

**FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017  
THEME – COVENANT WITH GOD  
UNIT III – AN EVERLASTING COVENANT**

**“GOD’S HIGH PRIEST IS MORE THAN A POSITION –  
IT’S A PRIVILEGE”**



**Sunday School Lesson No. X – November 5, 2017  
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher**

- Lesson Text:** Numbers 25:10-13; I Samuel 2:27-36
- Required Reading:** Numbers 25:1-18; I Samuel 2:27-36
- Motto Text:** I Samuel 2:35 (NLT), *“Then I will raise up a faithful priest who will serve me and do what I desire. I will establish his family, and they will be priests to my anointed kings forever.”*
- Reliable Resources:** Logos Bible Software; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Worship by A. P. Gibbs; The Outline Bible, H. L. Wilmington; Word Search 10 Electronic Library, MacArthur Study Bible Notes; Wesley’s Commentary; Life Application Bible Study Notes; 10 Steps to Spiritual Renewal by Dr. David Jeremiah; Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary; Butler’s Analytical Expositor

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the infant days of the journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, Jehovah appointed a very serious position called the High Priest. This God-ordained position was one of the greatest honors of service and responsibility in all of Israel. It usually was a position for life, although not always (I Kings 2:27). Moses set aside Aaron and his family to carry this position that would eventually be carried eternally by our Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:14-16).

According to Holman’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary, “A special degree of holiness was required of the high priest (Lev. 10:6, 9; 21:10-15). This meant he had to avoid defilement by contact with the dead, even in the case of his own parents, and was forbidden to show any outward sign of mourning. He could not leave the sanctuary precincts...the high priest was one totally dedicated to the Lord, always ritually pure and ready to serve the Lord.” (Read more in Holman’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary.)

Now you ask, “Why is this so important to our lesson?” Our lesson focus is dealing with God’s Priestly representatives, Phinehas, who became the third High Priest in Israel (Num. 25), and Phinehas, who acted as High Priest when his father Eli became too old to serve. These men stood in the seat of intercession for the nation of Israel at times in their lives. The lesson reveals what kind of character they possessed! One saw the position of representative of God an honor to be respected. The other saw the position as a means to acquire his selfish low life desires. One was a divine example and the other was a demented representative.

Now let us turn our attention to these two characters named Phinehas, a name meaning “dark-skinned” or “mouth of brass.” (Holman)

## Our Anticipated Power Points Are:

- **Phinehas the Zealous Man. Numbers 25:10-13 (NLT)**
- **Phinehas the Zero Man. I Samuel 2:30-34 (NLT)**
- **Promise Divinely Fulfilled. I Samuel 2:35-36 (NLT)**

## LESSON OUTLINE

### I. Phinehas the Zealous Man. Numbers 25:10-13

The setting of this Phinehas' jealous actions came out of a time of gross immorality and blatant rebellion! As one reads Numbers 22-25, an account is made of Balak the King of the Moabites, who offered a great sum of money for a profiteering prophet named Balaam to curse the nation of Israel. But there was a big problem. God had blessed Israel, so this money-grabbing charlatan could not reverse the blessing of the Lord. He tried four times to usurp the blessing of God and finally turned away, but not before he simply let the Moabite King know that God's people could destroy themselves through idolatry and whoredom. At such the Moabite women enticed the males, even the Princes of Israel, to worship the idol Baal-peor which caused them to fornicate and honor the heathen god. (Read Numbers 22-25; 31:1-24)

Butler's Analytical Expositor describes the insolence of even an Israelite Prince with Cozbi, the daughter of Zur, the leader of the Midianite clan, while the Israelite faithful wept in front of the Tabernacle (25:6). God called for the execution of the men of Israel and their idolatrous partners. Butler declares "their defilement; disrespect; dishonor," in verse 6. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 10:8, God struck down over 23,000 in death!

#### **A. Who stepped up to obey God's command? Phinehas the Zealous Man!**

In righteous indignation he thrust a spear into the Prince of Israel and the woman Cozbi, daughter of Zur. Beloved, I recognize that we live under more lenient laws in our day, but such was not the case under Moses' rule!

#### **B. Question for us today: Do we enjoy the pleasures of sin?**

Surely the Holy Spirit in the true believer must groan at our modern society. (Read Romans 1:18-32)

### II. Phinehas the Zero Man. I Samuel 2:30-34

"The prophet had much to say about Divine punishment for Eli and his family." Our focus is on his son Phinehas the Zero Man! Phinehas and his whole family had lost their position in the priesthood! (Read vv. 30-36). Phinehas and his family lost it all. Butler declares:

- "The loss of selection. v. 30
- The loss of survival. v. 31
- The loss of safety. v. 32
- The loss of serenity. v. 33
- The loss of sons. v. 34
- The loss of service. v. 35
- The loss of sustenance. v. 36"

### III. Promise Divinely Fulfilled. I Samuel 2:35-36 (Read again 2:30)

As the centuries and even millennium passes with each day, God never forgets His Word! I Kings 2:26-27 declares that Solomon, David's son, changed the family of the High Priesthood, even as it had been prophesied. It was given to Zadok, but the ultimate High Priest who will rule forever is Jesus Christ. We read in Hebrews 5:10, "*And God designated him to be a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.*"

## CLOSING

Beloved God's High Priest is more than just a position. It is an honor and sacred privilege. The High Priest wore a breastplate with a jewel to represent every tribe, over his heart. But our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, came down as our sacrifice, and ever lives to make intercession for His people. Remember Hebrews 5:5-10.



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**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**November 12, 2017**

**Jeremiah 31:27-34**

**Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.**

**Pastor Davis invites you to hear him teach the Sunday School lesson at Bibleway each Wednesday at noon.**