

“Thanklessness Leads to Discontentment”

Numbers 16

“Now listen, you Levites! Isn’t it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD’s tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them?” (Num. 16:8-9)

In Num. 3-4 God chose the Levites to serve in the Tabernacle, and Levi’s 3 sons Gershom, Kohath and Merari all were given specific responsibilities to carry out. Sadly, in Numbers 16, one of Kohathites – Korah – organizes a rebellion against Moses and Aaron because they were not content with the role God gave them. How does God respond to thanklessness from those who have been given the privilege to serve Him? What are the warning signs of discontentment that we should watch for in our lives?

GRACE RECEIVED – Numbers 3-4

Review what God gave to the Levites in Numbers 3.

3:6 “Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to _____ him.

The Hebrew word is ‘sharat’ which means a privileged servant. Look at these other examples of this word.

Gen. 39:4 “Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in _____ of his household, and he entrusted to his care _____ he owned.”

Ex. 24:13 “Then Moses set out with Joshua his _____, and Moses went up on the mountain of God.”

Deut. 17:12 “Anyone who shows contempt for the _____ or for the _____ who stands ministering there to the LORD your God is to be put to death. You must purge the evil from Israel.”

What else did God tell the Levites in Num. 3?

3:7 “They are to perform duties for him and for the whole _____ at the tent of meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle.”

3:8 “They are to take care of all the _____ of the tent of meeting, fulfilling the _____ of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle.

3:9 “Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are the Israelites who are to be given _____ to him.

3:10 “Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests; anyone else who approaches the sanctuary is to be put to _____.”

Of the 3 sons of Levi was Kohath first second or third born?

3:17 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

Yet who is listed first when the responsibilities are handed out and what are they to carry?

4:4 "This is the work of the _____ in the Tent of Meeting: the care of the Most _____ things."

Note God's specific charge to Moses and Aaron in 4:18-20.

***So the Kohathites, although second born, were given the privilege of closest 'access' to God. God wanted to make sure they did things right so they wouldn't die.**

GRACE SHUNNED – Numbers 16

Korah the Levite rebels. Whose son was he?

16:1 "Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of _____, the son of Levi."

What is it he did?

16:1-2 "... became _____ and _____ against Moses" (NIV)

Not just a few but _____ men along with Dathan and Abiram and certain R _____ . V.3 says they came "_____"

***What does that tell us about Kohath and the other rebels?**

What did they say to Moses and Aaron?

16:3 "You have gone _____! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set _____ above the LORD's assembly?"

***Was their charge against Moses true?**

How did Moses respond?

16:4 "When Moses heard this he fell _____."

Most likely Moses fell down in fear of God's wrath coming (11:1-2, 14:10-12) to pray for Kohath and the others. God apparently spoke to Moses because Moses knew what God wanted done.

16:5 "In the _____ the LORD will show who belongs to Him and who is _____ and He will have that person come _____ Him."

16:6 "You Korah and all your followers are to do this: take censers and tomorrow put _____ and _____ in them before the LORD. The man the LORD _____ will be the one who is holy. You Levites have _____!"

Moses nails the real problem in the head in v.8. What was it?

16:9 "Isn't it _____ for you that the God of Israel has _____ you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near _____ to do the work of the LORD's Tabernacle and stand before the community and _____ to them?"

16:10 "He has brought you and all your fellow Levites _____ Himself but now you are trying to get the _____ too."

16:11 “It is against the _____ that you and all your followers have banded together. Who is _____ that you should grumble against him.”

When they all appeared before the Tent of Meeting the next morning, what else appeared?

16:19 the _____ of the LORD

God told Moses and Aaron to move away so he could wipe them all out, but what do they do?

16:22 they fell _____ and _____ to God

Why should Korah and the others have known better than to approach God with a censor?

***Lev. 10:1-2**

God removed the ‘rebels’ in a miraculous yet horrific way (16:31-35). Did this change the people?

16:41 “The _____ day the _____ Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ‘You have _____ the Lord’s people’ they said.”

*God threatens to wipe them out again, but Moses sends Aaron to **make atonement** for them. Why was Moses so willing to spare Israel from being wiped out?*

See Num. 14:10-25

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