



SERIES:	04 Numbers - 2013
MESSAGE:	Numbers 16
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Numbers 16

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Numbers 16, the children of Israel once again begin to complain as one of the leaders stirs up a rebellion against Moses. As the Lord's chosen leader, Moses challenges the opposition and pleads with the Lord to spare the people from destruction. As we study these events, we are challenged to search our own hearts and discover where the Lord has called us to serve Him.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. The gainsaying of Korah—Jude 11 (ASV)
- B. "Don't complain to people. When you complain to people, eighty percent of the people you tell don't care anyway, and twenty percent of the people you tell are glad you finally got what you deserve" —Mark Twain
- C. *Murmur*—onomatopoeic (sounds like the sound it's defining)
- D. The fifth (and sixth!) murmuring in Numbers so far
- E. Korah, a prominent Levite, leads a rebellion with 250 leaders against Moses' authority
- F. Moses criticized
 1. By his family (Aaron and Miriam) (Numbers 12)
 2. By his leaders
 3. By his congregation
- G. Rebelling against Moses is rebelling against God
- H. "The essence of all sin is rebellion against divine leadership" —A.W. Tozer

II. Numbers 16:1-19

- A. The rebellion of Korah
- B. Moses did *not* take too much upon himself
 1. The Lord had to push him into ministry
 2. He was humble (Numbers 11:29)
- C. Root problem of Korah and his men's rebellion: jealousy and covetousness over Moses' and Aaron's positions
 1. Tribe of Levi divided into three family groups
 2. Korah belonged to Kohath, whose task was to transport the tabernacle's holiest of implements through the wilderness
- D. Other biblical example of jealousy: David's alienated son Absalom sitting at the city gate, stealing the hearts of Israel (2 Samuel 15)
- E. When your eyes are off the Lord, like Korah and his men, you are never, ever a happy person
- F. The blessing isn't in leading; it's in being in sync with *the* Leader

- G. I Corinthians 12
 - 1. There are some positions in the church that are more visible/noticeable and thus seem to be more important
 - 2. In real-life human anatomy, you can't live without unseen parts (liver, lungs, etc.)
- H. Discover the gifts God gave you, and you will be happy and satisfied when you function with that unction (i.e. calling/anointing)
 - I. Rewriting history: Egypt being called a land "flowing with milk and honey" (v. 13)
- III. Numbers 16:19-40
 - A. Whenever there's an issue, God makes Himself known
 - B. "They" in v. 22 refers to Moses and Aaron; their reaction goes against human tendency
 - C. "The God of the spirits of all flesh"
 - 1. Only used twice in Old Testament
 - 2. Our essence is spirit, not flesh
 - 3. New Testament tripartite view: body, soul, spirit
 - D. The intercession of Moses and Aaron foreshadowed that of Christ; Exodus 18
 - E. Korah should have repented after hearing Moses' words—but he didn't, just like Jonah (see book of Jonah)
 - F. Sins of the fathers being visited on the children
 - 1. Numbers 14:18
 - 2. Similarly, blessings were visited on those who had faith and removed themselves and their children from Korah and his men
 - G. Korah and his men's punishment serves as a visual aide
 - 1. They attempted to divide the people
 - 2. God judged them the same way they sinned
 - 3. Matthew 7:2, Galatians 6:7
 - H. This is an episodic incident, not a typical one
 - 1. Dramatic revelation of God's anger to leave a warning and example for future generations
 - 2. Genesis 19: Sodom and Gomorrah
 - 3. Leviticus 10: Nadab and Abihu
 - 4. Numbers 12: Miriam and Aaron
 - 5. Acts 5: Ananias and Sapphira
 - I. Another visual aid: using the censers from the "poser priests" to make a covering for the altar
- IV. Numbers 16:40-50
 - A. Moses is actually the one responsible for God sparing the nation through his intercession
 - B. People get angry at the judgment of God; they can't see Him so they blame His visual representatives
 - C. The cloud indicated the presence of God
 - 1. Not just for guidance, but for guilt and judgment
 - 2. You have to decide what kind of presence of God you want to enjoy
 - D. Psalm 141:2
- V. Closing
 - A. Discover God's plan, gifting, and purpose for your life
 - B. Whatever God has called you to do, if you do it with all of your heart, you will have great enjoyment

Figures Referenced: A.W. Tozer, Mark Twain

Cross references: Exodus 18, Leviticus 10, Numbers 11:26; 12; 14:18; 16, 2 Samuel 15, Psalm 141:2, Jonah, Matthew 7:2, Acts 5, 1 Corinthians 12, Galatians 6:7

Topic: Rebellion

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