

Numbers 16:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up:

Analysis

Dathan and Abiram, from Reuben's tribe, refused Moses' summons with contempt. Their defiance escalated beyond Korah's religious challenge to complete rejection of Moses' authority. The phrase 'we will not come up' expressed not merely refusal but arrogant dismissal. Pride and rebellion feed on themselves, growing bolder when unchecked.

Historical Context

Reuben was Jacob's firstborn but lost preeminence through sin (Genesis 49:4). The involvement of Reubenites in this rebellion may reflect lingering resentment over forfeited primacy. Past grievances, even generational ones, fuel present rebellion when hearts remain unreconciled to God's purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What past disappointments or perceived injustices feed current rebellion in your heart?

2. How does pride prevent submission even when confronted with truth?

Interlinear Text

אֵלִיאָב בָּבֶן יְהוָה וְשָׁלֹחַ
sent And Moses to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab

H7971 H4872 H7121 H1885 H48 H1121 H446

לֹא יִאָמֶר וְנִעְלֶה:
which said We will not come up

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