

Num 25:1-13 *While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods. So Israel joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them. The LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the LORD's fierce anger may turn away from Israel." So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your men who have joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor." Then an Israelite man brought to his family a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. When Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, saw this, he left the assembly, took a spear in his hand and followed the Israelite into the tent. He drove the spear through both of them--through the Israelite and into the woman's body. Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.*

The LORD said to Moses, "Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites; for he was as zealous as I am for my honor among them, so that in my zeal I did not put an end to them. Therefore tell him I am making my covenant of peace with him. He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God and made atonement for the Israelites."

NIVBC note to v6 The wording of v6 is somewhat problematic. Perhaps it is best read: "Then a certain Israelite man brought the Midianite woman to the Tent [of God] right before the eyes of Moses and the eyes of all the congregation of Israel; and they were sporting at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting." The last phrase in the NIV indicates that it was Moses and the congregation of Israel who were "weeping" (GK H1134; see below) at the entrance to the holy precincts. No doubt the outrage of the events might have driven Moses and pious persons to weep and to beg God for forgiveness. It seems to me, however, that the subject of the verb "weeping" is not Moses and the congregation but the sinning Israelite and his Midianite partner. The focus is on them, not Moses. What they did was to engage in a sexual embrace in the manner of Baal worship, before Moses, at the entrance of the holy Tent of God!

What I am suggesting is that the author made a deliberate substitution of an opposite word, "weeping," to connote "caressing," an unusual form of euphemism to stress the heightened enormity of this act. They are not weeping; they are engaged in delirious love-making (cf. Ge 26:8; Ex 32:6). The contempt for the holy things and the word of the Lord shown by Zimri and his Midianite lover, Cozbi (v15), is unimaginable. In joining the sexual frenzies of the sacrificial feasts of Baal, the man and his partner act to transform the worship of the Lord into the type of sexual rites that were the mode of Canaan. Had this outrage not been stopped, there could never have been true worship in the Holy Place again.

The person is identified in the Hebrew as "the Midianite woman" which suggests that she was a person of prominence. Perhaps she was the high priestess of the religion at Baal Peor. While priests were always male in Israel, priests could be women in the pagan religions that surrounded Israel. In fact, the sexually-centered religions would have catered to women in their priesthood. Perhaps this is the principal reason that Israel had no women priests. The brazenness of these two made them not just sinners but an abomination to the Lord.

Verse 8 says that Phinehas pursued the couple into the "vaulted canopy" (NIV, "tent"). It is possible that the term refers to some canopy at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting and that the couple were not actually in the Most Holy Place. That Phinehas pierced through both of them indicates that the knife or spear could not have been little and that tremendous force would have been needed to plunge the knife or spear through both bodies. The staying of the plague indicates that this was not just an outrageous instance of debauchery, but likely the couple were the instigators of the pagan rites!

1 Chr 9:17-23 *The gatekeepers being stationed at the King's Gate on the east, up to the present time. These were the gatekeepers belonging to the camp of the Levites. Shallum son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his fellow gatekeepers from his family (the Korahites) were responsible for guarding the thresholds of the Tent [ie. the Temple] just as their fathers had been responsible for guarding the entrance to the dwelling of the LORD. In earlier times Phinehas son of Eleazar was in charge of the gatekeepers, and the LORD was with him.... The gatekeepers had been assigned to their positions of trust by David and Samuel the seer [a Korahite himself]. They and their descendants were in charge of guarding the gates of the house of the LORD--the house called the Tent.*

So Phinehas was acting as a true "gatekeeper", when he speared the Baal worshipers, as they engaged in pagan fertility rites right at the entrance to the Tabernacle. He was "guarding the gate"!

Gen 4:6-7 *Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."*¹ This principle is true for all times, both collectively, as well as individually. And its invasive thrust must be met at the "door" and repelled there, before it can get inside and cause chaos.²

Every father has this responsibility for his family members; every church leader the same for the people they are responsible for.

Refer to the letter published by the Australian re South Park episode covering occult, necrophilia, and adult sex toys. "No censorship" ends up with the demonisation of the younger generation. There is no other alternative.

11/99 BGR letter published by the Australian paper

Someone advised me to watch South Park last Monday night on SBS. I'm the wrong side of 50, so I need advising. Hey, hey! It has a cult following among the fertile minds of our high school generation. So I watched it.

I hadn't realised kicking people in the genitals, digging up a grave, stealing the dead body of a loved one (Grandma), and having explained in considerable detail the delights of necrophilia (complete with noises made while having sex with a rotting corpse) could be such fun! Gee! Where have I been? This is so cool....

And thank you Channel Nine for airing Scream Wednesday night. I guess that silly father, who was in the news last month after his 10 year old went psycho after watching it at an unsupervised sleepover, sent his daughter to bed early just in case she had another outbreak (I was told she's been released again from the psychiatric unit).

I'm so relieved we don't have those nasty censorship people guarding the gate of our society anymore. So now we can let our children be exposed to pretty well anything peer pressure helps them thoughtfully choose.

I can't wait to see what constitutes fun and entertainment in another 20 years time.....

Is there anybody out there? At the gate?

[Follow the hyperlink for further material on the connection to increased occultic activity under "[Encircling Eyes](#)".

¹ *sin is crouching at your door.* The Hebrew word for "crouching" is the same as an ancient Babylonian word referring to an evil demon crouching at the door of a building to threaten the people inside. Sin may thus be pictured here as just such a demon, waiting to pounce on Cain -- it desires to have him. **NIVSB**

² We have a right to ask, in our society, who is guarding the gates of entry? Censorship has been broken down, and now anything can come in and infect the minds of the young especially. Physical safety has been reduced because even the invaders have their "rights". The bands and trendsetters of entertainment stress despising of authority is cool, and no one stands up. And the demons jump through the opening.