

July 5, 2023

Life Giving Action

Shalom,

This week's reading is found in **Numbers 25:10–30:1** and is called *Pinchas*. Also known as Phinehas in many Bible translations, he was a grandson of Aaron, whose **swift and bold obedience** to YHWH, stopped the plague that the Children of Israel had brought upon themselves.

ADONAI said to Moshe, "Pinchas the son of El'azar, the son of Aharon the cohen, has deflected My anger from the people of Isra'el by being as zealous as I am, so that I didn't destroy them in My own zeal. Therefore say, 'I am giving him My covenant of shalom, making a covenant with him and his descendants after him that the office of cohen will be theirs forever.' This is because he was zealous on behalf of his God and made atonement for the people of Isra'el." (Numbers 25:10-13 CJB)

God was pleased with Phineas' heart of zealousness and cut an everlasting covenant with Phinehas and his offspring. The covenant that was given to Phinehas and his children was named "**My covenant of shalom.**" People who yield to God and His anointing move from fleshly endeavors to supernatural hearing, seeing, and acting with God.

This was not a man acting in fleshly anger, but an action inspired by the Holy Spirit to deliver all of Israel from pending destruction.

My zeal has consumed me, because my foes forgot Your Words. Your Word is thoroughly refined, and Your servant loves it. (Psalms 119:139-140 TLV)

One of the things that we need to recognize in this portion is that YHWH never winks at sin, nor does He just ignore it. Justice demands accountability for sin, and the justice God demands for His people is absolute. Sin always produces the negative results of death.

Don't you know that you people are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16 CJB)

For what one earns from sin is death; but eternal life is what one receives as a free gift from God, in union with the Messiah Yeshua, our Lord. (Romans 6:23 CJB)

You might be thinking, "What hope is there for mankind, for all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Of course, the answer is the very heart of the Gospel.

Jesus became sin for us in His death on the execution stake, and the shedding of His blood satisfied the righteous demands of the justice of God. Just as Phineas thrust a spear through the Israelite man and the Midianite woman in an act of zeal for the righteousness of God, **Jesus, Who became sin for us, also was thrust with a spear and died to take the penalty God's justice required.** People often think that God's demands are relaxed under the Newer Covenant. In fact, **the full force of God's righteous penalty for sin was exacted, and the blood of Jesus satisfied and paid the entire penalty** for every person who has ever lived if they will receive God's covenant of peace through Yeshua HaMashiach by faith.

Notice the desired result of driving sin from the congregation in the following passage and see that there was no laxness prescribed, but rather a severe handling of people involved with the intent that **the "Spirit may be saved in the Day of the Lord."**

*It is actually being reported that there is sexual sin among you, and it is sexual sin of a kind that is condemned even by pagans—a man is living with his stepmother! And you stay proud? Shouldn't you rather have felt some sadness that would have led you to remove from your company the man who has done this thing? For I myself, even though I am absent physically, am with you spiritually; and I have already judged the man who has done this as if I were present. In the Name of the Lord Yeshua, when you are assembled, with me present spiritually and the power of our Lord Yeshua among us, hand over such a person to the Adversary **for his old nature to be destroyed, so that his spirit may be saved in the Day of the Lord.** (1 Corinthians 5:1-5 CJB)*

Because Jesus did such a wonderful and complete job of carrying our sin away, some fail to realize that what He did was an unfathomable act of love for the natural mind, and **it is possible for us to fail to recognize** what a miracle was wrought through that love so that those who would have surely been destined for eternal punishment have been transformed into and conformed to the image of the Son of God destined to live forever with Him. His action was an eternal sacrifice **to deliver all of mankind from pending destruction if they simply trust Him.**

Forever grateful,
Terry

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