



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE NUMBERS 16:23-35 JUDGMENT ON THE REBELLION—

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INTRODUCTION:

CHAPTER 16:15-22 15After the two Reubenites, Dathan and Abiram had told *Moses that he hasn't brought them into the Land flowing with milk and honey, or given them their inheritance of fields and vineyards, so they weren't coming up before the Lord as instructed. And Moses was very angry and said to the LORD, "Do not accept any offering from these men. I have taken nothing from them, not even an ass. I have not done anything wrong to them."* 16Moses told Korah, that he and his company were to come before the LORD tomorrow, and Aaron will be there too. 17So, there would be a total of 250 men each with a censer along Korah and Aaron to offer incense to the LORD. 18So, the next day, the men took their censer, and put fire in them, and laid the incense in it, and stood at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron. 19Korah and his company gathered to oppose Moses and Aaron at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. Then suddenly the glory of the LORD appeared unto them. 20This is when the LORD spoke unto Moses and Aaron 21telling them to separate; get away from these people so He can immediately kill them! 22As usual Moses and Aaron fell on their faces to the ground interceding for the people saying, "*O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh (meaning Maker of all mankind), must you be angry with everyone here, when one man has sinned?"*

LESSON: I. THE LORD WARNS MOSES NUMBERS 16:23-24

16:23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,— The LORD only speaks unto Moses.

16:24 Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. The LORD told Moses to speak to the congregation and tell them to get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Moses is to give clear warning to any who would want to side with this rebellion against the LORD, Moses, and Aaron. So, God is warning Moses that something is about to happen in the camp. Korah, Dathan, Abiram and the 250 men are in for a rude awakening.

II. MOSES WARNS THE PEOPLE NUMBERS 16:25-30

16:25 And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. Moses now rises up to implement the instructions that the LORD had given him, and goes to Dathan and Abiram, the Reubenites who had dared the LORD and wouldn't come before Him when instructed. The elders of Israel followed Moses. These elders were the 70 men God had chosen to help Moses.

16:26 And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins. Moses gives the dire warning from the LORD to the congregation, telling them "*Depart I pray you, get away from the tents of these wicked men. Don't touch anything that's theirs, lest you be consumed in all of their sins.*" The LORD'S commandment is to be followed with no second guesses. Three phrases stood out: wicked men, touch nothing of theirs, and lest you be consumed in all their sins. Sin was in the camp and it had to be dwelt with— Get away I pray you! Red Flag!

16:27 So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan



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and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. So, the people moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. So, this is when Dathan and Abiram comes out of their tents. And they're standing at their entrances, with their wives and children. They don't plead for mercy or regret their fault.

16:28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind. Moses is talking to the congregation telling them that they will know that the LORD had sent him to do all that he has done (these works). And that it was not done on his own prompting, plans or impulses. This shouldn't have been a problem again and again for these people, but God is a miracle working God and He also brings judgment. As the saying goes, "You make your bed hard, you gon lay in it!"

16:29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me. Moses lets the people know that "if these men die a natural death, or from some ordinary accident or disease, then Jehovah has not sent me." This was the problem all along with these men: not accepting who God chose to lead them. They didn't accept Jesus Christ either for they kept asking Him "who sent you?" Jesus always says "those that have ears to hear, let him hear." But this time those that have eyes to see, well, they will get to see the LORD'S wrath!

16:30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. Moses' is setting them up with this warning, for he speaks the thing that will happen! He says "if the LORD creates something new, and the earth opens up and swallows them up with all that pertain to them (their families and all their possessions). And go down quickly into the pit, then, you will understand that these men had provoked the LORD. This will prove that these men have rejected the LORD." This was their warning, direct and to the point!

III. GOD JUDGES THE REBELS NUMBERS 16:31-35

The Earth Swallows Up Korah

16:31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:— Moses had just finished speaking when the ground broke loose and caved in right where they stood as warned.

16:32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. The earth having opened its mouth, immediately swallowed the wicked men (Dathan and Abiram) and their families, their tents, all of Korah's men who sided with him and all their possessions. Nothing of them or any residue of them was left.

16:33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation. They went down alive into the pit (Sheol) and all that pertained to them with all their possessions, and the ground closed over them. They perished (disappeared) from the community.

16:34 And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also. All the Israelites that were around to see this catastrophe ran as they heard

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the screams of the people going down into the pit, for they were thinking that the same would happen to them; that they would also be swallowed by the earth.

16:35 And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense. Then the LORD sent a fire, and it killed the 250 men who were offering their incense before Him.

SUMMARY:

The LORD spoke unto Moses telling him to warn the congregation to get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. He's to give clear warning to any who would want to side with this rebellion against He, Moses, and Aaron (**16:23-24**).

Moses now implements the instructions the LORD had given him. He rises up and goes to Dathan and Abiram, the Reubenites, and the elders of Israel follows Moses. These elders were the 70 men God had chosen to help Moses. Moses gives this dire warning to the congregation, telling them *"Depart I pray you, get away from the tents of these wicked men. Don't touch anything that's theirs, lest you be consumed in all of their sins."* So the people moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram were the ones who would not obey the instructions of the LORD to come before Him to offer incense. So, now they come out of their tents and stand at its entrance with their wives and children. Moses tells the congregation that they will know that the LORD had sent him to do all that he has done (these works). And that it was not done on his own prompting, plans or impulses. And if these men die of natural causes as of all men, or if they are visited with the fate of all men, then the LORD had not sent him me. But (warning them), *"if the LORD creates something new, and the earth opens up and swallows them up along with all that pertain to them (their families and all their possessions). And go down quickly into the pit, then, you will understand that these men had provoked the LORD. This will prove that these men have rejected the LORD"* (**16:25-30**).

This certainly came to pass just as Moses had ended his speech. The ground broke loose and caved in right where they stood. The earth having opened its mouth, immediately swallowed them up and their families, their tents, all the men who sided with Korah and all their possessions. They went down alive into the pit (Sheol) with all their possessions, and the ground closed over them. They perished (disappeared) from the community. All the Israelites that were around them ran as they heard the people's screams going down into the pit, for they were thinking that they would also be swallowed up by the earth. Then the LORD sent a fire, and it killed the 250 men who were offering their incense at the door of the tabernacle (**16:31-35**).