

Parsha Mattot-Massei

מַטֵּי / מַסְעֵי
“Tribes / Journeys”

Numbers
30 - 36



Unmitigated Disaster

Destruction of the
peaceful

Needless suffering,
avoidable death

Collateral damage of
the innocent



Psalm 106:28-31

Then they yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor,
and ate sacrifices offered to the dead;

They provoked YHWH to anger with their deeds,
and a plague broke out among them.

Then Phinehas stood up and intervened,
and the plague was stayed.

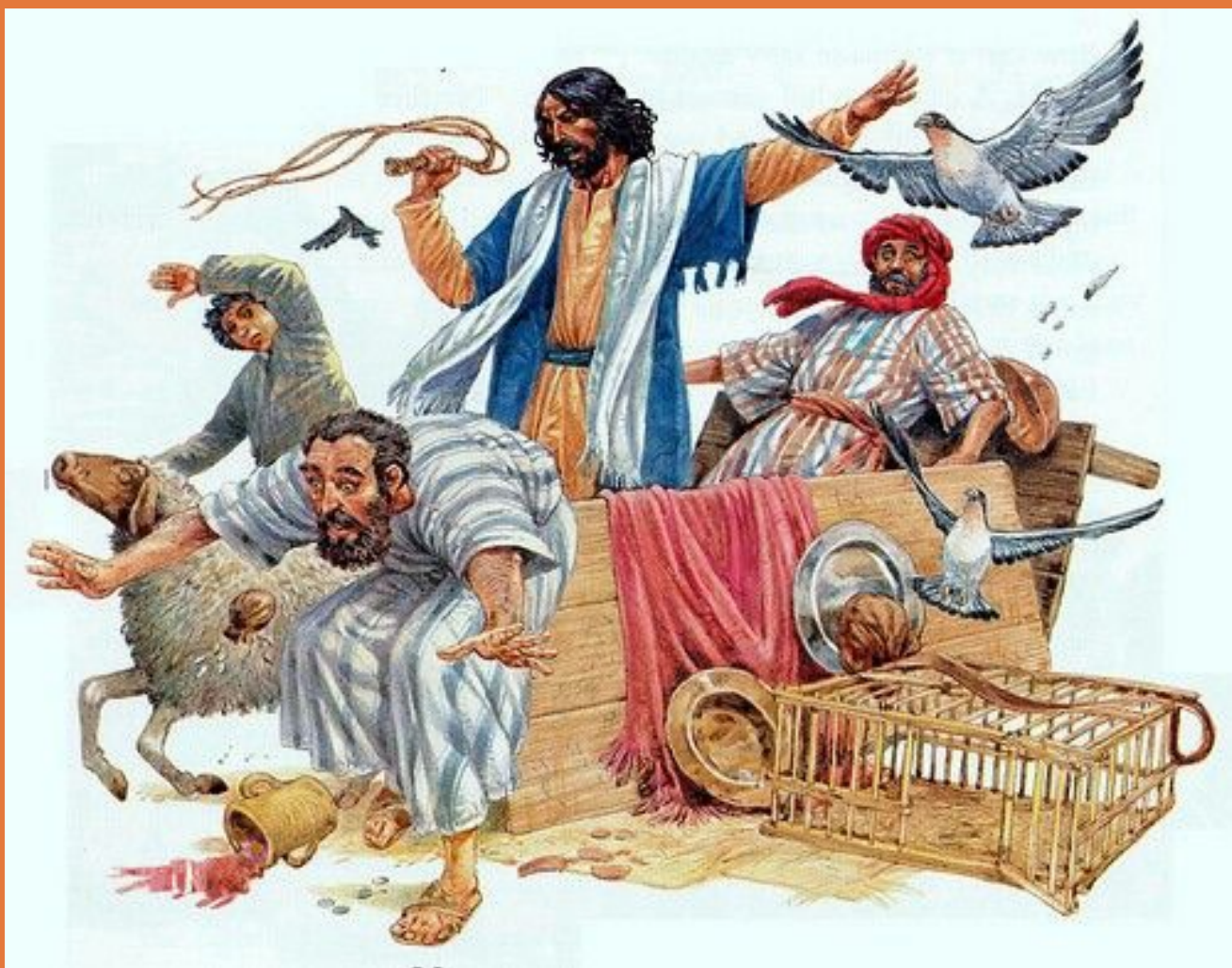
And that was counted to him as righteousness
from generation to generation forever.

Key Questions

Specifically - what did Phineas do right? And what did he do wrong?

When is it right to be consumed with the Lord's zeal; to take extreme action in ways that will be questioned and judged by forces of law and order?

How does this apply to us?



Isaiah 56:6 ff

"And the foreigners who join themselves to YHWH,
to minister to him, to love the name YHWH,
and to be his servants,

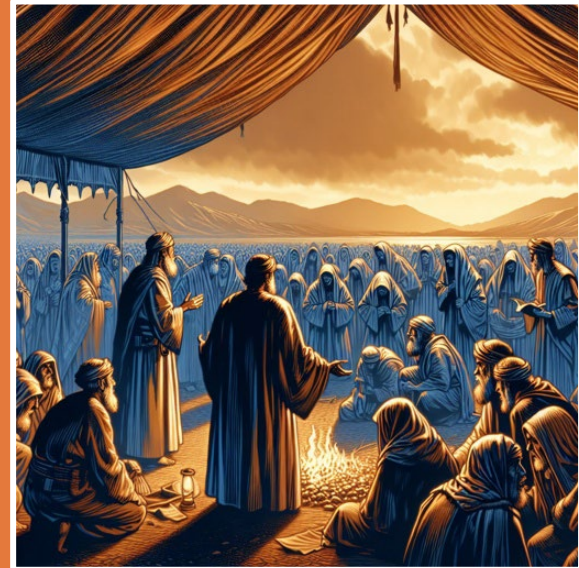
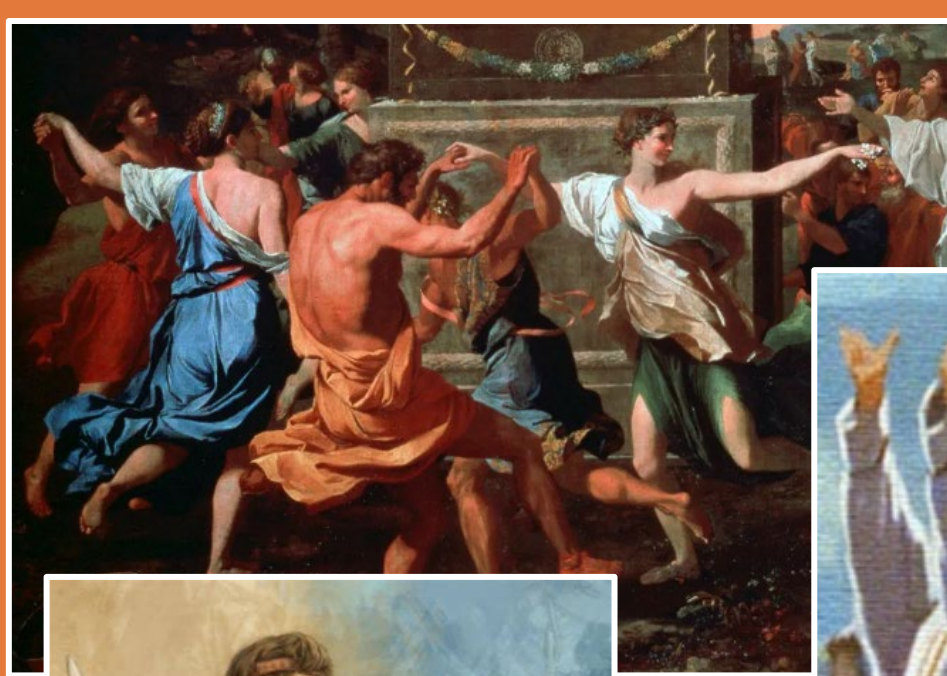
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant — these I will bring to my holy
mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my
altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

What did Phineas need most in his life?

Behold, **I give to him my covenant of peace**, and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel. -Numbers 25:12-13

**Of all the people
in this parashat, who do I
relate to the most?**



Our mission for ~~THIS~~ next week

What connections does this passage have to what came before and after it?

In what specific ways do I need a "covenant of peace" from our Father?

What idols have I yoked myself to?



**A skeleton . . .
in the closet?**



**A skeleton . . .
in the closet?**

Hide and seek?

Finding clothes?



Genesis 34:1-4

Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and . . .and treated her badly.

And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this girl for my wife.”

Genesis 34:5-8

Now Jacob heard that he had treated his daughter Dinah badly. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came. And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by treating Jacob's daughter badly, for such a thing must not happen.

But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son

Genesis 34:8-13

Shechem longs for your [plural] daughter. Please give her to him to be his wife! Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. You shall dwell with us, and the land shall be open to you. Dwell and trade in it, and get property in it.” Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, “Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. Ask me for as great a dowry and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife.” The sons of Jacob answered Shechem

Genesis 34:13-17

and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had insulted their sister Dinah. They said to them, “We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. Only on this condition will we agree with you - that you will become as we are by every male among you being circumcised. Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people. But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone.”

Genesis 34:18-21

Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor's son Shechem. And the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. Now he was the most honored of all his father's house. So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying, "These men are at peace with us; let them dwell in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters as wives, and let us give them our daughters."

Genesis 34:22-24

Only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us to become one people — when every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. Will not their livestock, their property and all their beasts be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us.” And all who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

Genesis 34:25-28

On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males. They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away. The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field.

Genesis 34:29-31

Then All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered.

Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household.” But they said, “Should he treat our sister like a hired woman [prostitute]?”



Genesis 33:18-20

BEFORE ch. 34

So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. . . .

And Jacob came peacefully to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent. There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel ["God, the God of Israel"].

Genesis 35:1-3

AFTER ch. 34

God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.” So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.”

Genesis 35:4-7

AFTER ch. 34

So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.

And as they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities that were around them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. And Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, and there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel [God of God's House], because there God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother.

Genesis 35:8-11

AFTER ch. 34

And Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So he called its name Allon-bacuth [Weeping Oak].

God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. And God said to him,

Genesis 35:11-15

AFTER ch. 34

“I am God Almighty [El Shaddai]: Be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.” Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him.

And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.



Would they
have
heard
and
felt
the
resonance?

**A skeleton . . .
in the closet**



The Levite & the Simeonite

- Immediately after a spiritual victory for Jacob
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-
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-
-
-
-

The Levite & the Simeonite

- Immediately after a spiritual victory for Jacob
- Enticement by neighboring women
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-
-
-

The Levite & the Simeonite

- Immediately after a spiritual victory for Jacob
 - Enticement by neighboring women
 - "In your face" sins of the flesh by "a prince"
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- -
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The Levite & the Simeonite

- Immediately after a spiritual victory for Jacob
- Enticement by neighboring women
- "In your face" sins of the flesh by "a prince"
- Bonding of one soul to another

The Levite & the Simeonite

- Immediately after a spiritual victory for Jacob
- Enticement by neighboring women
- "In your face" sins of the flesh by "a prince"
- Bonding of one soul to another
- Passivity of the leader
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The Levite & the Simeonite

- Immediately after a spiritual victory for Jacob
- Enticement by neighboring women
- "In your face" sins of the flesh by "a prince"
- Bonding of one soul to another
- Passivity of the leader
- Deceit
-
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-
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The Levite & the Simeonite

- Immediately after a spiritual victory for Jacob
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- "In your face" sins of the flesh by "a prince"
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- Passivity of the leader
- Deceit
- Violent slaughter
-
-

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- Violent slaughter
- Condoned (?) by God
- A hard stop on idol worship
- Covenant re-affirmation

Genesis 49:5-7

Simeon and Levi are brothers;
weapons of violence are their swords.

Let my soul come not into their council;
O my glory, be not joined to their company.

For in their anger they killed men,
and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen.

Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce,
and their wrath, for it is cruel!

I will divide them in Jacob
and scatter them in Israel.

What did Phineas need most in his life?

Behold, **I give to him my covenant of peace**, and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel. -Numbers 25:12-13





Genesis 35:2 ff



So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the **foreign gods** that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.



Genesis 31

**Jacob and
his family
flee Laban**

Genesis 31:17-20

So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac. Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father's household gods. And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee.

Genesis 31:21-24

He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the River [the Euphrates], and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead. When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled, he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days and followed close after him into the hill country of Gilead. But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, “Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.”

Genesis 31:25-28

And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead. And Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword? Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre? And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell?”

Genesis 31:28-31

Now you have done foolishly. It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your [plural] father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.' And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?" Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force."

Genesis 31:32-37

Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it.” Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them. ////
Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, “What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two.

. . .and Rachel
stole her father's
household gods.

And Jacob
tricked Laban
the Aramean . . .

—Gen. 31:19-20



...and Rachel
stole her father's
household gods.
And Jacob **stole**
the heart of
Laban the
Aramean . . .

—Gen. 31:19-20



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What idols have I yoked myself to?

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