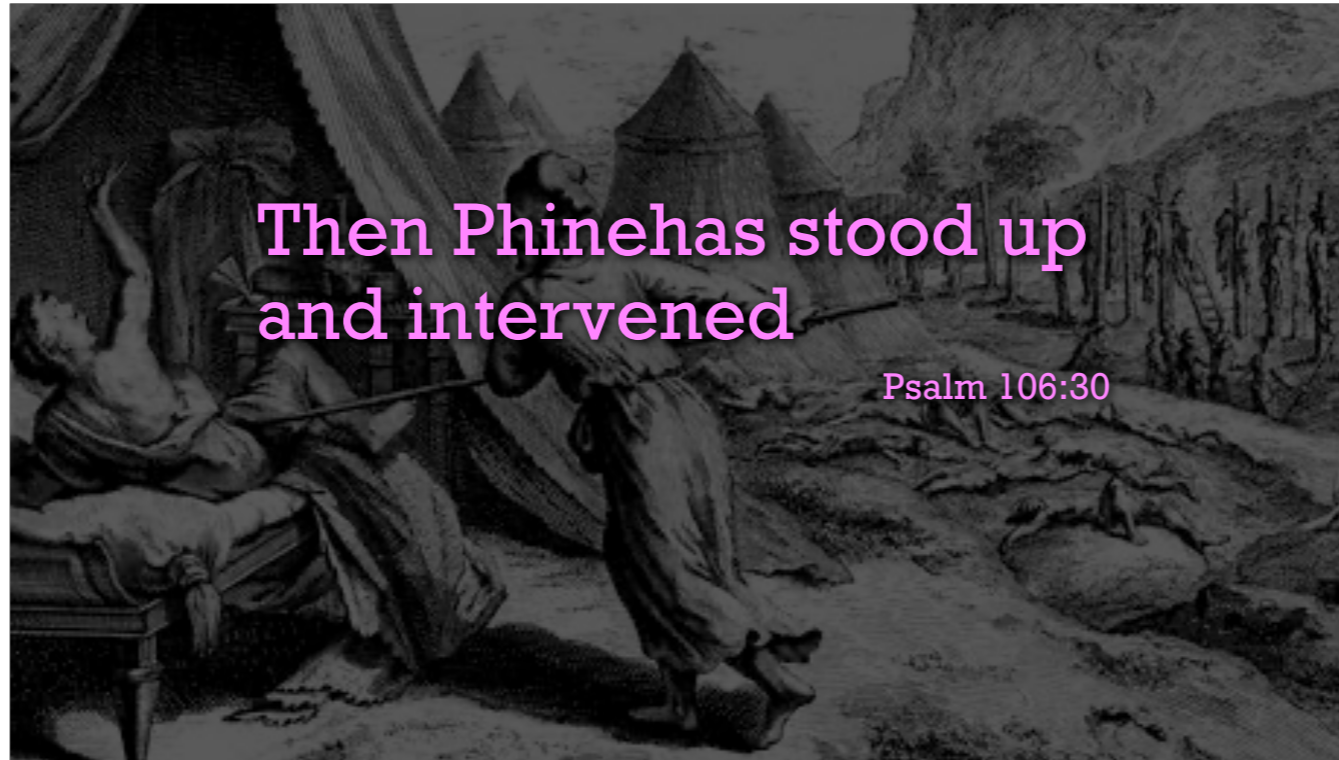


BE ZEALOUS LIKE PHINEHAS

Numbers 25 & Joshua 22

he manifested such zeal  
for My sake among them  
Numbers 25:11 (NET)

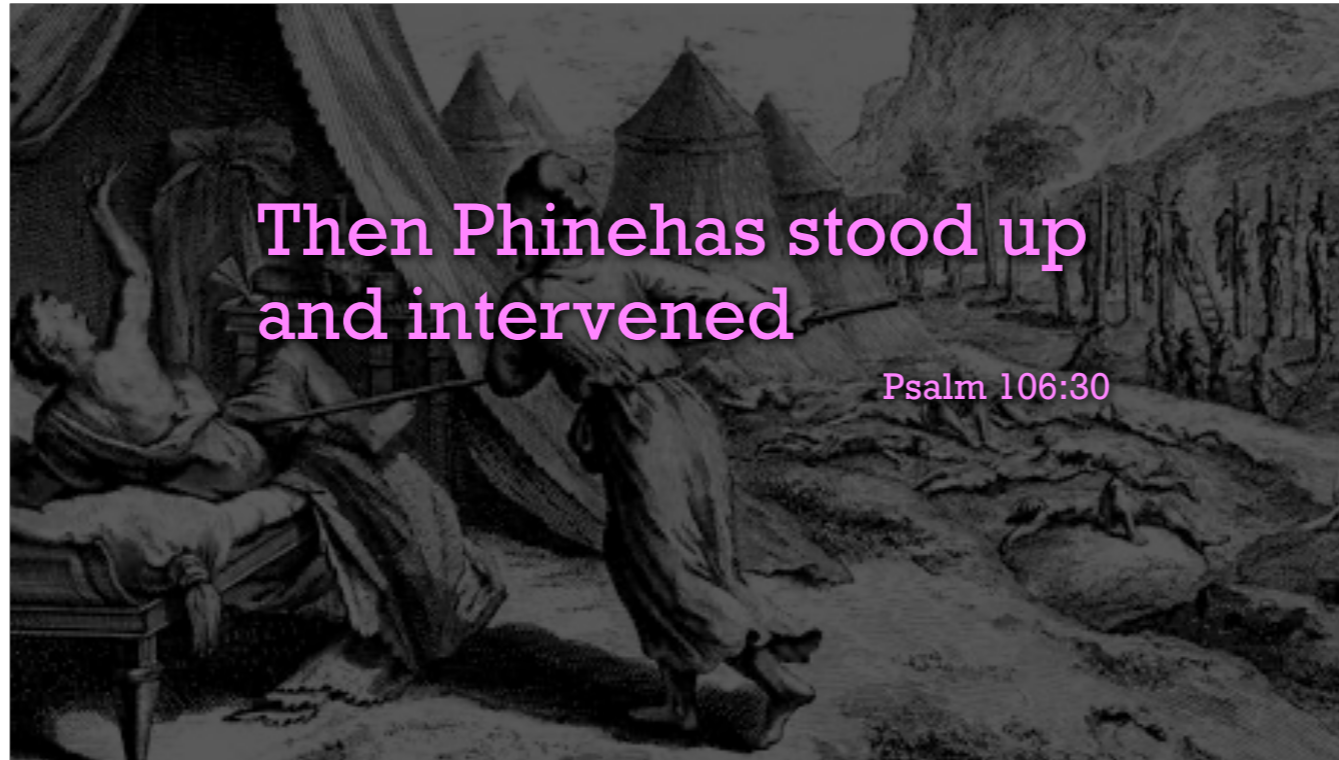
- Numbers 25:11 (NET) 11 “Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites, when he manifested such zeal for my sake among them, so that I did not consume the Israelites in my zeal.



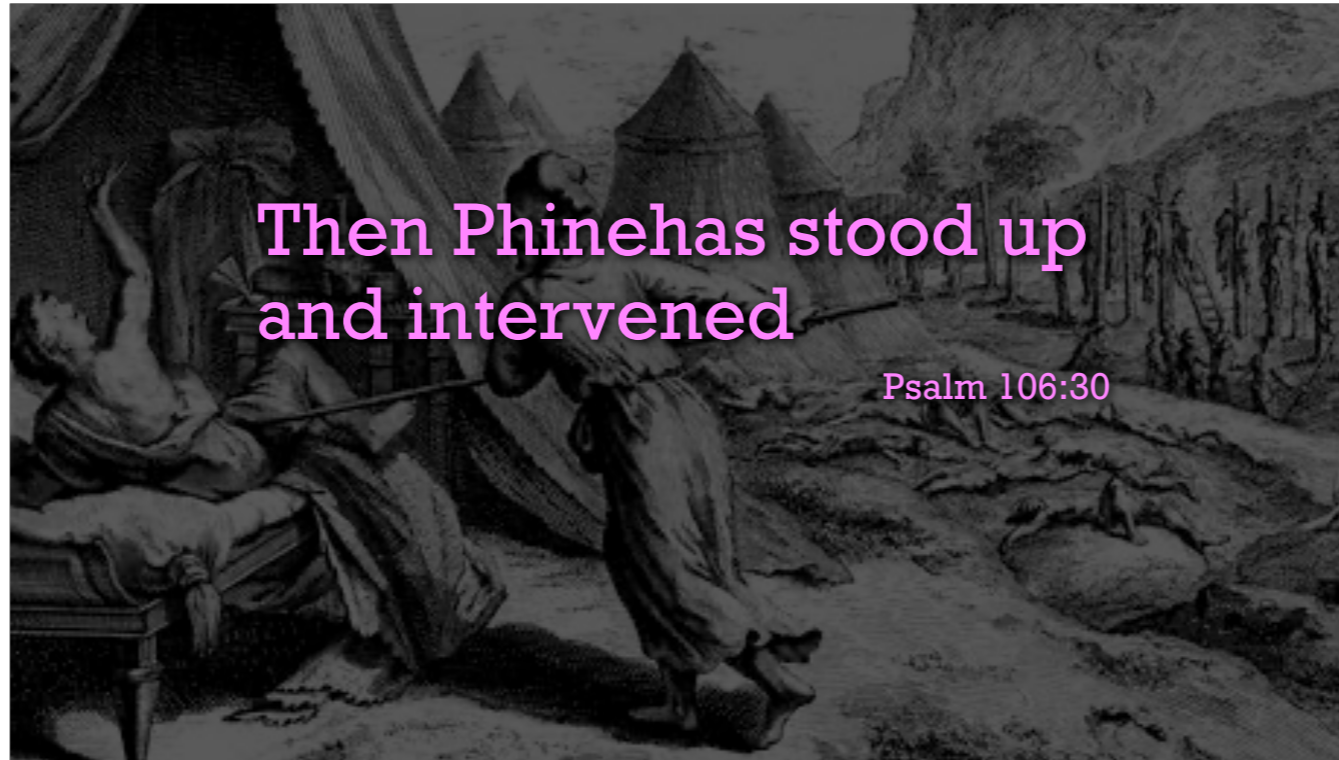
Then Phinehas stood up  
and intervened

Psalm 106:30

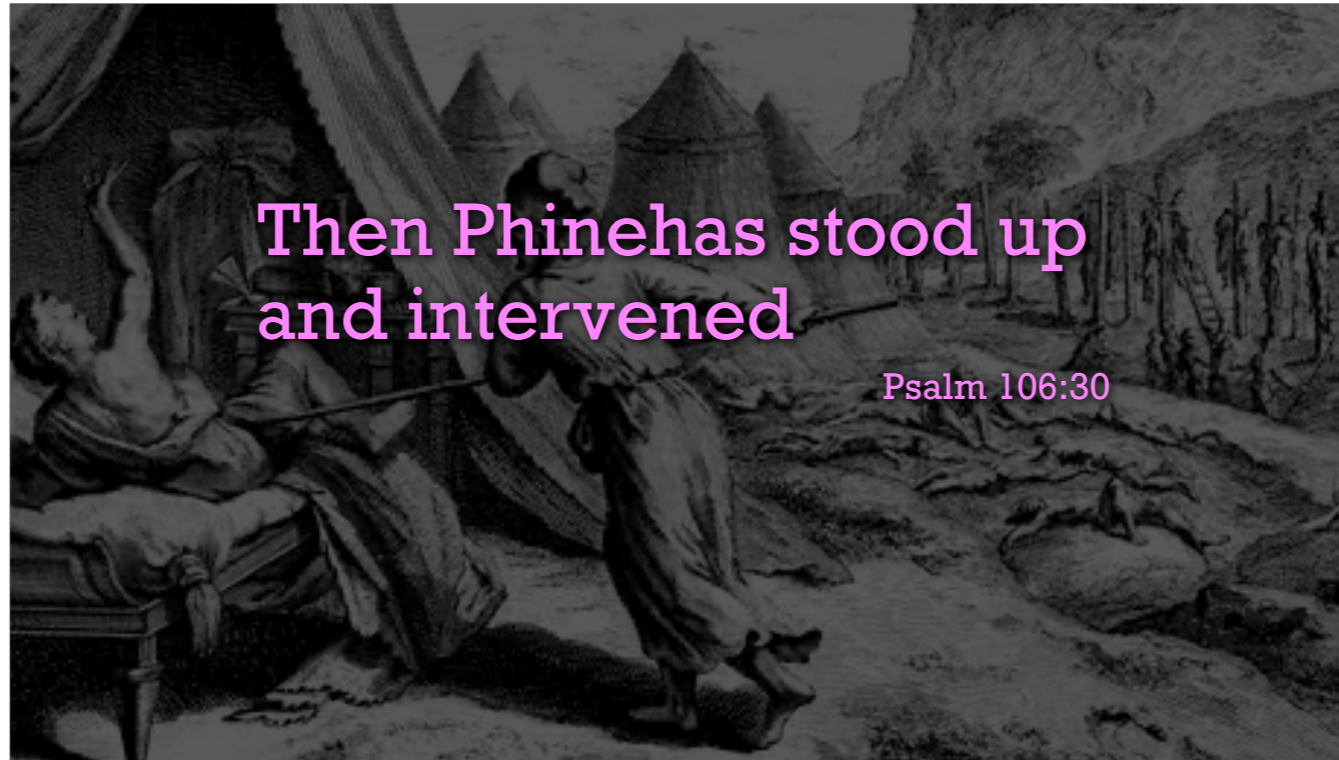
- People of Israel are traveling to promised land, nearing the end of their 40 years of wandering
- Approaching Moab, Balak the king and the people fear greatly. Send for Balaam to curse, but he blesses.
- Balaam provides another solution: idolatry and sexual immorality



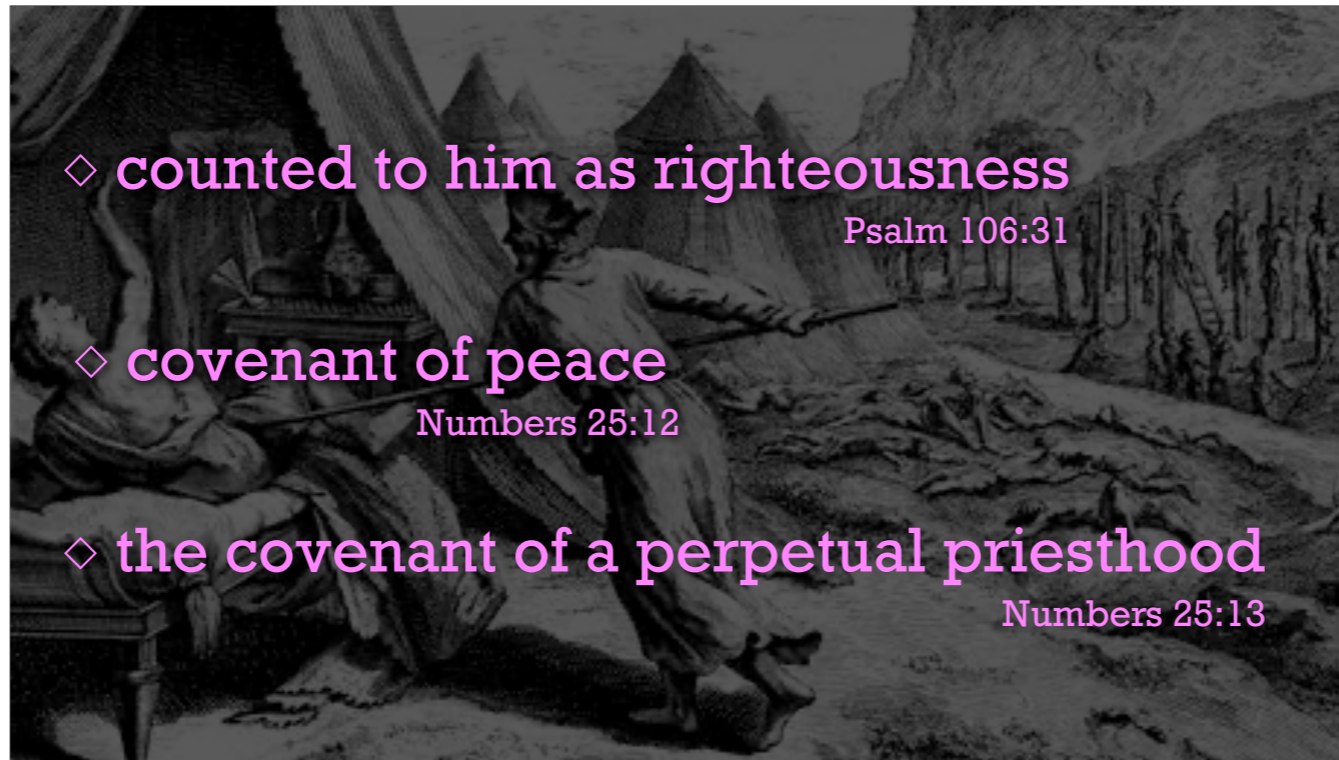
- So Israel gave into the temptations of the Moabites
  - “yoked themselves to Baal of Peor” (Psalm 106:28)
  - “ate sacrifices offered to the dead” (Psalm 106:28)
- Jehovah angered at their infidelity and sin and sends a plague against his people.
- Moses commands the judges of Israel to kill all those who are yoked to Baal (Numbers 25:5) [to stop the plague, presumably]



- At the Tabernacle, the people are weeping for their sins.
  - An Israelite married man named Zimri, brings a Moabite woman to his tent right in front of everyone, flaunting God's laws and his anger and the plague



- Phinehas grabs a spear and kills the man and woman in the tent.
  - “stood up and intervened” (Psalm 106:30)
- Plague stops



◇ counted to him as righteousness

Psalm 106:31

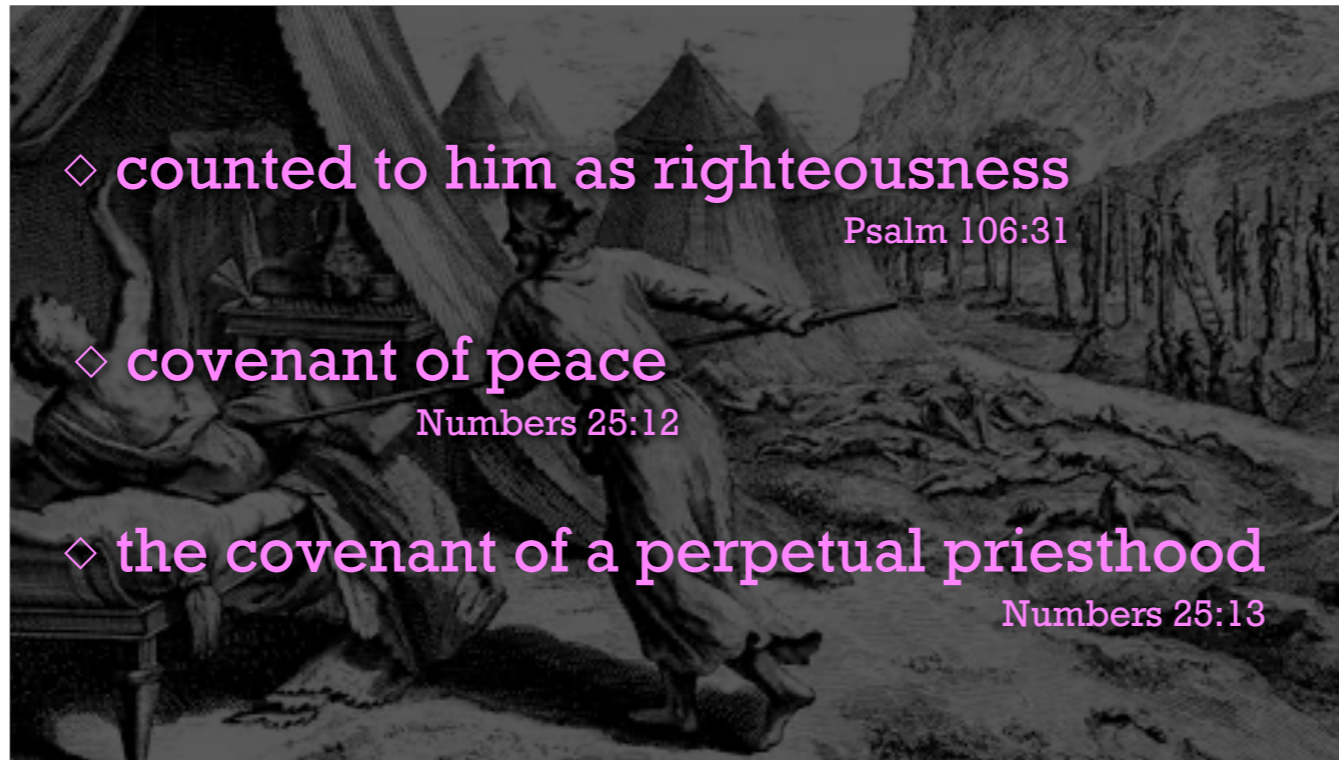
◇ covenant of peace

Numbers 25:12

◇ the covenant of a perpetual priesthood

Numbers 25:13

- Phinehas is commended by God. (10-13)
  - counted as righteousness (Psalm 106:31)
  - covenant of peace
  - perpetual priesthood



◇ counted to him as righteousness

Psalm 106:31

◇ covenant of peace

Numbers 25:12

◇ the covenant of a perpetual priesthood

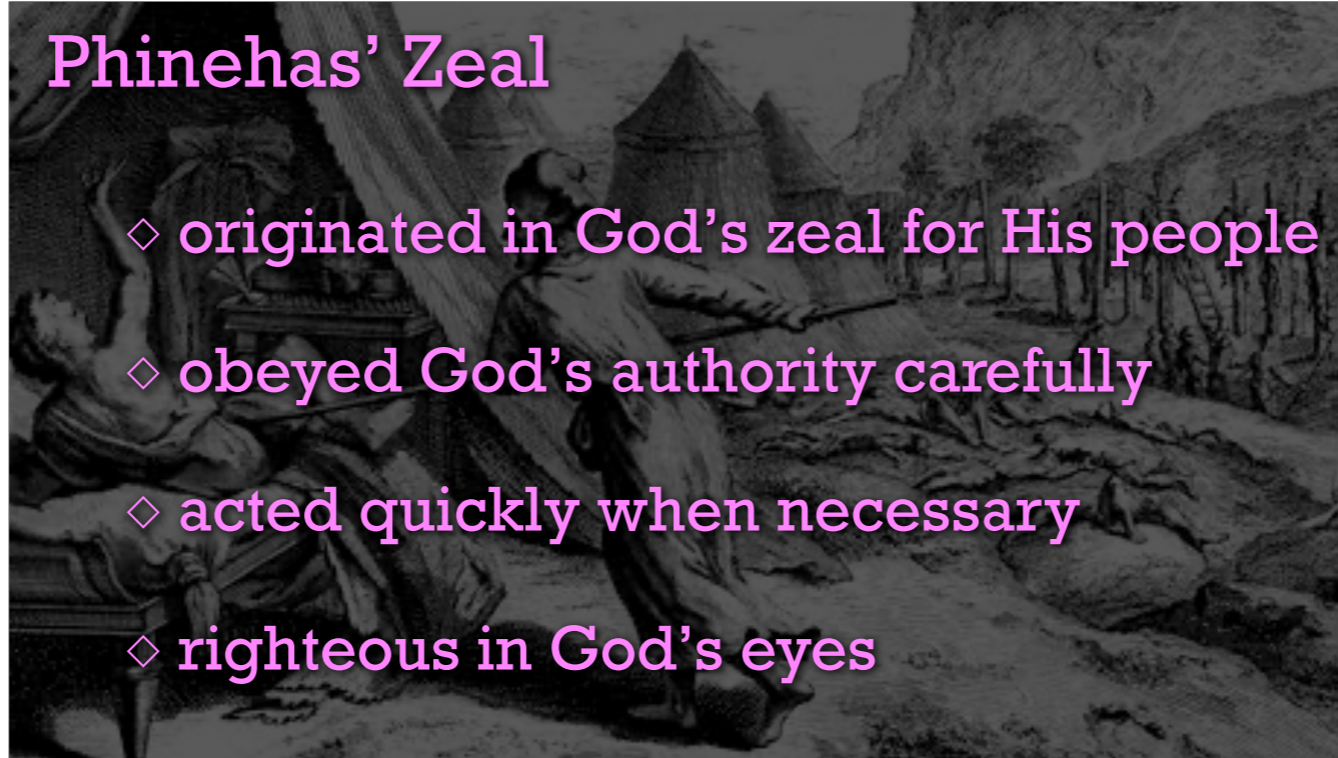
Numbers 25:13

- God commends Phinehas' zeal.
  - Thus, we learn that Phinehas' zeal is not only approved by God, but that it pleased God



## Phinehas' Zeal

- ◇ originated in God's zeal for His people
- ◇ obeyed God's authority carefully
- ◇ acted quickly when necessary
- ◇ righteous in God's eyes



- Understanding Phinehas' Zeal
  - It originated in God's zeal for his people.
  - It obeyed God's authority carefully.
  - It acted when necessary, quickly.
  - It was righteous in God's eyes.
  -

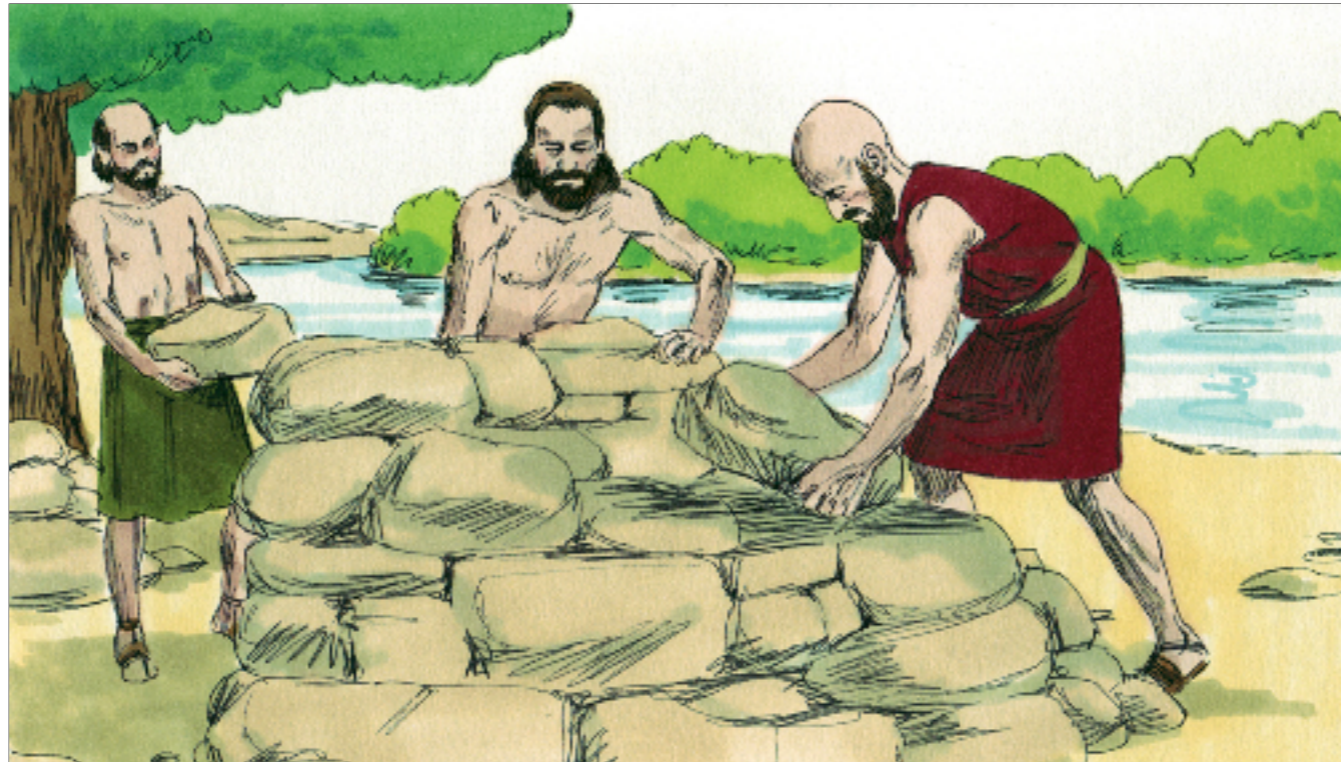
# More about Phinehas' Zeal



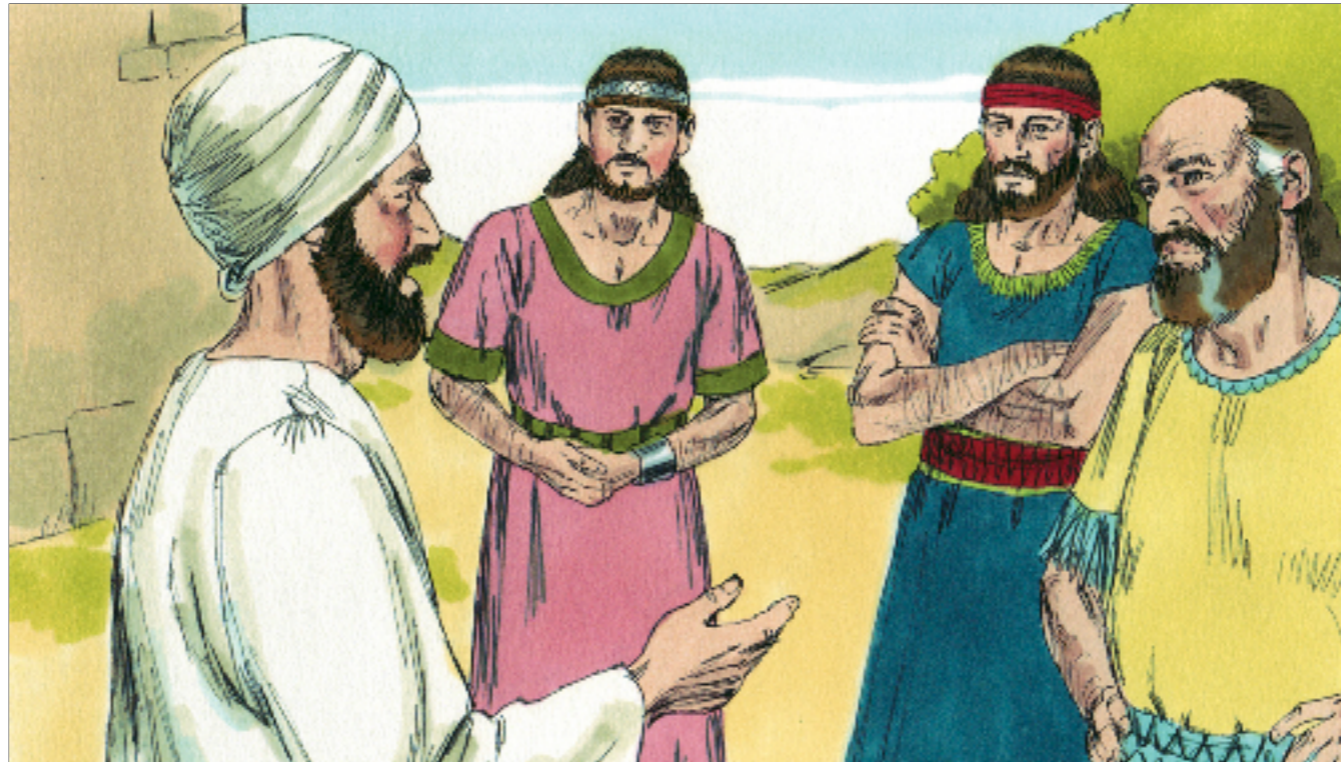
- More learning from Phinehas' zeal: Joshua 22



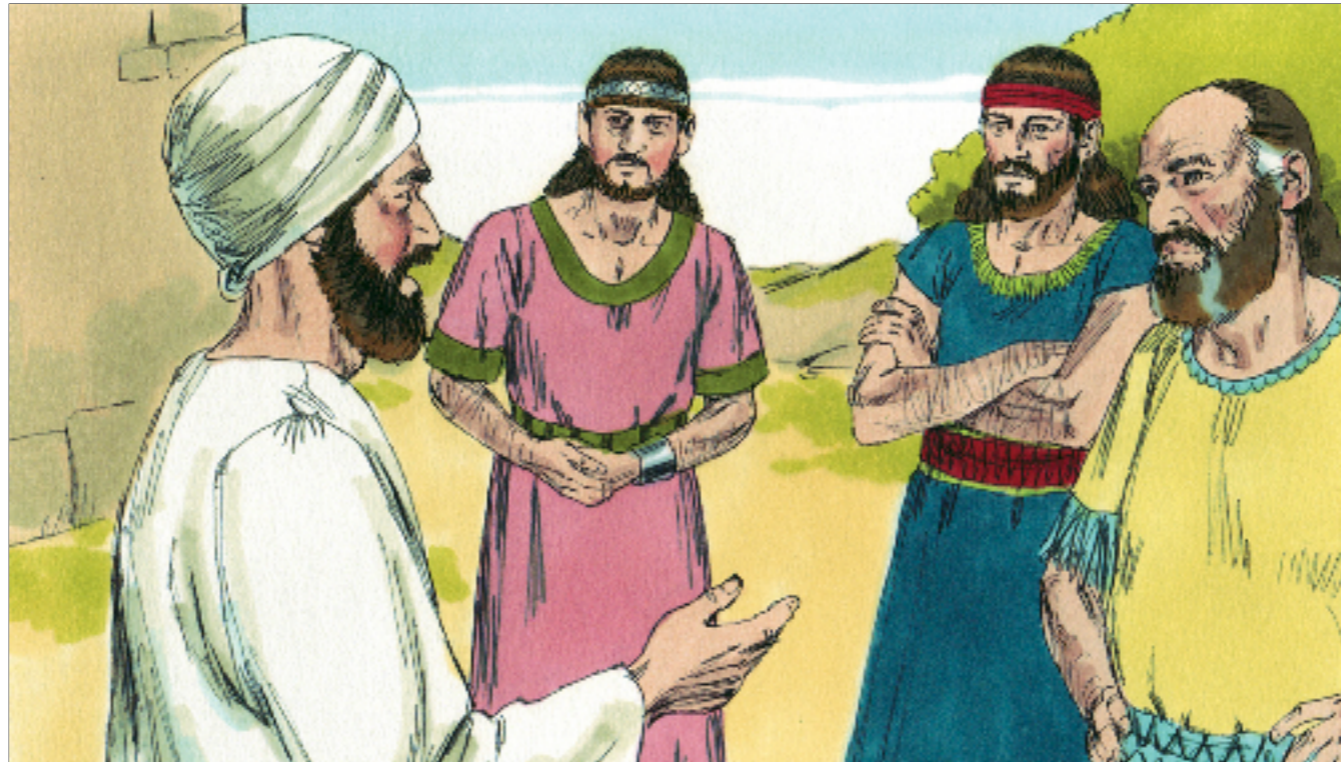
- When the eastern tribes of Israel had finished helping the western tribes take the land that God had promised, Joshua dismissed them to God home, with several admonitions (5)
  - be very careful to observe the commandment and the law
  - to love Jehovah your God
  - to walk in all his ways
  - to keep his commandments
  - to cling to Him
  - to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul



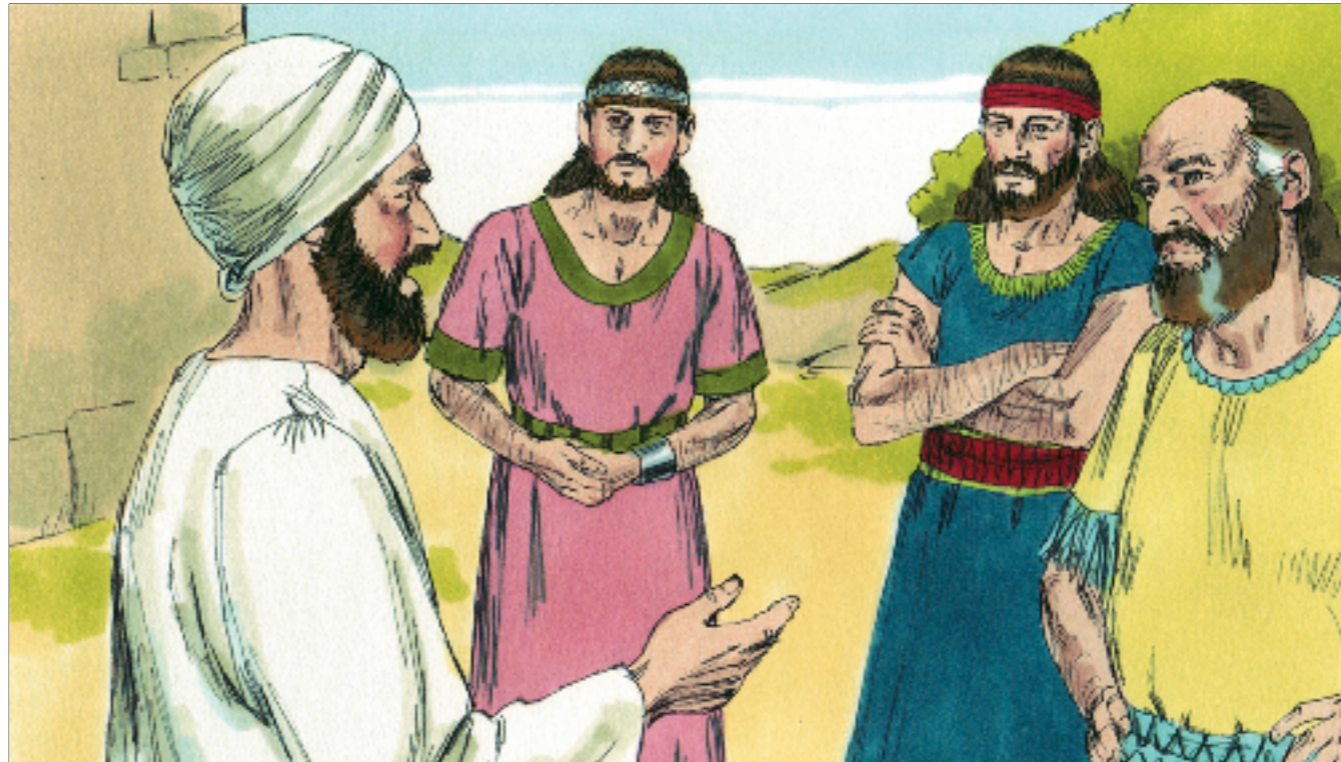
- Joshua 22:10 (ESV) 10 And when they came to the region of the Jordan that is in the land of Canaan, the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by the Jordan, an altar of imposing size.



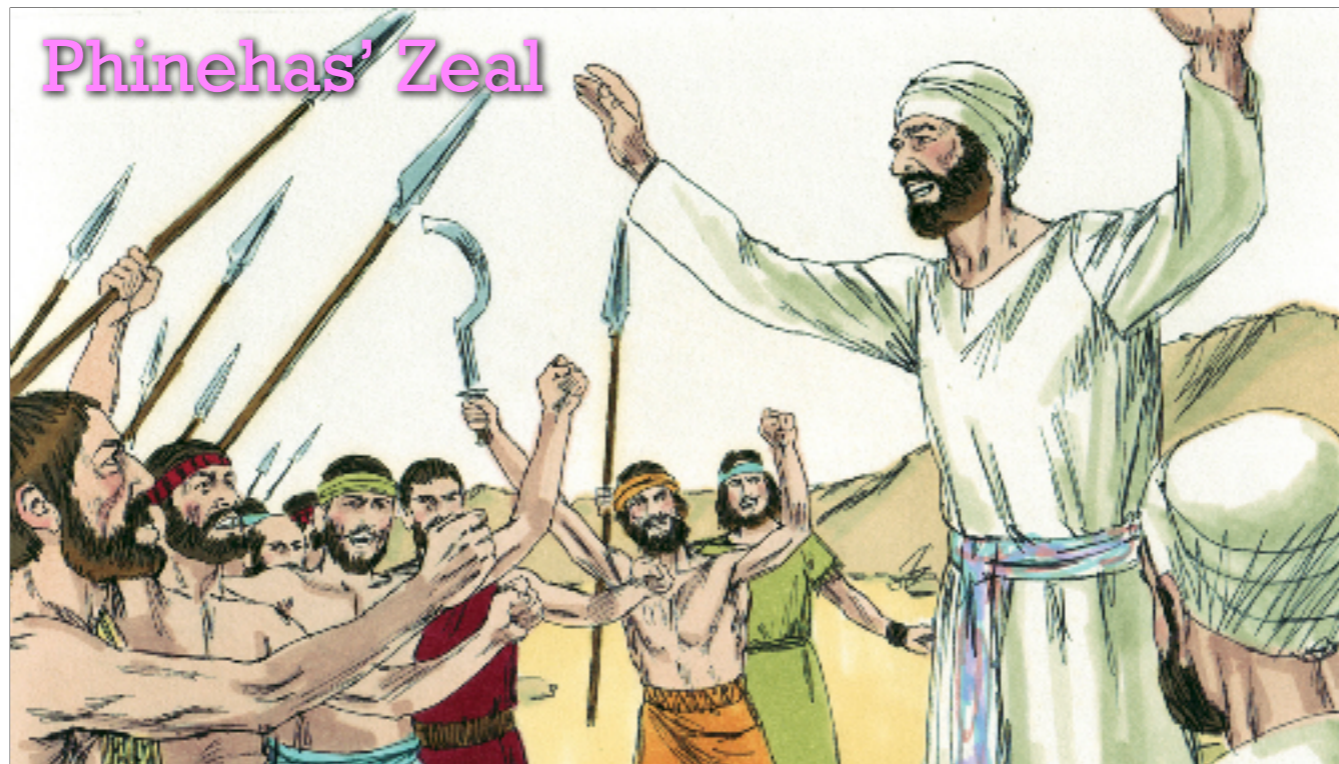
- Joshua 22:12 (ESV) 12 And when the people of Israel heard of it, the whole assembly of the people of Israel gathered at Shiloh to make war against them.
  - Phinehas gathers Western tribes to go to war (with ten chiefs)
    - Accused of breach of faith (16)
      - built an altar in rebellion to Jehovah
      - sin at Peor? Achan perish alone?
      - Turn this day from following Jehovah? 18
    - Offered solution (19)
      - If land unclean, join us
    - Don't rebel against Jehovah. Don't make us rebels.



- Eastern tribes Answer (22-29)
  - If rebelling or breaching faith, don't spare us for building altar to turn away from following Jehovah
  - Or if to offer burnt offerings, Jehovah take vengeance himself
  - Did it from fear (24)
    - your children would claim that our children are not Israelites
    - built altar, not for sacrifice or burnt offerings but for witness between us
    - far be it from us to rebel or turn away from Jehovah.



- Phinehas responds (30-31)
  - Good in their eyes
  - We know that Jehovah is in our midst
  - Not committed breach of faith
  - You have delivered people

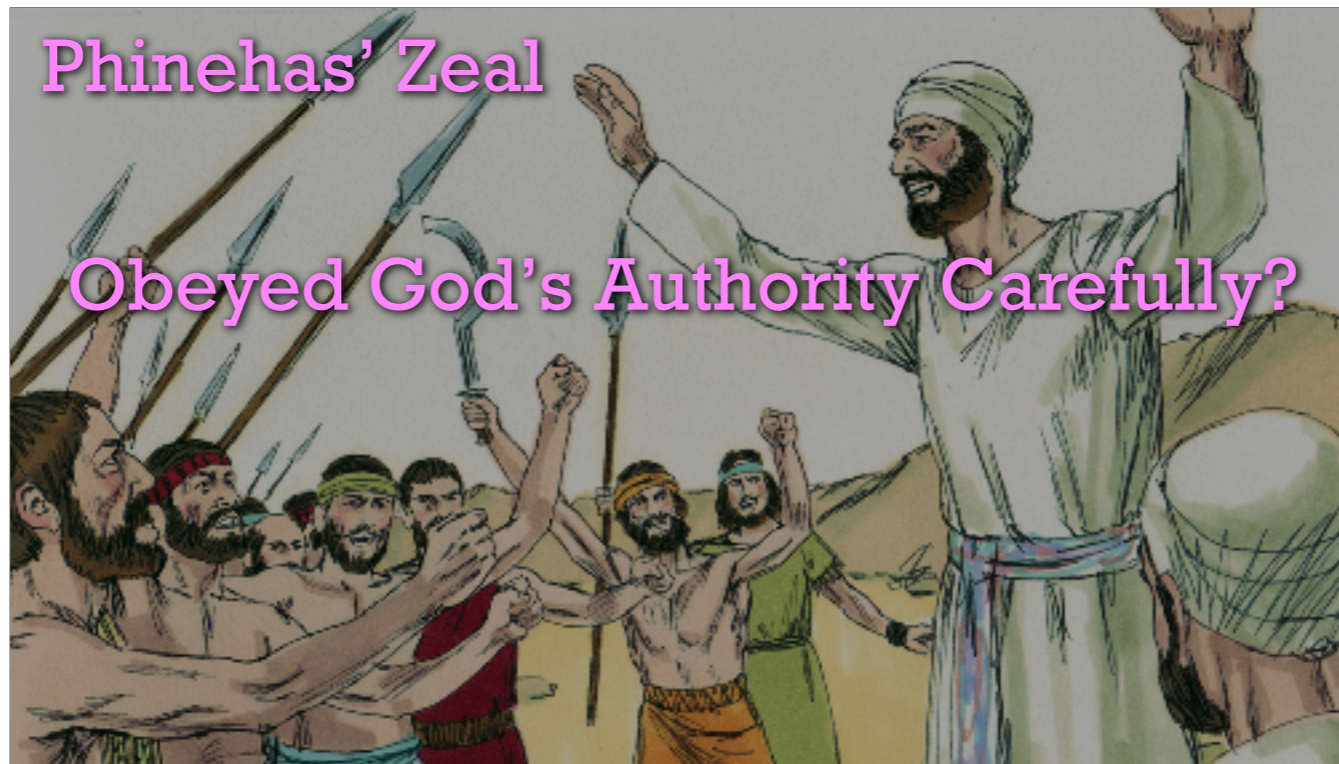


- What of Phinehas' zeal?





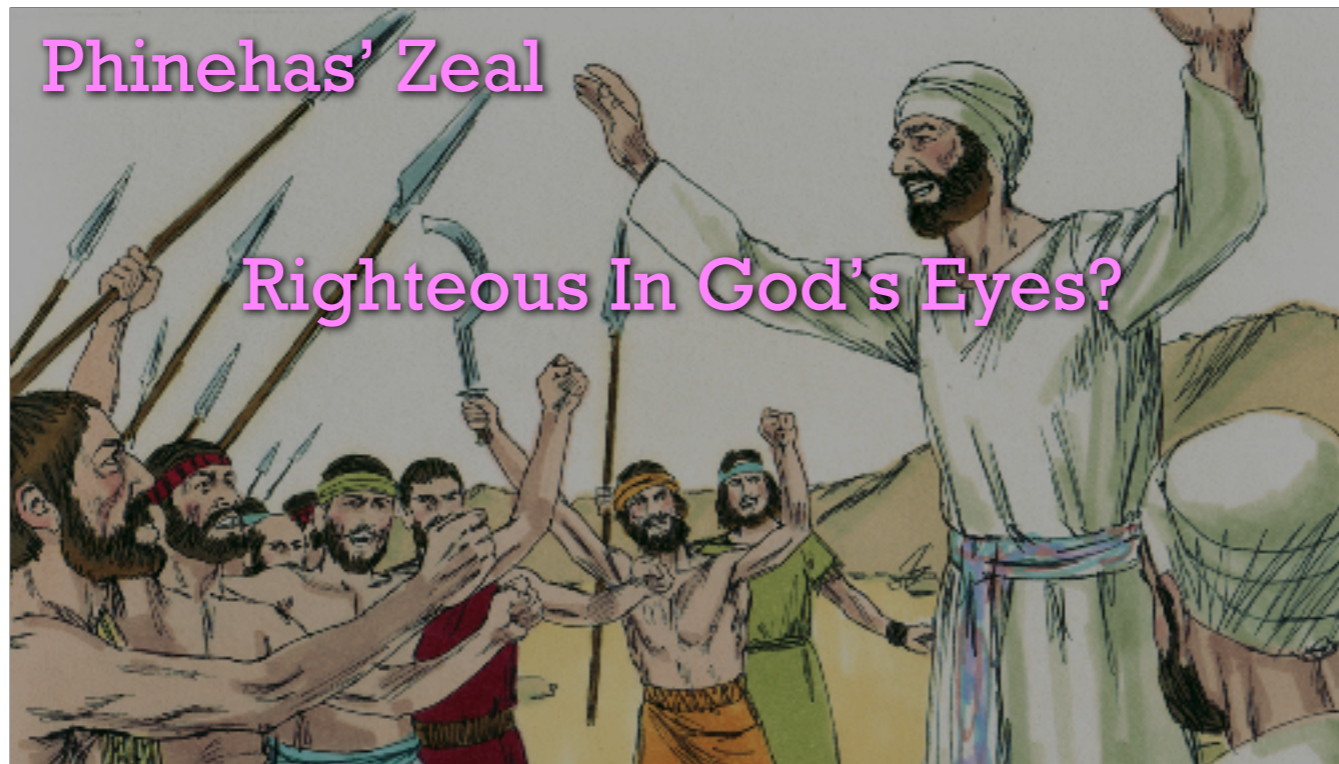
- God's zeal for his people?
  - Building an altar implied it was either for a false god or improper worship (not at the tabernacle): sin, rebellion, forsaking God
  - The sin would be judged by God against all the people of Israel



- Obeyed God's authority carefully?
  - Deuteronomy 17:2-7 (ESV)
  - 3 and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have forbidden,
  - 4 and it is told you and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently,
  - and if it is true and certain that such an abomination has been done in Israel,
  - 5 then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil thing,
  - and you shall stone that man or woman to death with stones.



- Acted quickly when necessary?
  - Phinehas gathered army, confronted eastern tribes.
  - He was clear about the concerns.
  - He let them answer and he listened carefully
  - He was prepared but was not impetuous, just attacking.
  - Nor did he presume that he understood everything just from the rumors he had heard.



- Righteous in God's eyes?
  - Yes.
  - Prepared to deal with sin as clearly authorized by God.
  - But listened to be sure sin had actually occurred.
  - Offered a reasonable solution.
  - He was not "out of control" or in a rage.



- We must not confuse zealousness with being out of control or acting beyond God's Authority.

## Zeal is not a license for violence.

- Not advocating violence or an excuse for violence.
  - Some have used the example of Phinehas killing Zimri as permission to kill anyone who they claim is in sin.
- Gospel is power of God to salvation.
  - If we are zealous against sin, like Phinehas, then we must be zealous to preach the Word.
  - Our weapon is not a spear, but the Word of God.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## Be Zealous Like Phinehas

Numbers 25 and Joshua 22

Synopsis: Phinehas is commended by God for his zealous action done in righteousness. In this lesson we see that his zeal originated with God's zeal for his people, obeyed God's authority carefully, acted quickly when necessary, and was righteous in God's eyes. We are also reminded Phinehas' zeal is not a license for violence as it has often been misappropriated.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**