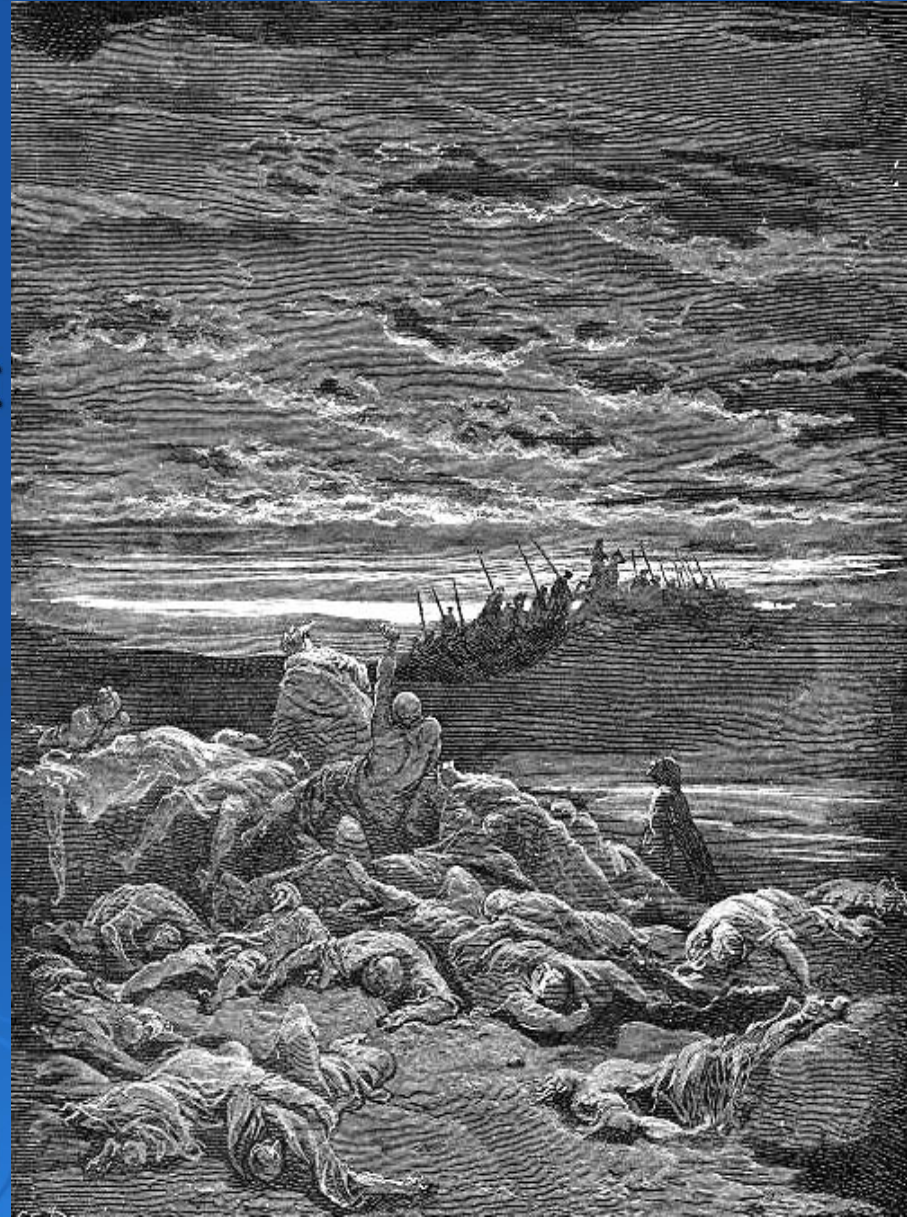


NUMBERS 31: The Extermination of Midian

- Many Christians have trouble with the killing and blood of the Old Testament
- The problem some say is :
O.T. A God that slays and conquers nations
N.T. A God that sacrifices Himself FOR the nations
- To humanize God into our mold is IDOLATRY!





ARMAGEDDON

- What is different between the slaughter of Midian and the slaughter of nations at Armageddon?
- Whether Torah or the Gospels it is the SAME God!
- The Lord has chosen throughout history times when he will slay people who are NOT His
- The WORST divinely led slaughter in history is yet to come!
- Our Lord was meek for a purpose, and He will be a warrior for a purpose

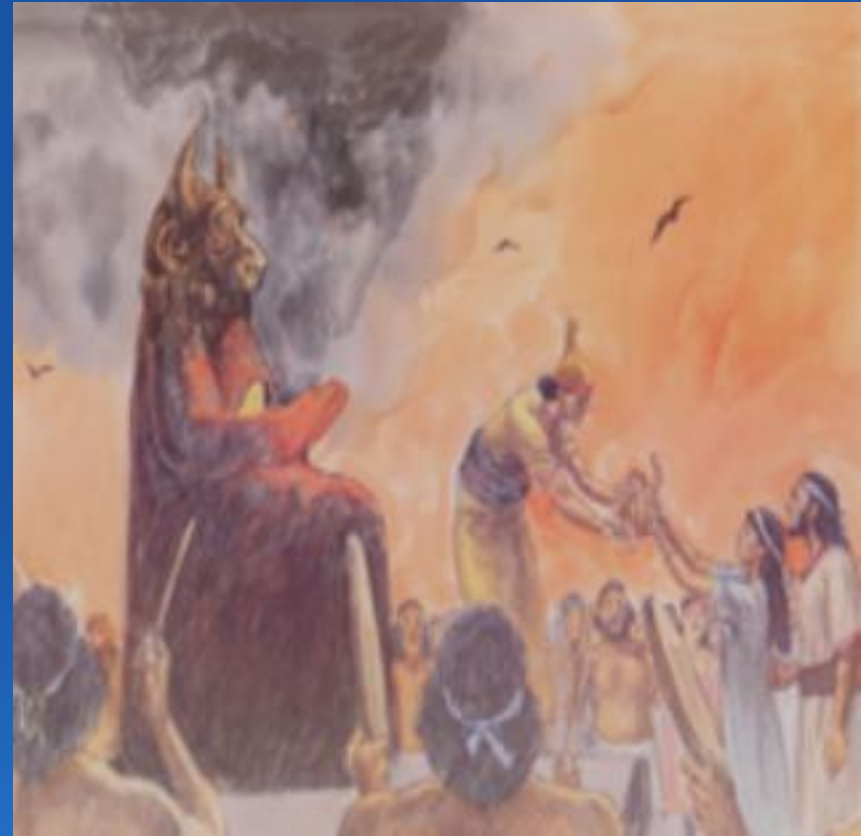
THE LORD DEALS FIRST WITH HIS OWN PEOPLE



- AFTER dealing with His own, He punishes the outsiders
- Principle: ALL who sin shall perish EXCEPT those who accept His grace to escape.....Jew or gentile!
- This principle was NOT abandoned with the advent of Christ
- Romans 2 explains how the Lord will treat Jew and gentile concerning BOTH grace AND destruction

THE CRIME IS ADULTERY. SO THE PENALTY IS DEATH.

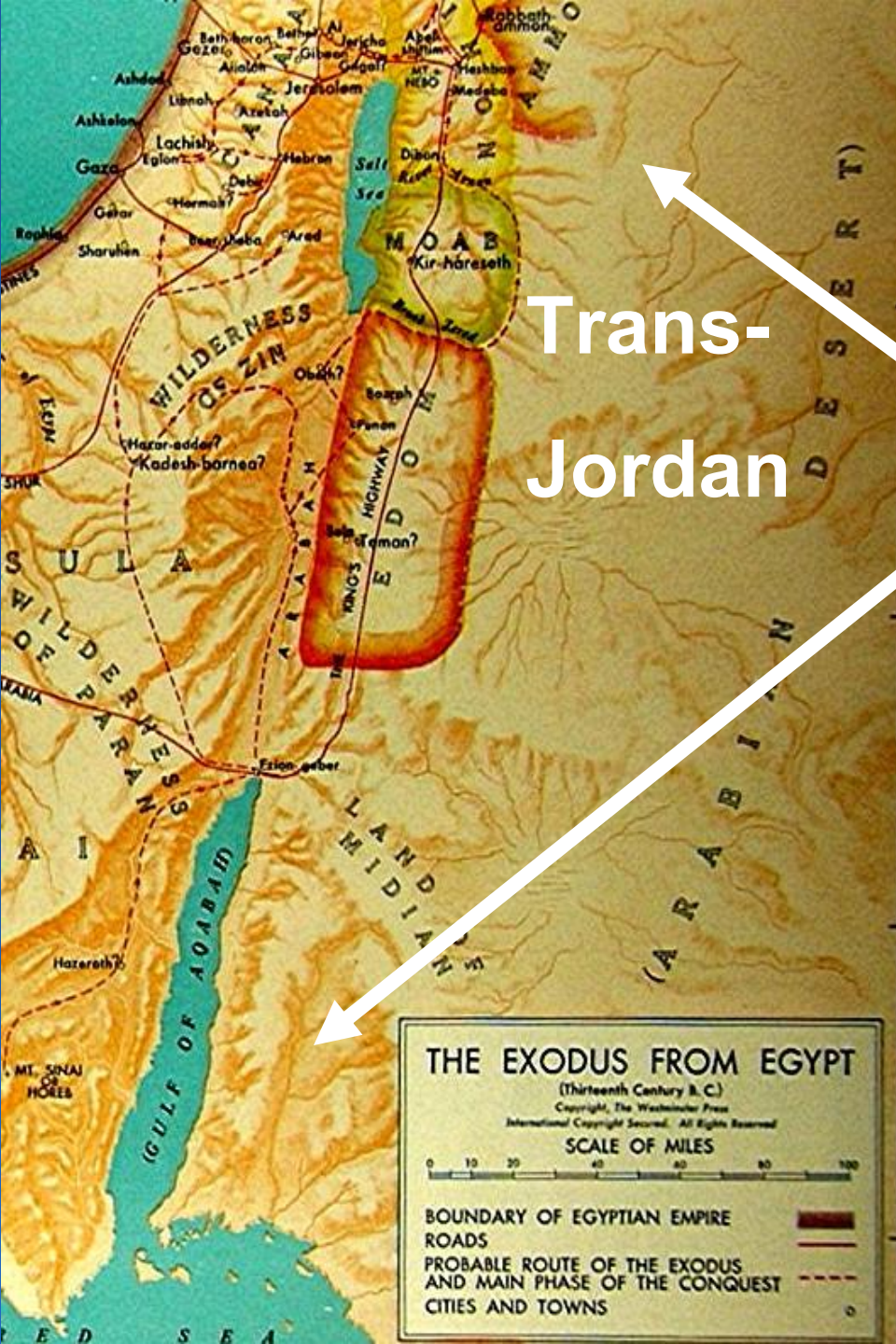
- Yehoveh is Israel's husband
- Israel had committed adultery by worshipping Chemosh
- 24,000 Hebrews died BEFORE the Lord starts to deal with Midian
- Israel is to prosecute the Holy War precisely as the Lord says



PHINEHAS THE WAR PRIEST

- Every culture brought the priests of their gods to the battles
- Phinehas did NOT lead the battle, he only performed priestly service (like blowing the Shofar)
- No detailed account of the battle
- Israel annihilated Midian, and there were no Midianite men left
- **Principle:** When the Lord's army goes into battle and behaves as ordered, there is ONLY one possible outcome: victory
- The only purpose for the battle is to display the Glory of God, not to see who might win





Trans-Jordan

- Only the Midianites of the *northern* Trans-Jordan were attacked
- The Midianites consisted of tribes settled from the north down to the southwestern Arabian Peninsula
- Balaam was also killed
- Midianite women and children and their livestock were confiscated
- Midianite cities burned
- Taking defeated people grew your own tribe or nation
- Genealogical purity within Israel became impossible due to these customs

THE SPOILS OF WAR

- Spoils of Midianite War brought back to Moses
- Moses became irate when he saw the women
- Sexually inexperienced woman to be kept as slaves
- All other women to be executed
- All male Midianite children to be executed
- In that era, a male child had the duty of avenging his father's death
- Moses wanted no Midianite males to own property or have Hebrew wives

ISRAEL'S ARMY HAD TO BE PURIFIED

- Neither the soldiers nor the spoils could enter the camp until purified
- Soldiers unclean due to contact with death
- Spoils unclean because used for pagan purposes
- Soldiers had to be sprinkled with ashes of Red Heifer twice
- Metal objects had to pass through fire
- All other spoils had to be washed in water



DIVIDING THE SPOILS

- 12,000 soldiers kept $\frac{1}{2}$ of all the booty
- The other $\frac{1}{2}$ went to the remaining Israelites
- Soldiers had to “tithe” $\frac{1}{500}$ th of their portion
- All others had to “tithe” $\frac{1}{50}$ th of their portion
- Soldier’s tithe portion went to priests
- Other tithe portion went to the Levites
- 10 Levites for every 1 Priest
- In the end, every Priest and Levite received exactly the same amount!

COMMANDERS SHOW GRATITUDE TO YEHOVEH

- An enormous amount of livestock was seized
- All the commanders gave their spoils to the Lord as thanks for not losing a single Israelite soldier!
- The regular foot soldier kept all of his portion
- Beautiful picture of Godly leadership
- The Lord expects the greatest sacrifice from His leaders

