

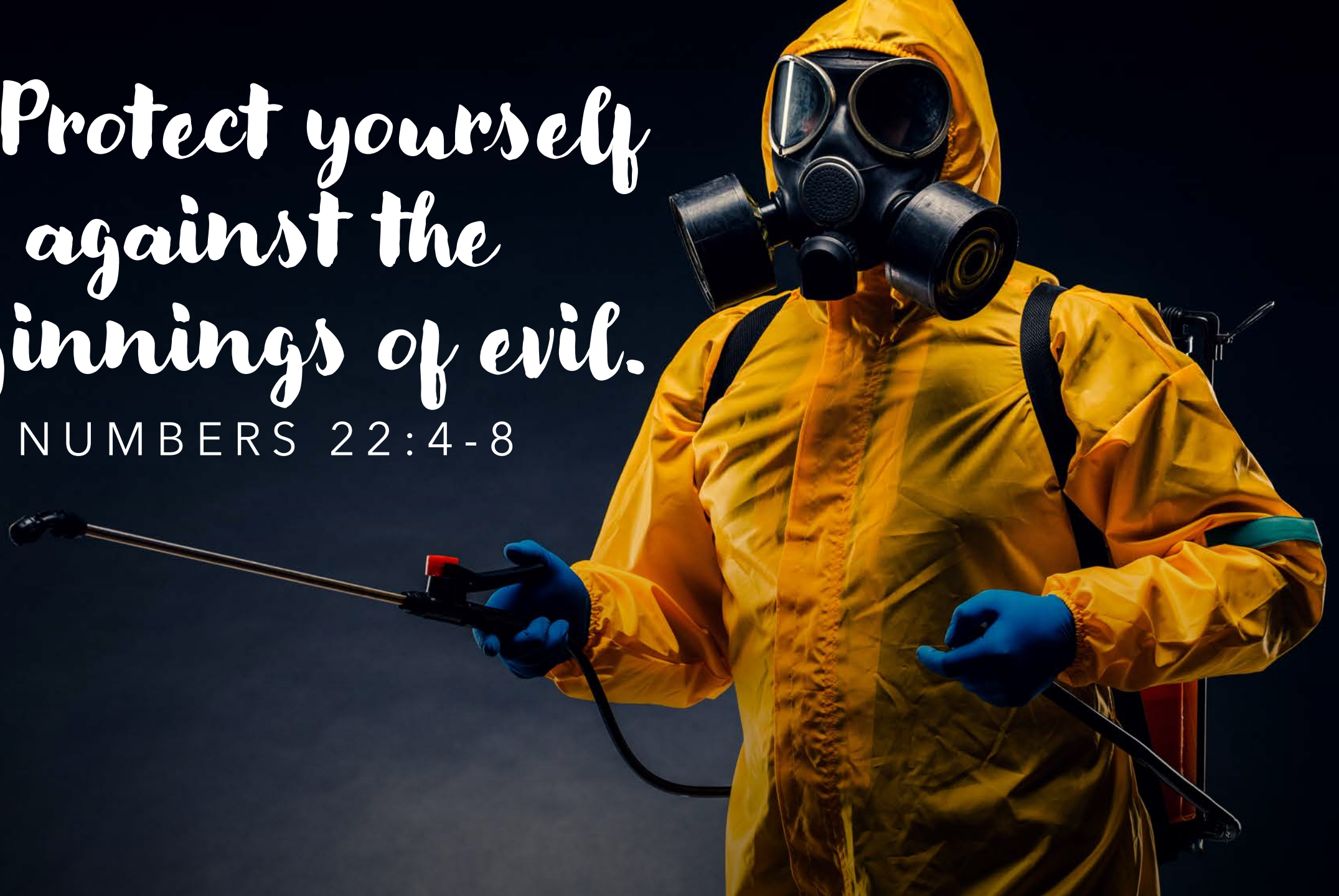
A man in a dark suit is seen from behind, holding a large, dark umbrella. He is looking out over a city that is engulfed in flames and fire. The sky is dark and filled with falling meteors and fireballs, creating a dramatic and apocalyptic scene. The overall atmosphere is one of disaster and chaos.

Avoiding Disaster

3. FLEE FROM GREED

T1 Protect yourself
against the
beginnings of evil.

NUMBERS 22:4-8



4 THE KING OF MOAB SAID TO THE ELDERS OF MIDIAN, "**THIS MOB WILL DEVOUR EVERYTHING IN SIGHT**, LIKE AN OX DEVOURS GRASS IN THE FIELD!" SO BALAK, KING OF MOAB, **5** SENT MESSENGERS TO CALL BALAAM SON OF BEOR, WHO WAS LIVING IN HIS NATIVE LAND OF PETHOR NEAR THE EUPHRATES RIVER. HIS MESSAGE SAID:

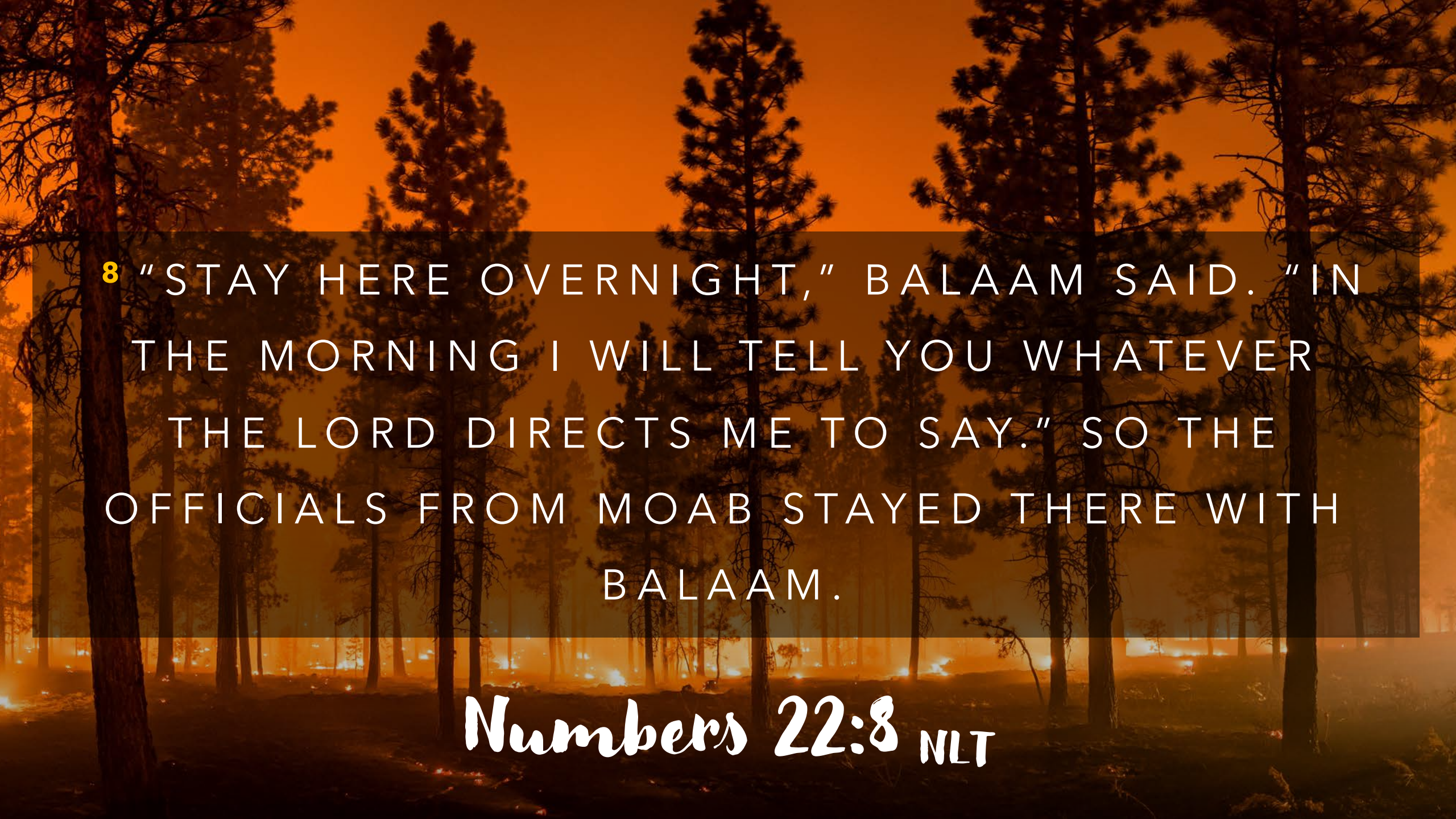
Numbers 22:4-5a NLT

"LOOK, A VAST HORDE OF PEOPLE HAS ARRIVED FROM EGYPT. THEY COVER THE FACE OF THE EARTH AND ARE **THREATENING ME**. ⁶ PLEASE COME AND CURSE THESE PEOPLE FOR ME BECAUSE THEY ARE **TOO POWERFUL FOR ME**. THEN PERHAPS I WILL BE ABLE TO CONQUER THEM AND DRIVE THEM FROM THE LAND.

Numbers 22:5b-6a NLT

6 I KNOW THAT BLESSINGS FALL ON ANY PEOPLE YOU BLESS, AND CURSES FALL ON PEOPLE YOU CURSE." **7** BALAK'S MESSENGERS, WHO WERE ELDERS OF MOAB AND MIDIAN, **SET OUT WITH MONEY TO PAY BALAAM TO PLACE A CURSE UPON ISRAEL.** THEY WENT TO BALAAM AND DELIVERED BALAK'S MESSAGE TO HIM.

Numbers 22:6b-7 NLT



8 "STAY HERE OVERNIGHT," BALAAM SAID. "IN THE MORNING I WILL TELL YOU WHATEVER THE LORD DIRECTS ME TO SAY." SO THE OFFICIALS FROM MOAB STAYED THERE WITH BALAAM.

Numbers 22:8 NLT

A young man with short brown hair and blue eyes is shown from the chest up, looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. A glowing yellow halo surrounds his head. The background is a dark, textured wall. Overlaid on the image is text in a white, cursive font.

T2 God cannot be used
for a personal agenda.
NUMBERS 22:18-19

18 BUT BALAAM RESPONDED TO BALAK'S MESSENGERS, "EVEN IF BALAK WERE TO **GIVE ME HIS PALACE FILLED WITH SILVER AND GOLD, I WOULD BE POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING AGAINST THE WILL OF THE LORD MY GOD.** **19** BUT STAY HERE ONE MORE NIGHT, AND I WILL SEE IF THE LORD HAS ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY TO ME."

Numbers 22:18-19 NLT



T3 Character affects
everyone in the room.
NUMBERS 25:1-4

1 WHILE THE ISRAELITES WERE CAMPED AT ACACIA GROVE, SOME OF THE MEN DEFILED THEMSELVES BY HAVING SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH LOCAL MOABITE WOMEN. **2** THESE **WOMEN INVITED THEM TO ATTEND SACRIFICES TO THEIR GODS**, SO THE ISRAELITES FEASTED WITH THEM AND WORSHIPED THE GODS OF MOAB.

Numbers 25:1-2 NLT

3 IN THIS WAY, **ISRAEL JOINED IN THE WORSHIP OF BAAL OF PEOR, CAUSING THE LORD'S ANGER TO BLAZE AGAINST HIS PEOPLE.**

4 THE LORD ISSUED THE FOLLOWING COMMAND TO MOSES: "SEIZE ALL THE RINGLEADERS AND **EXECUTE THEM BEFORE THE LORD IN BROAD DAYLIGHT**, SO HIS FIERCE ANGER WILL TURN AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL."

Numbers 25:3-4 NLT

Upper Room Questions:

READ LUKE 12:13-21

LEARN: WHAT ARE THE TRUTHS, PRINCIPLES, COMMANDS, & PROMISES GOD WANTS YOU TO LEARN?

EXAMINE: WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU?

APPLY: HOW DOES GOD WANT YOU TO CHANGE?

PRAY: HOW CAN YOU PRAY THESE PRINCIPLES BACK TO JESUS?

ARTICLE WHY IS THE LOVE OF MONEY THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL.