

## The Zeal of God

Shalom,

The Torah reading for this week is found in **Numbers 25:10 - 30:1** We read last week that Balaam, a man who was known to have the power to bless or curse, was brought to Moab by King Balak to curse Israel. Balaam refused to say anything unless he heard it from YHWH, and he spoke nothing but blessing over Israel, but he counseled Balak how to deceive some of the people of Israel by using seduction to entice the men of Israel to join themselves to idolatrous daughters of Moab and their pagan practices (Numbers 31:16). This immoral relationship resulted in a great plague in Israel that was only stopped when Phinehas took radical action against the deadly works of the flesh.

*Romans 8:13 (TLV) <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Ruach you put to death the deeds of the body, you shall live.*

*Numbers 25:10-13 (TLV) <sup>10</sup> Then Adonai spoke to Moses saying, <sup>11</sup> "Phinehas son of Eleazar son of Aaron the kohen has turned away My anger from Bnei-Yisrael because he was very zealous for Me among them, so that I did not put an end to Bnei-Yisrael in My zeal. <sup>12</sup> So now say: See, I am making with him **a covenant of shalom!** <sup>13</sup> It will be for him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood—because he was zealous for his God and atoned for Bnei-Yisrael."*

It is very important that we recognize that **Phinehas was zealous for the sake of YHWH**. Phinehas was not self-righteously acting on his own. **The Word of God indicates that God used Phinehas to exercise the vengeance of God, and his swift action turned away wrath from the Children of Israel.** This was certainly a swift and severe action by God, but we know that God's love and compassion toward His people brought about this act of mercy to prevent unfettered judgment on the whole nation. Because Phinehas was yielded to act on God's behalf, judgment and destruction of many people was averted. God saw his heart of zealousness and pronounced an irrevocable covenant with him and his offspring forever. God called the covenant that was made with Phinehas and his children, "**My covenant of shalom.**" Notice the connection between being zealous for God and being joined with the covenant of Shalom from Him. **There is a fire ignited in the hearts of men and women who have a zeal for God and His Word.** In fact, one of the meanings of the Hebrew word for zeal is expanded "**To burn with zeal.**" It is this "burning with zeal" that elicits such **decisive action against sin and rebellion** toward God that, in turn, brings about an eternal blessing from God to Phinehas and his house, and is surely not an act of judgment, but a magnificent display of God's love.

*Matthew 5:30 (TLV) <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away! It is better for you that one part of your body should be destroyed, than that your whole body go into Gehenna.*

We, like the righteous in ancient Israel, have God's zeal already housed in our spirits. We are given the opportunity to choose to say what His Word says and believe it in our hearts. It will develop trust in us and become our very motivation in life, and just as it brought about an end to the unfruitful works of darkness in Israel, it will work in us to make us **decisive for the things of God. We will instantly control our own flesh nature.** The zeal of God in us will burn out the carnal dominion and make us more than a conqueror in Yeshua. **We are new creatures in Messiah Yeshua, and we walk in His covenant of Shalom.**

On fire for Him,  
Terry