

festival food associated with the religious ceremonies. God's anger burned against them for this!

We should note that God was not only angry, He was grieved, both at their physical fornication and their religious adultery!

Why was God angry at their physical immorality? Simply because God has established rules intended to regulate the relations between the sexes, rules established for mankind's benefit and well-being and for God's glory. His first rule is that a man should leave his father and his mother and cleave to his wife, so that they may be one flesh. His second rule is that no man should have sexual relations with any woman who is not his wife, and no woman should have sexual relations with any man who is not her husband.

These rules prohibit extra-marital affairs, casual sex, living together as man and wife without benefit of marriage vows and obligations, prostitution, and all other forms of adultery and fornication.

The Israelites knew these regulations, but chose to break out of the limits God had set, and to commit fornication with the women of Moab.

Why did this happen at this particular time and with the Moabite women?

It turns out that Balak, king of the Moabites, was afraid of what the Israelites would do as they passed through Moab, and so he tried to get Balaam, a religious