

## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – December 2, 2018

### Announcements

- The due date for signing up for the winter training webcast is 12/9.
- We are starting a new HWMR from the recent ITERO, copies are available in the bookroom.
- No parking is permitted at the Presbyterian church parking lot. A map of available parking is on the tables.
- The parents of the young people will pray together today after the prophesying meeting.
- We are reading messages 23 and 24 from the *Life-Study of Numbers*. The reading schedule is on the table and posted on the church website.
- The Wednesday night ministry meeting webcast starts at 7:30 pm at the following locations:
  - Smith – South Bellevue, (206) 914-3447, in English
  - Chang – Overlake, (425) 830-3900, in Korean
  - Wang – South Bellevue, (425) 653-2249, in Chinese
  - Miyake – Central Bellevue, (425) 451-7294, in English

### Burdens for Prayer

- England Training Center
- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications (parking)
- NW brothers' meeting in Tacoma
- Prayer meeting

### **This Week: November 26 – December 2**

**Morning Revival:** *Propagating the Resurrected, Ascended, and All-inclusive Christ as the Development of the Kingdom of God,*  
week 1

**Hall Cleaning:** Downstairs – Young People  
Upstairs – Sammamish & Somerset

|                |         |                |
|----------------|---------|----------------|
| <b>Tuesday</b> | 7:30 pm | Prayer meeting |
|----------------|---------|----------------|

|                 |         |           |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Saturday</b> | 8:30 am | Breakfast |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|

|                   |         |              |
|-------------------|---------|--------------|
| <b>Lord's Day</b> | 9:30 am | Lords' Table |
|-------------------|---------|--------------|

**LIFE-STUDY OF NUMBERS**  
**MESSAGE TWENTY-THREE**  
**JOURNEYING (8)**

Scripture Reading: Num. 16:1-18

In this message we come to another rebellion, the rebellion described in Numbers 16. This rebellion took place immediately after the insertion with the instructions and warnings in chapter fifteen.

**V. REBELLION—A MORE SERIOUS FAILURE**

The first rebellion was the murmuring of evil by those at the border of the camp. The second rebellion was the lusting of the mixed multitude. The third involved two elder relatives of Moses who were very close to him. Now, after the fourth rebellion, the rebellion of unbelief in spying out the land, some of the leading ones rebelled. This time the rebellion was on a much larger scale; it involved more than two hundred fifty people.

**A. The Rebels**

We first need to see who the rebels were.

**1. Korah**

Korah, a descendant of Levi, was of the same tribe as Moses and Aaron. He served God with them. Hence, he was not among those at the border nor among the mixed multitude. Rather, as a Levite, a serving one, even a leader among the Levites, he was in the center of the camp.

**2. Dathan, Abiram, and On**

Dathan, Abiram, and On were descendants of Reuben (the firstborn of Jacob). They must have taken the lead among the sons of Israel according to their natural birth (16:1).

**3. Two Hundred Fifty Leaders of the Assembly**

With Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On, there were two hundred fifty leaders of the assembly. They had been chosen from the congregation and were well-known men (v. 2).

Numbers 16:1 and 2 indicate that the rebellious spirit was spreading unto a thorough saturation among the people. This rebellion was a great hardship to Moses and Aaron because it was against the center of the government.

## **B. The Cause of the Rebellion**

### **1. The Struggle for Position and Power**

The cause of the rebellion was the struggle for position and power. In verses 9 and 10 Moses said, "Is it too small a thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the assembly of Israel to bring you near to Himself, to do the service of the tabernacle of Jehovah, and to stand before the assembly to minister to them; and that He has brought you near to Him, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? And will you seek the priesthood also?" The priests had the priesthood, the priestly service, and the Levites had the Levitical service next to them and were serving the priests. But, as Moses' word indicates, the rebels were struggling for power and for a higher position.

### **2. The Accusation**

In verse 3, the rebels made an accusation against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have gone too far! For all the assembly is holy, every one of them, and Jehovah is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of Jehovah?" This shows that the root, or the factor, of this rebellion was the struggle for power. Through the centuries, many problems among Christians have been caused by the struggle for position and power. In society this power struggle is everywhere—in the schools, in the government, and in corporations. In the work place, people play politics in order to gain more power and position. The same thing happened among God's people in ancient times and has been repeated again and again among Christians through the centuries.

## **C. The Reaction of Moses**

In 16:4-11, 15-18 we see the reaction of Moses.

### **1. Falling on His Face**

"When Moses heard it, he fell on his face" (v. 4). This indicates that in his reaction to this rebellion, Moses was humble.

### **2. Standing on the Position of God's Deputy Authority**

Although Moses was humble in falling on his face, he did not give up his God-given position as God's deputy authority (vv. 5-11, 16-18). He rebuked Korah and all his company and charged them to be present before Jehovah with their censers, saying that Jehovah would make known who was His and who was holy and would cause him to come near Him. This indicates that in a struggle for power the only one who can judge and expose the real situation is God Himself.

Moses did not fight back; rather, he brought the rebels and the ones against whom they rebelled to God. As God's deputy, or delegated, authority, Moses referred this case to God as the highest authority for His speaking, exposure, and judgment.

### 3. Being Very Angry

Moses was very angry and prayed, "Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one ass from them, and I have not ill-treated one of them" (v. 15). Moses' prayer concerning God's not accepting their offering was serious. It is not easy for a servant of God to pray in this way. Here it seems that Moses was forced to vindicate himself, but God did not condemn him for this.

Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Leviticus*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.  
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| <b>Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes</b> |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Lord's Day, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | Romans 5:12-17  |
| Monday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>             | Romans 5:18-6:5 |
| Tuesday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>            | Romans 6:6-11   |
| Wednesday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>          | Romans 6:12-23  |
| Thursday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>           | Romans 7:1-12   |
| Friday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>             | Romans 7:13-25  |
| Saturday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>           | Romans 8:1-2    |