

# THE ARK MONTEBELLO

10/22/2023

**NUMBERS CHAPTER 31**

**Divine Avengement**

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel.” Afterward you shall be gathered to your people.” So Moses spoke to the people, saying, “Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the LORD on Midian.” Numbers 31: 1-3

## **Chapter 31 Retributive Avengement against the Midianites.**

**Avengement**—*The inflicting of retributive punishment; satisfaction taken; to take vengeance or exact satisfaction for: to avenge a grave insult, to inflict harm in return for (and injury or wrong).*

**This chapter contains four movements:**

**Verses 1-3— Divine Order Against the Midianites.**

**Verses 4-11—12,000 Men of War are Dispatched into Combat.**

**Verses 12-24—The Men Return from the War Victoriously.**

**Verses 25-54—The Booty, Plunder, and Spoils of War are Divided Among Israel.**

**Divine Order—**

This command was to be Moses’ last order, before he was “to be gathered to his people” (Death). The command to “vex (harass) the Midianites, and smite them,” had been given before: Numbers 25:16-18.

The war was to be distinctly one of vengeance on the part of Israel.

**12,000 Men of War are selected, 1000 men from each Twelve Tribes of Israel—**

The combat-ready men are led by Phinehas—son of Eleazar, one of Aaron’s sons, [Phinehas slew Zimri and Cozbi the Midianite; a zealous, devout man; he was not only recognized by God, but He gave him an everlasting covenant; and because of his audacious act, the plague was stopped among the children of Israel, Numbers 25].

Five Midianite kings are slain...and Balaam the son of Beor is also killed with the sword.

**The Men of War return—**

They brought war-captives, booty, and spoils to Moses, Eleazar the priest, and to the congregation.

Moses was surprised that the Midianite women were kept alive. He ordered the mass execution of male children and every woman who had known a man intimately; but kept alive the young, virgin women.

**Distribution of the booty and spoils of war—**

Moses and Eleazar divide the plunder between those who took part in the war, who went out to battle, and all the congregation.



Education  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
**Establish**  
Friday, Nov. 17 | Bldg. 3  
H.S. Students (16–18yrs) will learn about:

- College Applications
- Job Applications
- Resumes/Cover Letters
- Interviews
- Trades



**BLESS**  
South Montebello

We will be blessing our Montebello neighbors again, this thanksgiving.

If you are able to give, please drop off a \$25 supermarket gift card to the front office no later than Wednesday Nov. 15th.

If you'd like to join us in handing out the cards, going door-to-door, please see Pastor John Paul.



THE ARK  
MONTEBELLO  
**Softball Tourney**  
Reggie Rodriguez Park  
**Friday, November 24th**  
9am – 12pm  
Includes custom commemorative **Arkie jersey**