

Chapter 25

For a while the Israelites settled in the area of Shittim.

In that place the Israelite men gave themselves over to debauchery with the women of Midian.

The Israelites joined these women in sacrifices to local idols.

God therefore sent a plague to punish the Israelites and thousands of people died.

God commanded Moses to execute Israelites who had taken part in sacrifices to local idols.

Phinehas the priest, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron showed his loyalty and zeal by personally executing one of the main offenders, at a time when most people didn't care what was happening.

Dear God, please help us to care about
what goes on around us
and what is happening in the world

Chapters 26, 27

Moses made a census of all the men in the community. The total number was 624,730.

Moses also gave a ruling concerning inheritance:
"If a man dies without sons,
his inheritance is to pass to his daughters.