

There Lacketh Not One Man Of Us

Nu 25:16 "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 17 Vex the Midianites, and smite them: 18 For they vex you with their wiles, wherewith they have beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Peor's sake."

We need several background scriptures to put together the picture that is opened in my mind this morning. Above; we see that God directed Israel; vex and smite the Midianites for causing Israel to turn to idolatry. In Numbers chapter 22: The elders of Moab and elders of Midian hired Balaam to curse Israel. God would not let Balaam curse his people Israel. We remember from our earlier study of the scripture; this, turning of Israel to idolatry, was the results from the secret council of Balaam, to Balak king of the Moabites, who taught Balak and the Midianites how to overcome Israel, through sexual perversion, which would cause them to turn to idolatry.

Let's now move forward to: ***Nu 31:1 "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites: afterward shalt thou be gathered unto thy people."*** Here; is a prophetic picture of what Christ Jesus would do in incarnation. God directs Moses to avenge Israel of the Midianites; then he is to die and be gathered to his people. Moses sent out the army and God gives them victory. They slay the five kings of Midian, and also Balaam, who was confederate with them.

Moses, as God's chosen leader over Israel, who represent God's chosen people, is representative of Christ Jesus. "God the Son" is God's chosen Saviour and leader over all of God's people. Jesus completed the work God gave him to do; when he died on the cross and returned to heaven.

Israel was given victory over the Midianites, and took much spoils of war from them. God directs Israel in the division of the spoils. God directs the amount to be given to those who went to war, and to those that didn't go to war. All of Israel receives a portion. God also directs how much each one of Israel is to give of their portion unto the Lord. After they have divided the spoils of war, we see in: ***Nu 31:48-49; 48 "And the officers which were over thousands of the host, the captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds, came near unto Moses: 49 And they said unto Moses, Thy servants have taken the sum of the men of war which are under our charge, and there lacketh not one man of us."***

The officers and captains over the armies of Israel come to Moses and declare: of all the men that went to war against the Midianites, not one is missing. This is indeed a miraculous victory and demonstration of God's mighty power, and we are humbled at the workings of our God. They, therefore, with reverence bring free will offerings of thanks to God, which are laid up for a memorial for Israel. Can you see the prophetic picture; of the ministers of the gospel of Christ Jesus, proclaiming the good news of salvation to God's people? They recognize; Christ has wrought the victory; and they bring forth their free will offerings; of praise, and glory, and reverence to victorious Christ Jesus.

What I want to convey to you today is this picture. The Midianites, and Balaam (who secretly taught the Midianites what to do to overthrow Israel), are a picture of mankind in their dead and alienated, and idolatrous nature. Balaam is a picture of Satan, the chief councilor of all lies and of a lost and dying world. They are still busy; tempting God's people to turn from God to idolatry.

The prophetic picture I want you to see is this: Just as Israel went to battle against the Midianites at God's command; so the church, God's born again people, is at war with the world of sin and temptation in which we live. The world is busy giving out the secret council of Balaam in their attempt to overthrow the church.

However, even with all this idolatrous council and temptation, from Satan and the world; we are serving in the army of God Almighty, under the leadership of Christ Jesus who is preserving us; seen in:

- ***Mt 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."***
- We have further confirmation of this from Jesus in: ***Joh 10:5; 2 "But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. 4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. 5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers."***
- ***Joh 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"***

We understand that it is not possible for the idolatrous councils to finally overcome God's chosen people. We may stumble and fall here on earth, but we will be delivered and return to God.

God's people are at war with sin and satan, at God's command. Just as the Midianites, and Balaam, were destroyed by Israel; so at the end of time; Satan and all his followers will be destroyed. When the warfare is over, at the end of time, the church will be victorious through the work of Christ Jesus. When the tally of God's people is taken, there will not be one missing.

God's chosen people are secure, both in time and eternity, in the finished work of Christ Jesus, seen in: ***Joh 6:37-39; 37 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."*** How are God's people, who are saved by grace, kept in this world of sin and sorrow? When a child of God is born again; they are given eternal life and thus they never die.

How many of Israel stayed behind, when God brought Israel out of Egypt? Not one of them was missing. We rejoice to know that Jesus said; ***"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me;"*** and ***"of them which thou gavest me have I lost none."*** Again we see the security of the born again believer.

We are told in: ***1Th 4:16-18; 16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*** Today, we can comfort one another with this knowledge of God's truth; in the eternal day it shall be said; ***"and there lacketh not one man of us."*** This should cause all of God's people, to give thanks and praise to God, and Christ, every day of our lives, as seen in: ***Isa 12:6 "Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee."*** Hallelujah! Amen!