

# 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

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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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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וְשָׁלַח	וּמֹשֶׁה	לִקְרֹא	לְדָתָן	וְלֶאֱבִירָם	בְּנֵי	אֱלִיָּאב
sent	And Moses	to call	Dathan	and Abiram	the sons	of Eliab
H7971	H4872	H7121	H1885	H48	H1121	H446
וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹא	נָעֲלֶה:				
which said		We will not come up				
H559	H3808	H5927				

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