

From Pinchas to the Police What Does It Mean to Truly 'Keep the Peace'?

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במדבר כה

1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to cormmit harlotry with the daughters of Moab. 2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods; and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. 3 And Israel joined himself unto the Baal of Peor; and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. 4 And the LORD said unto Moses: 'Take all the chiefs of the people, and hang them up unto the LORD in face of the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel. 5 And Moses said unto the judges of Israel: 'Slay ye every one his men that have joined themselves unto the Baal of Peor. 6 And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, while they were weeping at the door of the tent of meeting. 7 And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from the midst of the congregation, and took a spear in his hand. 8 And he went after the man of Israel into the chamber, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. 9 And those that died by the plague were twenty and four thousand. 10 And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying: 11 'Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned My wrath away from the children of Israel, in that he was very jealous for My sake among them, so that I consumed not the children of Israel in My jealousy. 12 Wherefore say: Behold, I give unto him My covenant of peace; 13 and it shall be unto him, and to his seed after him, the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was jealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.' 14 Now the name of the man of Israel that was slain, who was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a fathers' house among the Simeonites. 15 And the name of the Midianitish woman that was slain was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head of the people of a fathers' house in Midian.

א וישב ישראל, בשטים ; ויחל העם, לזנות אֵל-בָּנות מוֹאָב .ב וַתְּקְרָאן ַלַעָם, לִזָבָחֵי אֱלֹהֵיהֵן; וַיֹּאכָל הַעַם, ָוַיִּשְׁתַּחווּ לֵאלהֵיהֶן גֹּ וַיִּצְּמֵד יִשְׁרַאֵל, ַלְבַעַל פַּעור; וַיּחַר-אַף יהוַה, בָּישַרָאֵל דּ וַיִּאמָר יְהוָה אֵל-משָה, קח את-כל-ראשי העם, והוקע אותם ַלַיהוַה, נָגֶד הַשַּׁמֵשׁ ; וַיַשֹּׁב חַרוֹן אַף-יהוַה, מִישַׁרָאֵל .ה וַיאמר משה, אֵל-שפטי ישראל: הרגו איש אַנשיו, הַנְצְמַדִים לבעל פעור ווהנה איש מבני ישראל בא, ויקרב אל-אחיו אַת-הַמַּדְיַנִית, לָעִינֵי מֹשֶׁה, וּלְעֵינֵי כַּל-עדת בני-ישראל; והמה בכים, פתח -אהֶל מועד ז וַיַּרָא, פִּינִחַס בֵּן אַלעַזַר, בֶּן-אַהַרֹן, הַכּהַן; וַיַּקָם מִתּוֹדְ ָהָעֶדָה, וַיִּקַּח רֹמַח בִּנָדוֹ .תּ וַיָּבֹא אַחַר -אָישׁ-יִשַּׂרָאֵל אֱל-הַקַּבַּה, וַיִּדְקר אֱת שניהם--את איש ישראל, ואת-ָהַאִשָּׁה אֱל-קַבַּתַהּ ; וַתֵּעַצַר, הַמַּגְּפַה, מעל, בני ישראל . ט ויהיו, המתים בַּמַגַּפַה--אַרְבַּעָה וְעֵשִׂרִים, אַלֶּף. [פּ י וַיִדַבֵּר יִהוָה, אֵל-משֵׁה לֵאמר . יֹא פִּינִחַס בַּן-אֵלְעַזַר בַּן-אַהַרן הַכַּהֶן, הַשִּׁיב אֶת-חַמַתִי מַעַל בְּנֵי-ישראל, בַּקנאוֹ אֶת-קנְאַתִי, בַּתוֹכַם; ָולא-כִלִּיתִי אֵת-בַּנֵי-יִשְרַאֵל, בַּקנאַתִי .יב לַכַן, אֲמֹר: הָנִנִי נֹתָן לוֹ את-בריתי, שלום .יג והיתה לו ולזרעו אחריו, ברית כהנת עולם--תחת, אשר קנא לאלהיו, ויכפר, על-בני ישראל .יד ושם איש ישראל המכה, אשר הכה את-המדינית--וָמַרִי, בַּן-סַלוּא: נָשִׂיא בֵית-אַב, לשמעני . **טו** ושם האשה המכּה הַמִּדְיָנִית, כַּזְבִּי בַת-צוּר: ראשׁ אָמּוֹת בַּית-אַב בַּמְדָיַן, הוּא. {פ}

Babylonian Talmud, Zevachim 101b	בבלי זבחים קא ע"ב
Rabbi Elazar says that Rabbi Ḥanina says: Pinehas did not become a priest until he killed Zimri. As it is written: "And it shall be unto him and to his seed after him the covenant of an everlasting priesthood" (Numbers 25: 13). Rav Ashi said: (Pinehas did not become a priest) until he made peace among the tribes, as it is stated: "And Pinehas the priest, and	אמר רבי אלעזר אייר חנינא לא נתכהן פינחס עד שהרגו לזמרי דכתיב <u>במדבר כה, יג</u> (והיתה לו ולזרעו אחריו ברית כהונת עולם.



the princes of the congregation, and the heads of the thousands of Israel (Joshua 22: 30).

And for the other Sage, Rav Ashi, as well, isn't it written: "And it shall be unto him, and to his seed after him: When that verse is written, it is with regard to the blessing that it is written (It did not indicate that Pinehas became a priest immediately). And for the other Sages as well, who hold that Pinehas became a priest immediately after he killed Zimri, isn't it written: "And Pinehas the priest...heard"? Apparently he became a priest only after the conquest of Eretz Yisrael. The Gemara answers: That verse serves to entitle his descendants after him, that they would continue as High Priests through his merit.

רב אשי אמר עד ששם
שלום בין השבטים
שנאמר) יהושע כב, ל (
וישמע פינחס הכהן
ונשיאי העדה וראשי אלפי
ישראל וגו י
ואידך נמי והכתיב והיתה
לו ולזרעו אחריו כי כתיב
ההוא בברכה הוא דכתיב
ואידך נמי הא כתיב
ישמע פינחס הכהן ההוא
ליחס זרעו אחריו

Joshua 22 יהושע כב

30 And when Phinehas the priest, and the princes of the congregation, even the heads of the thousands of Israel that were with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the children of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them well. 31 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the children of Manasseh: 'This day we know that the LORD is in the midst of us, because ye have not committed this treachery against the LORD; now have ye delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD. 32 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the princes, returned from the children of Reuben, and from the children of Gad, out of the land of Gilead, unto the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought them back word. 33 And the thing pleased the children of Israel; and the children of Israel blessed God, and spoke no more of going up against them to war, to destroy the land wherein the children of Reuben and the children of Gad dwelt. 34 And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar—: 'for it is a witness between us that the LORD is God.

ל וישמע פּינחס הַכּהָן, ונִשִּיאֵי העדה וראשי אלפי ישראל אשר אָתּוֹ, אֶת-הַדְּבַרִים, אֲשֶׁר דְּבָּרוּ בְּנֵי-ָרְאוּבֵן וּבָנֵי-גַד וּבָנֵי מִנַשָּׁה; וַיִּיטֵב, -בעיניהם . לא ויאמר פינחס בן אַלעַזַר הַכּהֶן אֱל-בָּנֵי-רְאוּבֵן וְאֵל-בָּנִי-גַד וָאַל-בָּנֵי מִנַשָּׁה, הַיּוֹם יַדַענוּ כִּי-בַתוֹכֵנוּ יהוָה, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-מִעַלְתֵּם ביהוה, המעל הזה; אז, הצלתם אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְרָאֵל--מִיַּד יִהֹוָה . **לב** וַיַּשַׁב פִּינָחַס בַּן-אֵלַעַזַר הַכֹּהָן וָהַנָּשִׂיאִים מאת בני-ראובן ומאת בני-גד מארץ הַגָּלִעָד, אֵל-אֵרֵץ כְּנַעַן--אֵל-בְּנֵי ישראל, וישבו אותם, דַבַר .**לג** וַיִּיטֵב הַדַּבַר, בְּעֵינֵי בְּנֵי ישראל, ויברכו אלהים, בני ישראל; ולא אמרו, לעלות עליהם לצבא, לְשַׁחֵת אֶת-הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר בִּנֵי-רְאוּבֵן ובני-גד ישבים בה .לד ויקראו בני-ראובן ובני-גַד, לַמִּזְבֵּח: כִּי עֵד הוּא בינתינו, כי יהוה האלהים.