

Numbers 16-17 –3 December 2020

“Rebellion: Speaking Against Your Own Life”

Introduction

Read Chap 16:1-2

1. Korah was of Levi’s son Kohath caring for the furniture. Dathan/Abiram of Reuben w/ 250 men
2. They were encamped very close together

Read Chap 16:3

1. Korah’s accusation: Why do you get that role?
 - a. As if Moses took it & God didn’t give it
 - b. Yes all are holy, but different roles
2. Read Jude 11
 - a. “Gainsaying” – *disputing in contradiction*
 - b. Lined up w/ Cain & Balaam identifies the issue as a lustful greed and discontentment
 - c. What is the cure for this rebellion?
 - i. You can die in rebellion, that’s no good

Today, 4 keys for killing the spirit of rebellion

1st Key for killing rebellion is to Gaze on the glory of the state God has you in (Chap 16:4-35)

--THANKFULNESS--

Read Chap 16:4-7

1. They're wanting Moses to fall down as if dead, but he falls down in mourning!
 - a. They're bitter – rebellion is from the root word *to be bitter*.
 - b. *“Bitterness is like drinking poison and expecting someone else to die.”*
2. Moses doesn't defend himself, he just says, “The Lord will give us an answer for the situation between us”.
 - a. When you fight for power / position, then you'll have to fight to maintain it.
 - b. When God calls you into something you didn't earn, then He'll maintain it FOR YOU.

Read Chap 16:8-11

1. Why do you despise the role God gave you?
2. Easy to overlook & not be grateful for blessings
3. There will always be someone around you with something that you desire.
 - a. This is the cure for covetousness
 - b. Read Pro 21:26 - Thankfulness
 - i. Is your life characterized by taking or by giving from what God has blessed u with?

Read Chap 16:12-14

1. Dathan & Abiram's accusation: You brought us out of good Egypt to lord over us as prince
 - a. What a short memory of the evils of Egypt
 - b. The 'other thing' that you're after isn't as good as you make it out to be.
2. Accusation #2: You haven't brought us to land
 - a. They're impatience – Instead of getting to heaven w/ little reward, God's giving us time to gain reward along the journey.

Read Chap 16:15

1. Moses' life was known by giving, not taking.
2. He's grateful & humble to have his position

Read Chap 16:16-21

1. So, God's answer: I will consume all the rebels
2. We'll see in chap 17 many more people were following Korah... in the heart.

Read Chap 16:22

1. Moses again pleads for grace

Read Chap 16:23-30

1. Moses pronounces God's judgement by the earth opening up & warns the people to get away.
 - a. Don't fiddle around w/ rebels, but get away.
2. Notice vs 28 – Moses' confidence is in the fact that he has done all that he's done b/c the Lord has led him into it. It doesn't depend on him.

Read Chap 16:31-35

1. Judgement by earth and fire.
 - a. Don't need to explain the miracle, just accept it as you accept Gen 1:1.
2. Please note; the sons of Korah didn't die, just the rebels (see Num 26:11)
 - a. God knows how to judge and to preserve.

2nd Key for killing rebellion is to Agree with God's approach & authority (Chap 16:36-40)

--HUMILITY--

Read Chap 16:36-40

1. Censers made into plates as reminder of this sin
2. So a tangible remember of this rebellion
 - a. A rebellion against God's appointed roles
 - b. A rebellion against the proper way to approach God
3. Do you have the humility to accept that God's role is higher than all of ours! He sets the rules.

3rd Key for killing rebellion is to Let the love of God lead you back to Him (Chap 16:41-50)

--LOVE--

Read Chap 16:41

1. We said in Chap 16:21 when God was going to kill them all, that there were other sympathizers... well here they are.
 - a. Notice how spiritually blind they are to the true situation...same as today.
2. When we think of this rebellion, we historically call it “the rebellion of Korah in the wilderness”.
 - a. Truth is he was just the leader.
 - b. Many 1,000s more believed after Korah

Read Chap 16:42-50

1. 14,700 people w/ this rebellion in their heart.
 - a. Just as deadly as Korah’s verbal kind of rebellion.
 - b. They weren’t rebels b/c of their mouth but b/c of their heart

2. Aaron, the priest's incense is pic of the Great Intercessor praying for us, interceding for our best
 - a. Priest is to pray for people's failings
 - b. This is a picture of the love of Jesus, our High Priest
3. Notice, it's not judgement of God that brings repentance, but the kindness of God (Rom 2:4)
 - a. It was the grace of God to stop the plague
 - b. It was the grace of God to remove the sinners from affecting more sin upon them.

4th Key for killing rebellion is to Look at the living Christ as proof that we have eternal life (Chap 17)

--FAITH--

Read Chap 17:1-5

1. What was the purpose of this demonstration?
 - a. Prove God has chosen Levi for his role.

Read Chap 17:6-13

1. Why did God use rods and make Aaron's bud?

- a. God is showing life from non-life
 - b. He's showing something helpless that become active and effective
2. It's pic of resurrection, the resurrection of Jesus!
- a. Life from death, not life from mostly dead
 - b. When God pictures resurrection in the OT, He always takes something completely dead and raises it.
 - i. Lev 13 – Living bird and dead bird
 - ii. Num 17 – Dead tree and now living tree
3. Now the items in the ark are complete
- a. Manna, Law and Aaron's rod
 - i. I see a picture of the Way, Truth & Life
 - ii. Can also be Body, Mind & Spirit
4. It's Jesus' life that we need! We're dead
- a. Having faith in Jesus is what provides us the power to be active and effective.
 - b. Read Heb 12:2 – Look to Jesus for life from the dead....oh it takes faith.

Conclusion

So we've seen how God dealt with the rebellion of the nearly 15,000 people, who's heart was set on evil

That same thought can come up within us.

1. **Show God you're thankful for the place and giftings He's given you**
 - a. God has treated us so much better than our sins deserve....be thankful
2. **Show God the humility it takes with His approach and authority**
 - a. Do we allow God to bring us up AND down?
 - b. Doesn't He have the right to do as He may?
3. **Let the love of God lead you back to Him every day and every moment**
 - a. He's always reaching out a hand of love
4. **Have the faith it takes to look to Jesus and not to yourself for confirmation of who you are**
 - a. As you have the faith to serve under Jesus, you can have the confidence that He's given you life eternal.