



COZBI

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Who is Cozbi?

Cozbi meant “Deception or Deceiver” in Hebrews. She was the daughter of Zur, the head of the chief of Midian (Zur – one of the 5 kings of Midian when Israelites entered their promised land).

Bible Accounts:

Numbers 25;

Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. ² They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. ³ So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel.

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the Lord, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel.” ⁵ So Moses said to the judges of Israel, “Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.”

⁶ And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. ⁷ Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; ⁸ and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. ⁹ And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁰ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ¹¹ “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. ¹² Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; ¹³ and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an

everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.’ ”

*14 Now the name of the Israelite who was killed, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father’s house among the Simeonites. 15 And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was **Cozbi the daughter of Zur**; he was head of the people of a father’s house in Midian. 16 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 17 “Harass the Midianites, and attack them; 18 for they harassed you with their schemes by which they seduced you in the matter of Peor and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a leader of Midian, their sister, who was killed in the day of the plague because of Peor.”*

Background:

Cozbi was a very bad influence on the Israelites during their stay in the Acacia Grove (Shittim). She brought the plague of harlotry into the Israelites. Israelites got into the worship of Moabites gods and Baal of Peor also.

God was angry at the Israelites’ actions and asked Moses to assemble all the leaders (chiefs/heads) of Israelites and cut them to turn away the anger of God. Moses told the judges to kill the men having relation with Baal of Peor. During that time, Cozbi tempted and got hold of Zimri, the son of Salu, a leader of a father’s house among the Simeonites. Zimri brought her in front of his family and immediately, Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron thrust the javelin through both of them piercing through the body and killed them. This way the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. All those died in the plague were 24,000.

God was pleased with Phinehas’ zeal for the true God and made a covenant of peace with him and his descendants.

Lessons from Cozbi:

- Cozbi was a bad example for immorality.
- The action of Phinehas teaches us to be truly zealous for the true God.

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