

a man missing from us. ⁵⁰ And *we have brought the Lord's offering*, what each man found, articles of gold, ..., *to make **atonement** for ourselves* before the Lord.”

2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, that our *God may **make you worthy of his calling*** and *may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,* ¹² *so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him,* according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:3–5

³ We ought always to *give thanks to God* for you, brothers, as is right, *because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.* ⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for *your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions* that you are enduring. ⁵ This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered *worthy of the kingdom of God*, for which you are also suffering—

Application Points:

- ✓ Israel Deserved the Same Judgment
- ✓ Israel Received Mercy and Blessing

Key Gospel Connection

We deserve God's righteous wrath but are instead being treasured by God as His precious bride!

Review Questions:

1. Why was Israel supposed to “harass the Midianites”?
2. Why was God so mad at the Midianite women?
3. Why specifically was God going to afflict the people mentioned in 2 Thess. 1:6?
4. What are the three blessings God provides for Israel in Numbers 31?
5. How does the plundering of Midian show God's Justice?
6. How does the distribution of the plunder show God's equity?
7. What was the best blessing Israel received? (As illustrated by the warrior's response)
8. How does this help us with our perspective toward our salvation?
9. In what way does God make us “worthy of our calling”?

¹ Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#41 in Series] (Numbers 26–36) *A Heart Turned Towards the Inheritance: Part 11, God's Jealous Love for His Bride* – Numbers 31

Sermon Outline – April 3, 2016

Children's Sermon: God Hates Sinners!

Is this true? “God hates the sin not the sinner.”

Psalm 5:5–6

⁵ The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; *you hate all evildoers.*

⁶ You destroy those who speak lies; *the Lord abhors* the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. (Who will be throne into the lake of fire?)

There is one place sin is separated from a sinner...

Ephesians 2:3–5

...*we all* once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and *were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.* ⁴ **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, *made us alive together with Christ*—by grace you have been saved—

Review: God's Vengeance

Notes:

- ✓ **God's Hates Our Rebellion** (enough to send us to Hell)
- ✓ **God's Righteous Vengeance Explains the Cross**
- ✓ **No Personal Vengeance is Required or Permitted**
- ✓ **God's Love is a Result of His Own Glorious Character** (not our own inherent loveliness)

Today's Main Idea

God's election of Israel as his bride means that he will jealously love, protect and provide for her.

Enemy of My Bride is My Enemy!

The LORD's Righteous Jealousy

Numbers 25:16–18

¹⁶ And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁷ “*Harass the Midianites and strike them down,* ¹⁸ *for they have harassed you with their wiles,* with which they beguiled you in the matter of Peor...”

What would you do if someone attacked your wife?!
Or, what do you think your dad would do if someone
tried to hurt you?!

¹ The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² “**Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites...**

¹⁵ Moses said to them, “***Have you let all the women live?...***

2 Thessalonians 1:4–6

...we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. ⁵ This is evidence of **the righteous judgment of God**, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— ⁶ since indeed **God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you...**

Application Point: God’s love for us is demonstrated by his wrath against our enemies. (Saul – Acts 9:4; Jews AD 70; Lake of Fire)

Relief & Blessing for God’s Bride

2 Thessalonians 1:7–10

⁷ and **to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us**, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, **inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** ⁹ ***They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,*** ¹⁰ when he comes on that day ***to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed,*** because our testimony to you was believed.

God Provides Cleansing for His Bride

¹⁹ **Encamp outside the camp seven days.** Whoever of you has killed any person and whoever has touched any slain, **purify yourselves and your captives on the third day and on the seventh day.** ²⁰ You shall purify every garment, every article of skin, all work of goats’ hair, and every article of wood.” (Sin offering in a bottle)

Application Point: Even righteous holy war defiles. God does not delight in killing. Death defiles and should never be glorified.

Ezekiel 18:23 (NIV84)

Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. **Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?**

Application Point: God is our most valuable treasure!

Ephesians 5:25–27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, ***having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,*** ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Key Refection

Even while God’s love is exclusively directed toward his people, all people are invited to join.

God Makes Israel’s Enemies into a Blessing!

²⁵ The Lord said to Moses, ²⁶ “***Take the count of the plunder*** that was taken, both of man and of beast, you and Eleazar the priest and the heads of the fathers’ houses of the congregation, ²⁷ and **divide the plunder** into two parts between the warriors who went out to battle and all the congregation.

Application Points:

- ✓ God’s Justice
- ✓ God’s Victory...God’s Plunder
- ✓ God’s Generosity & Rewards
 - The LORD’s Portion: Priests & Levites...
 - The Entire Congregation (All benefit in God’s victory)
 - The 12,000 Warriors (God rewards his chosen warriors)

“In terms of the sheep... the soldiers might expect twenty-eight animals each, whereas the remaining members of the community would average roughly 0.56 animals per adult male.”ⁱ

The Best Blessing is Perspective: Humility & Gratitude

⁴⁹ and said to Moses, “Your servants have counted the men of war who are under our command, and **there is not**