

When Boys Walk Away
February 28, 2009

The Rebellion of Korah, Dathan and Abiram

Numbers 16

CONTEXT

Whole congregation had witnessed God's choice of Moses
(Miriam's jealousy, had seen the divine glory on Sinai)
They had refused to believe God, Joshua and go up into Canaan
They had been punished with a death sentence in the wilderness
Then they tried to go up in battle but were terribly defeated

REBELLION STORY ITSELF

What started with disaffection and jealousy ventured too far until
they believed themselves actuated by zeal for God
Gained sympathy among the congregation who had been reprovved
as sinners, declaring them holy instead
Korah publicly accuses Moses of exalting himself
Moses suggests the disgruntled Levites test God by offering
incense
Dathan and Abiram refuse to speak with Moses, accusing him of
failing to bring them into Canaan and wielding princely power
250 Levites came to the tabernacle with fire in censers
God, Moses and Aaron warn the people to get away from the tents
of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.
The earth opens up and swallows “the households and all the men
with Korah, with all their goods”
Fire from God destroys the 250 Levites
The congregation accuses Moses and Aaron of killing the “people
of the Lord”
God sends a plague upon the complainers
Aaron runs through the camp making atonement for the people

The Vision of Daniel 8

THE RAM

vs. 2-4

Explanation in v.20

THE GOAT

vs. 5-8

Explanation in v. 21-22

THE LITTLE HORN

vs. 9-12

Explanation in v. 23-25

FOUR KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE LITTLE HORN

1. Cast down the host and stars to the ground, trampling them explained by v.24: the saints of God, His holy people, are persecuted
2. Exalted himself as high as the prince of the host
The Prince is the chief protagonist (leading character, hero) on God's side
The person, work and effectiveness of Christ is challenged
3. By him the daily was taken away
Referring to the daily ministry of the priests in relation to the sanctuary (and plan of salvation)
The little horn attempts to counterfeit these ministries by earthly substitutes
4. The place of his sanctuary cast down
What was correctly represented as being located in heaven has now been brought down
The heavenly ministry of Jesus Christ is represented as needing human intermediaries
Absolution of sins done on earth through human priest

Conclusion

Notice Rebellion's Similarities

1. Asserting themselves as holy people (and accusing the holy people of being unholy)
2. Asserting themselves as high as Moses
3. Asserting themselves into a new plan for daily ministry in the sanctuary
4. Bringing the work of the sanctuary down to their level

Rebellion has general, similar and largely consistent characteristics

BE AWARE OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF REBELLION

1. Over-assertion of one's self
More holy than they really are
More important than they really are
More capable to minister than they really are
2. Accusations against God's leadership
Attacks against their person, character, motives, style
3. Ignoring, or avoiding the centrality of Christ's ministry
Taking His authority
Overriding or ignoring His decisions, His leading
Claiming the right to define another's state of salvation

EPILOGUE TO KORAH'S REBELLION

Back to the part when God (and Moses) told the people to get away from the tents of the rebels...

It was the last message of mercy!

Did anyone do it? Was anyone saved in that moment?

Numbers 26:11

The children of Korah did not die. They must have walked away from their father and his tent.

The Ultimate Time of Mercy and Testing

The sanctuary WILL BE cleansed

You will have to walk away from any person, any organization that ends up on the side of rebellion against God

God's last message of mercy: **Revelation 18:4**