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# NUMBERS

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**Today: Chapter 31**

**Next week: Chapt 32-36**

# **GOD'S HOLY WAR**

**NUMBERS 31**



# 1. VENGEANCE



## Numbers 31:1–2

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,  
“Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites.



## Numbers 31:1–2

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,  
“Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites.

## Numbers 25:16

“Harass the Midianites and strike them down”



## Numbers 31:1–2


The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,  
“Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites.  
Afterward you shall be gathered to your people.”



Numbers 31:3

“Arm men from among you for the war,  
that they may go against Midian to  
**execute the LORD’s vengeance on Midian.”**





O LORD, GOD OF  
VENGEANCE, O GOD OF  
VENGEANCE, SHINE  
FORTH.

*- PSALM 94:1*



## Exodus 34:6–7

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,  
keeping steadfast love for thousands,  
forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,



## Exodus 34:6–7

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,  
keeping steadfast love for thousands,  
forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,  
**but who will by no means clear the guilty,  
visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the  
children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”**





It was six men of Indostan  
To learning much inclined,  
Who went to see the Elephant  
(Though all of them were blind),  
That each by observation  
Might satisfy his mind.



The First approach'd the Elephant,  
And happening to fall  
Against his broad and sturdy side,  
At once began to bawl:  
"God bless me! but the Elephant  
Is very like a wall!"



The Second, feeling of the tusk,  
Cried, "Ho! what have we here  
So very round and smooth and sharp?  
To me 'tis mighty clear  
This wonder of an Elephant  
Is very like a spear!"



The Third approached the animal,  
And happening to take  
The squirming trunk within his hands,  
Thus boldly up and spake:  
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant  
Is very like a snake!"



The Fourth reached out his eager hand,  
And felt about the knee.  
"What most this wondrous beast is like  
Is mighty plain," quoth he,  
"'Tis clear enough the Elephant  
Is very like a tree!"





The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,  
Said: "E'en the blindest man  
Can tell what this resembles most;  
Deny the fact who can,  
This marvel of an Elephant  
Is very like a fan!"



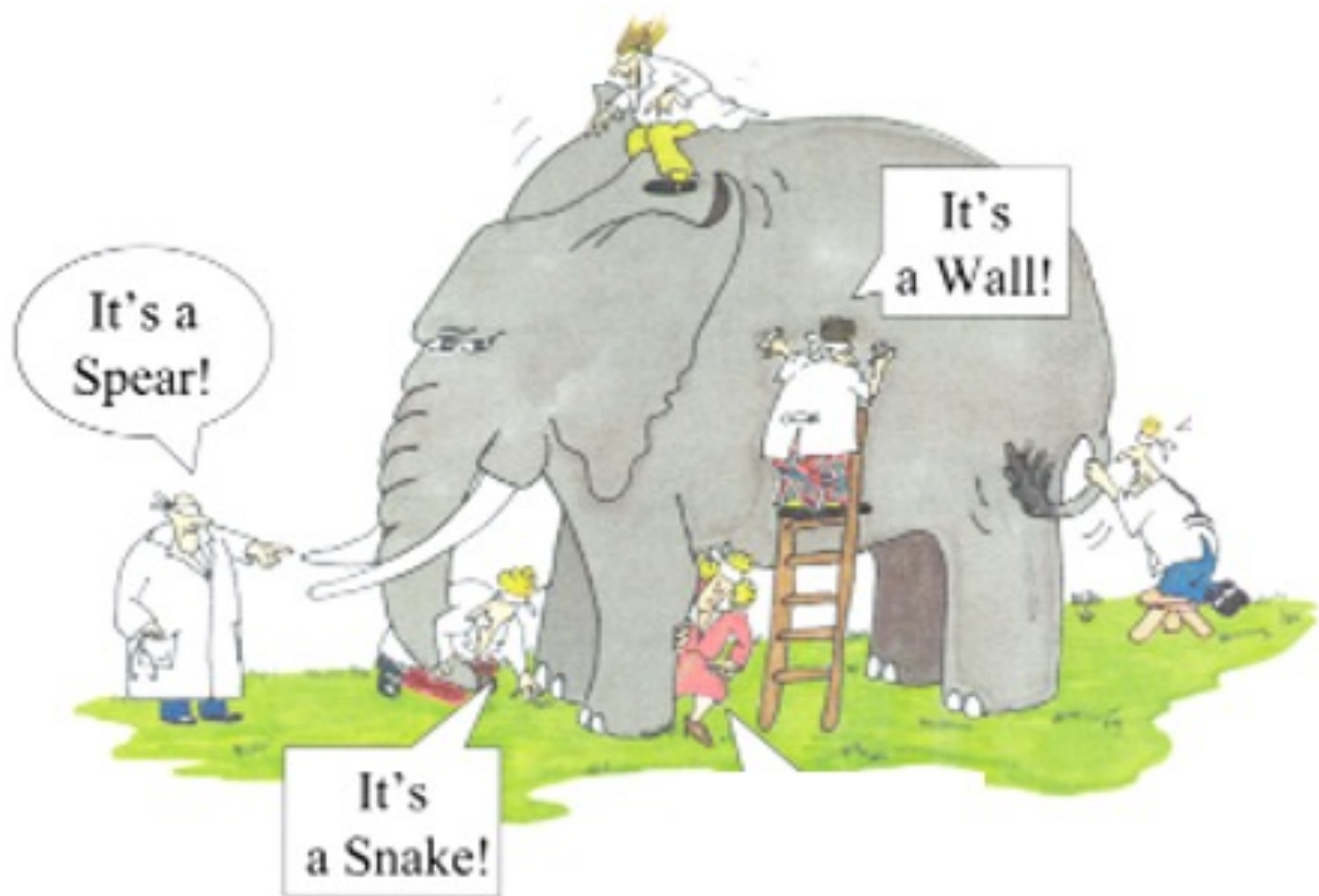
The Sixth no sooner had begun  
About the beast to grope,  
Then, seizing on the swinging tail  
That fell within his scope,  
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant  
Is very like a rope!"



















And so these men of Indostan  
Disputed loud and long,  
Each in his own opinion  
Exceeding stiff and strong,  
Though each was partly in the right,  
And all were in the wrong!



**MORAL.**

So oft in theologic wars,  
The disputants, I ween,  
Rail on in utter ignorance  
Of what each other mean,  
And prate about an Elephant  
Not one of them has seen!



SAVED FROM \_\_\_\_\_



SAVED FROM \_\_\_\_\_

SAVED BY \_\_\_\_\_



SAVED FROM \_\_\_\_\_

SAVED BY \_\_\_\_\_

SAVED FOR \_\_\_\_\_



# 1. VENGEANCE



## 2. VICTORY





You shall send a **thousand from each of the tribes** of Israel to the war.” So there were provided, out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand from each tribe, **twelve thousand** armed for war.



## Numbers 31:7–8

They warred against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses,  
and **killed every male.**



## Numbers 31:7–8

They warred against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses,  
and **killed every male.**

They **killed the kings of Midian** with the rest of their slain, Evi,  
Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, **the five kings of Midian.**



## Numbers 31:7–8

They warred against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses,  
and **killed every male.**

They **killed the kings of Midian** with the rest of their slain, Evi,  
Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, **the five kings of Midian.**

And they also **killed Balaam** the son of Beor with the sword.



## Numbers 31:9–12

And the people of Israel took captive the women of Midian and their little ones, and they took as **plunder all their cattle, their flocks, and all their goods.**



## Numbers 31:9–12

**All their cities** in the places where they lived, and all their encampments, they **burned with fire**, and **took all the spoil and all the plunder, both of man and of beast.**



Numbers 31:49

... there is not a man missing from us.



Numbers 31:6

And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand from each tribe,





## Numbers 31:6

And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand from each tribe,  
together with **Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest,**  
**with the vessels of the sanctuary and the trumpets**  
for the alarm in his hand.



## Numbers 31:6

And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand from each tribe,  
together with **Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest,**  
**with the vessels of the sanctuary and the trumpets**  
for the alarm in his hand.

.. when you go to war... sound an alarm with the trumpets,  
that you may be remembered before the LORD your God,  
and you shall be saved from your enemies.

(Numbers 10:9)



## Numbers 14:42

Do not go up, for the LORD is not among you,  
lest you be struck down before your enemies.



## Numbers 14:44–45

But they **presumed** to go up to the heights of the hill country,



## Numbers 14:44–45

But they **presumed** to go up to the heights of the hill country, although **neither the ark of the covenant** of the LORD nor Moses departed out of the camp.



## Numbers 14:44–45

But they **presumed** to go up to the heights of the hill country, although **neither the ark of the covenant** of the LORD nor Moses departed out of the camp.

Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites ...  
**defeated them and pursued them, even to Hormah.**



## Numbers 21:3

**And the LORD heeded the voice of Israel** and gave over the Canaanites, and they devoted them and their cities to destruction. So the name of the place was called **Hormah**.





**NUMBERS 10: 1-10**



## 2. VICTORY



# 3. VULNERABILITY



## Numbers 31:14–16

**And Moses was angry** with the officers of the army,  
the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds,  
who had come from service in the war.



## Numbers 31:14–16

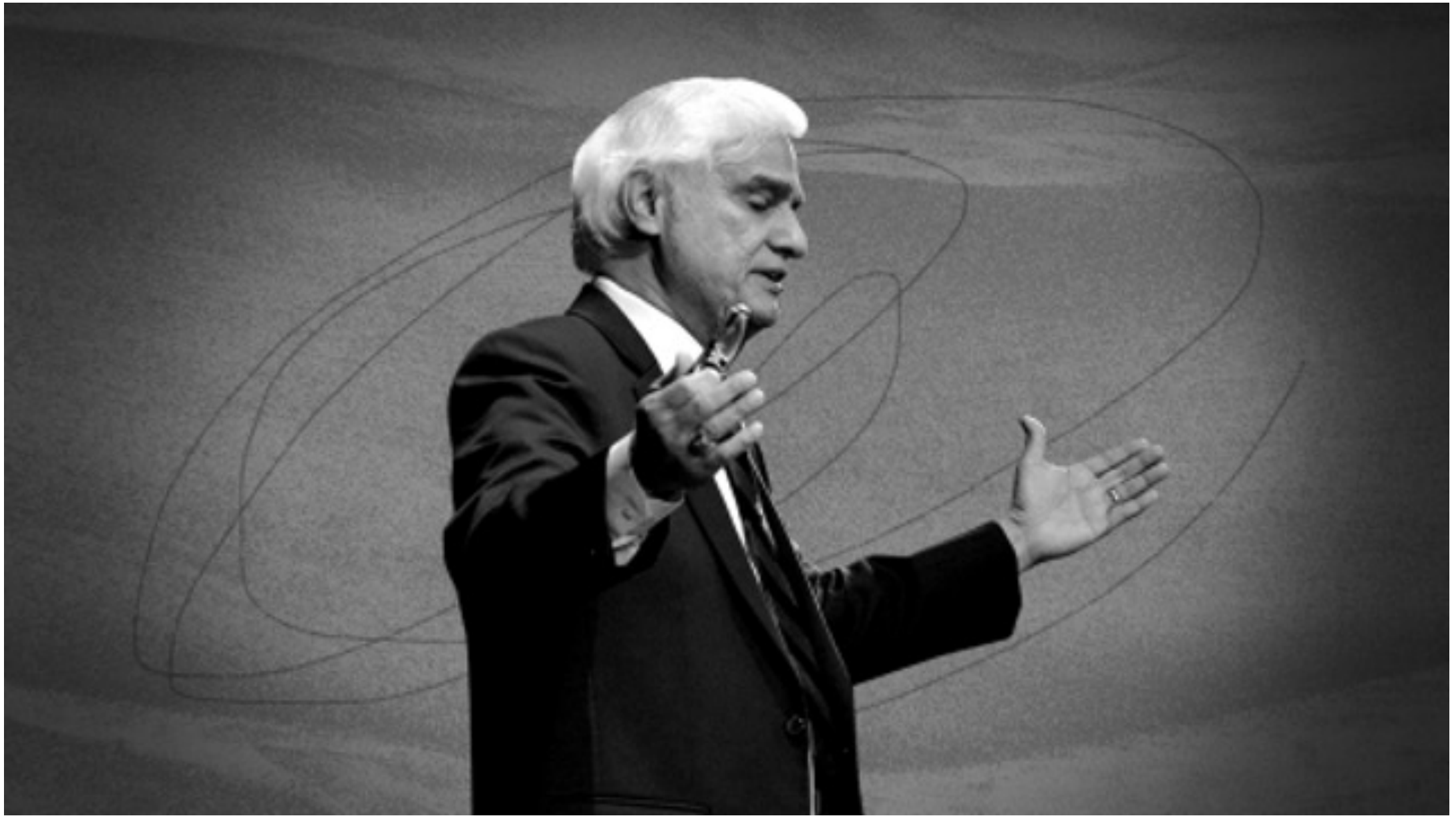
Moses said to them, “Have you let all the women live?”



## Numbers 31:14–16

Moses said to them, “Have you let all the **women** live? Behold, these, on Balaam’s advice, **caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD** in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD.





**A four-month investigation found the late Ravi Zacharias leveraged his reputation as a world-famous Christian apologist to abuse massage therapists in the United States and abroad over more than a decade.**

**A 12-page report released by Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM) confirms abuse by Zacharias at day spas he owned in Atlanta and uncovers five additional victims in the US, as well as evidence of sexual abuse in Thailand, India, and Malaysia.**



Even a limited review of Zacharias's old devices revealed contacts for more than 200 massage therapists in the US and Asia and hundreds of images of young women, including some that showed the women naked.

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Zacharias solicited and received photos until a few months before his death in May 2020 at age 74.

Zacharias used tens of thousands of dollars of ministry funds dedicated to a “humanitarian effort” to pay four massage therapists

One woman told the investigators that “after he arranged for the ministry to provide her with financial support, he required sex from her.” She called it rape.

She said Zacharias “made her pray with him to thank God for the ‘opportunity’ they both received” and, as with other victims, “called her his ‘reward’ for living a life of service to God”

Zacharias warned the woman—a fellow believer—  
if she ever spoke out against him, she would be  
responsible for millions of souls lost when his  
reputation was damaged.

**The RZIM board released a statement:**

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**“Ravi engaged in a series of extensive measures to conceal his behavior from his family, colleagues, and friends.**



**The RZIM board released a statement:**

**However, we also recognize that in situations of prolonged abuse, there often exist significant structural, policy, and cultural problems.**

The RZIM board released a statement:

“We were trusted by our staff, our donors, and the public to mentor, oversee, and ensure the accountability of Ravi Zacharias, and in this we have failed.”

# 3. VULNERABILITY



## 4. VEHEMENCE



## Numbers 31:17–18

Now therefore, **kill every male among the little ones,**  
**and kill every woman who has known man by lying with him.**



## Numbers 31:17–18

Now therefore, **kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man** by lying with him.

But all the young girls who have not known man by lying with him keep alive for yourselves.





# Is GOD A VINDICTIVE BULLY?

*Reconciling* PORTRAYALS of GOD  
*in the* OLD and NEW TESTAMENTS

PAUL COPAN

RICHARD  
DAWKINS



THE  
GOD  
DELUSION

*'A very important book, especially in these  
times ... a magnificent book, lucid and wise,  
truly magisterial'* Ian McEwan



**“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all of fiction:**

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**“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all of fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak, a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malicious bully.”**

# 1. God is the giver of life



1. God is the giver of life
2. We sinners deserve God's wrath



1. God is the giver of life
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3. Num 25 reveal the heinousness of their sins



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Ezekiel 33:11

"I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked,  
but that the wicked turn from his way and live;"



1. God is the giver of life
2. We sinners deserve God's wrath
3. Num 25 reveal the heinousness of their sins
4. God judges the world & peoples repeatedly
5. God does not relish the killing of people


**The Holy & Just God must judge sin & sinners**











O LORD, GOD OF  
VENGEANCE, O GOD OF  
VENGEANCE, SHINE  
FORTH.

*- PSALM 94:1*

The Holy & Just God must judge sin & sinners



The Holy & Just God must judge sin & sinners

And Yet He is also the God of mercy & grace





## 4. VEHEMENCE



# 5. VENERATION



# 5. VENERATION

CLEANSING



# 5. VENERATION

CLEANSING

CONTRIBUTIONS



675,000 sheep,  
72,000 cattle,  
61,000 donkeys and  
32,000 women who had never slept with a man



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32,000 women who had never slept with a man

$\frac{1}{2}$  to Soldiers

$\frac{1}{2}$  to Israel



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$\frac{1}{2}$  to Soldiers →  $\frac{1}{500}$  given to Eleazar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  to Israel



675,000 sheep,  
72,000 cattle,  
61,000 donkeys and  
32,000 women who had never slept with a man

$\frac{1}{2}$  to Soldiers → 1/500 given to Eleazar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  to Israel → 1/50 given to Levites





## Numbers 31:52

And all the **gold of the contribution** that they presented to the LORD, from the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, was **16,750 shekels**.

**Close to 200 kg of gold**



## Numbers 31:54

And Moses and Eleazar the priest received the **gold** from the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and **brought it into the tent of meeting, as a memorial for the people of Israel before the LORD.**



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