

## **NUM. 16:15, 22 -- THE JEALOUSY & REBELLION OF KORAH AGAINST MOSES AND AARON!**

11/25/2017 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

### **GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU – Civilla Martin - Christian Children's Choir**

*1 Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you; Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.*

*Chorus: God will take care of you, Through every day, O'er all the way; He will take care of you, God will take care of you.*

*2 Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you; When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. [Chorus]*

*3 No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you; Lean, weary one upon His breast, God will take care of you. [Chorus] 4 Repeat vs. 1 & Chorus*

**The Biblical Setting:** In chapter 11, we saw the people **complaining** – “Where am I to get meat?” In chapter 12, we saw the **jealousy and envy** of Miriam and Aaron; **Moses interceding** for the healing of Miriam from leprosy. In chapter 13, **spies were sent into Canaan**. While **two, Joshua and Caleb** brought back a **good report, believing** in God and His promises, the report of **the other ten** and **their unbelief**, resulted in **fear and total unbelief, causing all the congregation to weep and complain**. Now we have the **jealousy and rebellion of Moses' cousin, Korah** - **Jude 1:11** *Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.*

**NUMBERS 16:15-22** “ **Then Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD, "Do not respect their offering.**

**Moses restates his challenge.**

- ***Then Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD:*** After the words of Dathan and Abiram, Moses was angry - **very angry**. He knew he has done nothing to deserve such an accusation, and he did the right thing - **he left the situation to God**.
- Moses was a man of political power. It was certainly within his capability to have Korah and his followers, including Dathan and Abiram, arrested and/or executed. Instead, he left the situation to God.
- People may not agree that a man like Moses should be **angry** with men like Dathan and Abiram. They think a gentle, easy love is the proper response. Such thinking is understandable, but wrong. Shepherds are gentle with wayward sheep who might injure themselves, but they are passionate against wolves who would injure the flock.

***I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them." [16] And Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company be present before the LORD—you and they, as well as Aaron.***

- ***I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them:*** This shows that Moses was a man of integrity and service to the people. Moses could rest in his clean conscience before God.
- This reminds us of Samuel's testimony at King Saul's coronation in **1 Samuel 12:3**: “ *Here I am. Witness against me before the LORD and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you.*”. When a leader is troubled by rebellious and persons sowing discord, there is something glorious about a clean conscience.

***[17] Let each take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD, two hundred and fifty censers; both you and Aaron, each with his censer." [18] So every man took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and stood at the door of the tabernacle of meeting with Moses and Aaron. [19] And Korah gathered all the congregation against them at***

*the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation. [20] And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,*

God affirms Moses' leadership over the nation of Israel. God announces judgment on the rebels.

- ***Let each take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD:*** Herein is the challenge. God would approve or disapprove of these 250 men gathered with censers of incense before the door of the tabernacle.
- God used the censers with fire and incense in this test for a good reason. A ***censer*** is a metal pot used to burn incense, and they were used in the priestly worship of God. Since Korah and his companions ***questioned Moses and Aaron's right to lead the nation and conduct the priesthood***, each group would come to the LORD as worshipping priests - and ***God would show which group He accepted***.
- Moses ***made the rebels take the position they desired - the position of priest***. Often the best judgment on the divisive and rebellious is to let them lead.
- From man's standpoint, the odds were not good. It was Moses and Aaron standing alone against ***all the congregation***. Yet ***God would make this choice***, and not popular opinion.

***[21] Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation. And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment."***

- ***Separate yourselves:*** It is as if God said, "Moses and Aaron, will you please move away? I'm going to destroy all these rebels in an instant, and I don't want you to get hurt."
- ***That I may consume them in a moment:*** God decided to make His choice immediately evident. Sometimes this is not the case when God deals with modern Korahs and their followers.

***[22] Then they fell on their faces, and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh,***

The intercession of Moses and Aaron for Korah and the rebels.

- ***Then they fell on their faces:*** This was ***amazing love from Moses and Aaron***. Undoubtedly, one of God's reasons for allowing such a painful event in the life of Moses was that God wanted to see this kind love drawn out of Moses. Perhaps it was only the prayer of Moses and Aaron can spare the lives of these men who have tried to bring them down. Such love for the undeserving shows that Moses and Aaron were growing in love, and being transformed into the image of Jesus - before Jesus ever walked the earth.
- Again, the importance of prayer is emphasized. It seems as if there were no prayer, then the rebellious congregation would be destroyed. We should think that Moses' prayer was essential.

***shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?"***

- ***Shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation:*** Moses and Aaron saw right through it. Though many were involved (at least more than 250), one man was at the center of it all - Korah. His sin, his drawing of a group after himself, was the cause of all this mess.

### **SUMMARY:**

- ***Jealousy, primarily in Moses' cousin, Korah, was at the root of the rebellion.***
- ***There is no root of bitterness that needs such careful watching as jealousy!***
- ***We see a wonderful response by Moses in turning this over to the LORD to let Him decide***
- ***How the LORD responded! Note the important intercession of Moses and Aaron! - v. 22***

**Pray Today For:** Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. General James Kelly. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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