



INTRODUCTION

Numbers 16:1 Now **Korah** the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with **Dathan** and **Abiram** the sons of Eliab, and on the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, **took men**; **2** and they **rose up** before Moses with some of the children of Israel, **two hundred and fifty leaders** of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. **3** They **gathered together against Moses and Aaron**, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?"

Numbers 16:1-3

INTRODUCTION

Jude 1:11 Woe to **them!** For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the **rebellion of Korah**.

Incident in Numbers 16

Exodus 6:21 The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg and Zikri.

Incident in Numbers 16

Deuteronomy 11:6 and what He did to **Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben**: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel—

Genesis 49:3 Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength, the child of my vigorous youth. You are first in rank and first in power. **4** But you are as **unruly as a flood**, and you will be first no longer. For you went to bed with my wife; you defiled my marriage couch.

Genesis 49:3-4

Incident in Numbers 16

Numbers 16:3 They **gathered together against Moses and Aaron**, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?"

Numbers 3:10 **Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests**; anyone else who approaches the sanctuary is to be put to death."

Incident in Numbers 16

Numbers 4:4 This is the **work of the Kohathites** at the tent of meeting: the **care of the most holy things**.

Numbers 4:17 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, **18 "See that the Kohathite tribal clans are not destroyed** from among the Levites. **19** So that they **may live and not die when they come near the most holy things**, do this for them: Aaron and his sons are to go into the sanctuary and **assign to each man his work and what he is to carry**.

Numbers 4:17-19

Incident in Numbers 16

Numbers 16:42 But when the assembly gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron and turned toward the tent of meeting, suddenly **the cloud** covered it and **the glory of the Lord appeared**.

Incident in Numbers 16

Leviticus 10:1 Aaron's sons **Nadab and Abihu** took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered **unauthorized fire** before the Lord, **contrary to his command**. **2** So **fire** came out from the presence of the Lord and **consumed** them, and they **died** before the Lord.

Leviticus 10:1-2

1. God **alone** has absolute authority.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

2A. There is no authority except from **God**.

2B. **God** has set up **4 Authority Structures** over our lives.

i. **Government**

Romans 13:1 **Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.** For there is **no authority except from God**, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Romans 13:1-7

2B. **God** has set up **4 Authority Structures** over our lives.

i. **Government**

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. **4** For he is **God's minister** to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is **God's minister**, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

Romans 13:1-7

2B. **God** has set up **4 Authority Structures** over our lives.

i. **Government**

Romans 13:5 Therefore you must **be subject**, not only because of wrath but also **for conscience' sake**. **6** For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are **God's ministers** attending continually to this very thing. **7** **Render** therefore to all **their due: taxes** to whom taxes are due, **customs** to whom customs, fear to whom fear, **honor** to whom honor.

Romans 13:1-7

2B. **God** has set up **4 Authority Structures** over our lives.

ii. **Employer - Bosses**

Ephesians 6:5 **Bondservants, be obedient** to those who are your **masters** according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, **as to Christ**; **6** not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, **7** with goodwill doing service, **as to the Lord**, and not to men, **8** knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

Ephesians 6:5-8

2B. **God** has set up **4 Authority Structures** over our lives.

ii. **Employer - Bosses**

Colossians 3:22 Bondservants, **obey** in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but **in sincerity of heart, fearing God**. **23** And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:22-24

2B. **God** has set up **4 Authority Structures** over our lives.

iii. In the **Home**

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the **head of woman is man**, and the head of Christ is God.

Ephesians 6:1 **Children, obey your parents in the Lord**, for this is right. **2** **"Honor your father and mother,"** which is the first commandment with promise: **3** "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Ephesians 6:1-3

2B. **God** has set up **4 Authority Structures** over our lives.

iv. In the **Church**

Hebrews 13:17 **Obey those who rule over you**, and **be submissive**, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

2B. **God** has set up **4 Authority Structures** over our lives.

iv. In the **Church**

1 Thessalonians 5:12 And we urge you, brethren, to **recognize those who labor among you**, and **are over you in the Lord and admonish you**, **13** and to **esteem them very highly in love** for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Characteristics of Rebellion in Church

- Disrupting the leader's ability to effectively lead.
- **Grumbling**
- Causing dissension or division among the flock.
- **A spirit of defiance.**
- Spiritual blessing and activity of the Holy Spirit seems to be missing.
- **Suggesting that a leader is not needed or is unworthy to lead.**
- Enticing others to follow rebellious suggestion.
- **Counselling contrary doctrines opposed to the Word.**

3A. We are to **submit** to authority over us at all times.

3B. When we rebel against the **authority** God placed over us, we rebel against **God** Himself.

Numbers 16: 11 Therefore you and all your company are gathered together **against the Lord**. And what is Aaron that you **complain against him?**"

Romans 13:2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and **those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.**

3C. The only time we do not submit is when the authority requires us to **break** the Law of God.

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to **obey God rather than men.**"

4A. The spirit of rebellion is the spirit of **anti-Christ**.

Isaiah 14:12 How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! **13** For you have said in your heart: '**I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God; **I will** also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; **14 I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will** be like the Most High.'

Isaiah 14:12-14

4B. Rebellion is not just outward behavior, it is an **attitude** problem, a **heart** issue.

- Numbers 11 - discontent led to **complaining**.
- Numbers 12 - jealousy led to **criticism**.
- Numbers 13 & 14 - unbelief led to **compromise**.
- Numbers 16 - rebellion led to **contempt**.

4C. Rebellion is likened to **witchcraft**.

1 Samuel 15:23 For **rebellion** is as the **sin of witchcraft**, and **stubbornness** is as **iniquity** and **idolatry**. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king."

John 10:10a

Ephesians 4:27

5A. The spirit of anti-Christ is in the world and manifests as **lawlessness**.

5B. Lawlessness i.e. the spirit of rebellion is **contagious**.

Numbers 16:1 Now **Korah** ... **Dathan** ... **Abiram** ... **took men**; **2** ... **rose up** ... **two hundred and fifty leaders** ... **3** ... **gathered together against Moses and Aaron** ...

5C. When we fail to **honor** authority, we are guilty of lawlessness.

5D. Rebellion brings **consequences** upon us.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authority **resists the ordinance of God**, and those who resist will **bring judgment on themselves**.

Romans 13:1-2

6. God will always **vindicate** His chosen ones whom He place in authority.

Numbers 16:30 **But if the Lord creates a new thing**, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and **they go down alive into the pit**, then you will understand that **these men have rejected the Lord**." **31** Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them,

Numbers 16:30-33

6. God will always **vindicate** His chosen ones whom He place in authority.

Numbers 16:32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. **33** So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.

Numbers 16:30-33

6. God will always **vindicate** His chosen ones whom He place in authority.

Numbers 16:35 And a **fire** came out from the Lord and **consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.**

6. God will always **vindicate** His chosen ones whom He place in authority.

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the **heritage** of the **servants of the Lord**, and **their righteousness is from Me,**" says the Lord.

7. There is always hope and blessing for those who **learn** from the rebellion of Korah.

Jude 1:11 Woe to **them!** For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the **rebellion of Korah.**

Numbers 26:10 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up together with Korah when that company died, when the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men; and they became a **sign** ...

7. There is always hope and blessing for those who **learn** from the rebellion of Korah.

Numbers 26:11 Nevertheless the **children** of Korah did not die.

Psalms 84:10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a **doorkeeper** in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

7. There is always hope and blessing for those who **learn** from the rebellion of Korah.

1 Chronicles 9:19 Shallum son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the **son of Korah**, and his **fellow gatekeepers** from his family (**the Korahites**) were responsible for **guarding the thresholds of the tent** just as their ancestors had been responsible for **guarding the entrance** to the dwelling of the Lord.

