 Among their victims were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba — the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword.

Nu. 31:9 The Israelites captured the Midianite women and children and took all the Midianite herds, flocks and goods as plunder.

Nu. 31:10 They burned all the towns where the Midianites had settled, as well as all their camps.

Nu. 31:11 They took all the plunder and spoils, including the people and animals,

Nu. 31:12 and brought the captives, spoils and plunder to Moses and Eleazar the priest and the Israelite assembly at their camp on the plains of Moab, by the Jordan across from Jericho.

[Hebrew Jordan of Jericho; possibly an ancient name for the Jordan River]

Nu. 31:13 Moses, Eleazar the priest and all the leaders of the community went to meet them outside the camp.

Nu. 31:14 Moses was angry with the officers of the army — the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds — who returned from the battle.

Nu. 31:15 “Have you allowed all the women to live?” he asked them.

Nu. 31:16 “They were the ones who followed Balaam’s advice and were the means of turning the Israelites away from the LORD in what happened at Peor, so that a plague struck the LORD’s people.

Nu. 31:17 Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man,

Nu. 31:18 but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man.

Nu. 31:19 “All of you who have killed anyone or touched anyone who was killed must stay outside the camp seven days. On the third and seventh days you must purify yourselves and your captives.

Nu. 31:20 Purify every garment as well as everything made of leather, goat hair or wood.”

Nu. 31:21 Then Eleazar the priest said to the soldiers who had gone into battle, “This is the requirement of the law that the LORD gave Moses:

Nu. 31:22 Gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, lead

Nu. 31:23 and anything else that can withstand fire must be put through the fire, and then it will be clean. But it must also be purified with the water of cleansing. And whatever cannot withstand fire must be put through that water.

Nu. 31:24 On the seventh day wash your clothes and you will be clean. Then you may come into the camp.”

Nu. 31:25 The LORD said to Moses,

Nu. 31:26 “You and Eleazar the priest and the family heads of the community are to count all the people and animals that were captured.

Nu. 31:27 Divide the spoils between the soldiers who took part in the battle and the rest of the community.

Nu. 31:28 From the soldiers who fought in the battle, set apart as tribute for the LORD one out of every five hundred, whether persons, cattle, donkeys, sheep or goats.

Nu. 31:29 Take this tribute from their half share and give it to Eleazar the priest as the LORD’s part.

Nu. 31:30 From the Israelites’ half, select one out of every fifty,

whether persons, cattle, donkeys, sheep, goats or other animals. Give them to the Levites, who are responsible for the care of the LORD's tabernacle.”

Nu. 31:31 So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD commanded Moses.

Nu. 31:32 The plunder remaining from the spoils that the soldiers took was 675,000 sheep,

Nu. 31:33 72,000 cattle,

Nu. 31:34 61,000 donkeys

Nu. 31:35 and 32,000 women who had never slept with a man.

Nu. 31:36 The half share of those who fought in the battle was: 337,500 sheep,

Nu. 31:37 of which the tribute for the LORD was 675;

Nu. 31:38 36,000 cattle, of which the tribute for the LORD was 72;

Nu. 31:39 30,500 donkeys, of which the tribute for the LORD was 61;

Nu. 31:40 16,000 people, of which the tribute for the LORD was 32.

Nu. 31:41 Moses gave the tribute to Eleazar the priest as the LORD's part, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Nu. 31:42 The half belonging to the Israelites, which Moses set apart from that of the fighting men —

Nu. 31:43 the community's half — was 337,500 sheep,

Nu. 31:44 36,000 cattle,

Nu. 31:45 30,500 donkeys

Nu. 31:46 and 16,000 people.

Nu. 31:47 From the Israelites' half, Moses selected one out of every fifty persons and animals, as the LORD commanded him, and gave them to the Levites, who were responsible for the care of the LORD's tabernacle.

Nu. 31:48 Then the officers who were over the units of the army — the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds — went to Moses

Nu. 31:49 and said to him, “Your servants have counted the soldiers under our command, and not one is missing.

Nu. 31:50 So we have brought as an offering to the LORD the gold articles each of us acquired — armlets, bracelets, signet rings, ear-rings and necklaces — to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD.”

Nu. 31:51 Moses and Eleazar the priest accepted from them the gold — all the handcrafted articles.

Nu. 31:52 All the gold from the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds that Moses and Eleazar presented as a gift to the LORD weighed 16,750 shekels. [That is, about 420 pounds (about 190 kilograms)]

Nu. 31:53 Each soldier had taken plunder for himself.

Nu. 31:54 Moses and Eleazar the priest accepted the gold from the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds and brought it into the Tent of Meeting as a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD.

In Chapter 31 of the Book of Numbers, the Israelites, under the leadership of Moses, are commanded by God to take vengeance on the Midianites, who had seduced some of the Israelites into worshipping the false god Baal. Moses sends a force of 12,000 men, with Phinehas the priest accompanying them, to attack the Midianites. The Israelites were successful in their attack, killing all the Midianite men, including their kings, and taking their women and children captive. The spoils of war, which included gold, silver, and livestock, were divided among the Israelites and the priests. However, some of the Israelite soldiers had taken Midianite women as their own and brought them back to their camp. Moses was angry with them for not following God's command to kill all the women, and orders them to be executed along with all the male children. The chapter ends with the distribution of the spoils of war and the offering of a portion of it to the Lord.

Here are the key verses in Chapter 31 of the Book of Numbers:

1. "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying," (Numbers 31:1)
2. "Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people." (Numbers 31:2)
3. "So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm men from among you for the war, that they may go against Midian to execute the Lord's vengeance on Midian." (Numbers 31:3)
4. "So they made war against Midian, as the Lord commanded Moses, and killed every male." (Numbers 31:7)
5. "They also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword." (Numbers 31:8)
6. "And Moses said to them, "Have you let all the women live?" (Numbers 31:15)
7. "Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man by lying with him." (Numbers 31:17)
8. "But all the young girls who have not known man by lying with him keep alive for yourselves." (Numbers 31:18)
9. "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying," (Numbers 31:25)
10. "And divide the plunder into two parts, between the warriors who went out to battle and all the congregation." (Numbers 31:27)
11. "And the congregation's half was 337,500 sheep," (Numbers 31:36)
12. "and the Lord's tribute of sheep was 675." (Numbers 31:38)
13. "And the Lord's tribute of the people of Israel was 32 persons." (Numbers 31:40)
14. "And Moses gave the tribute, which was the Lord's contribution, to Eleazar the priest, as the Lord commanded Moses." (Numbers 31:41)
15. "And the people of Israel did as the Lord commanded Moses. They killed every male of the Midianites and their women and their little ones, and they took the plunder for themselves and all their livestock and all their goods." (Numbers 31:47)

These verses detail the Lord's command for Moses to avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites and the Israelites' subsequent victory. The verses also discuss the division of the plunder and the Lord's tribute.

Chapter 31 of the Book of Numbers recounts the Israelites' victory over the Midianites and the subsequent division of the spoils of war. Here's a reflection on some key themes and lessons from Numbers 31:

Obedience to God's Commands: In this chapter, God commands Moses to take vengeance on the Midianites for their role in leading the Israelites astray. Moses and the Israelites obeyed God's command and engaged in battle against the Midianites.

Reflection: This chapter highlights the importance of obedience to God's commands. It demonstrates the Israelites' willingness to follow God's instructions and carry out His justice. It prompts us to consider our own obedience to God's commands in our lives, recognizing that obedience is a vital aspect of our relationship with Him.

The Consequences of Sin: The battle against the Midianites serves as a consequence of their involvement in leading the Israelites into idolatry and sexual immorality. God's judgment upon them reveals the seriousness of sin and its consequences.

Reflection: This chapter reminds us of the consequences of sin and the importance of staying faithful to God's commands. It underscores the need for vigilance in guarding against temptations and influences that can lead us away from God. By recognizing the destructive nature of sin, we can strive to live in obedience and pursue righteousness in our own lives.

God's Provision and Protection: Despite the intensity of the battle, God granted victory to the Israelites over the Midianites. He protected them and provided for their needs during and after the battle.

Reflection: This chapter highlights God's provision and protection for His people. It reminds us of His faithfulness in difficult circumstances and His ability to grant victory over our enemies. It encourages us to trust in God's provision and seek His protection in our own lives. By relying on His strength and guidance, we can face challenges with confidence, knowing that He is with us.

Gratitude and Generosity: After the battle, Moses instructs the Israelites to offer a portion of the spoils as an offering to the Lord. The people responded with gratitude and generosity, offering a significant portion of the spoils to God.

Reflection: This chapter emphasizes the importance of gratitude and generosity in response to God's faithfulness and provision. It prompts us to cultivate hearts of gratitude, recognizing that all we have comes from God. It also encourages us to be generous in sharing our resources with others and honoring God with our offerings. By practicing gratitude and generosity, we reflect God's character and demonstrate our trust in His provision.

Overall, Numbers 31 addresses themes of obedience to God's commands, the consequences of sin, God's provision and protection, and gratitude and generosity. By reflecting on these themes,

we can strive for obedience to God, recognize the consequences of sin, trust in His provision and protection, and respond with gratitude and generosity in our own lives.