

Numbers 16:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

Analysis

Korah gathered all the congregation against them—Korah's rebellion becomes a popular movement; he's mobilized the entire edah (עֲדָה, congregation/assembly) against Moses and Aaron. This reveals his political genius: framing the issue as 'liberation' from 'autocratic' leadership. Yet when they gather **unto the door of the tabernacle**, they force a divine verdict: **the glory of the LORD appeared** (kavod YHWH, כָּבוֹד יְהָוָה).

The kavod—God's visible, weighty presence—manifests when His holiness is challenged. This is no mere power struggle but cosmic treason. The people side with Korah's democratic rhetoric against God's theocratic order. Numbers repeatedly shows Israel rejecting God's appointed leaders (ch. 11, 12, 14, 16, 20)—a pattern culminating in their rejection of Christ (John 19:15).

Historical Context

The 'glory of the LORD' appeared at critical junctures: Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:16), the tabernacle's inauguration (Exodus 40:34), and moments of rebellion. Its appearance often preceded judgment, as God's holiness cannot coexist with unchecked sin. The congregation's complicity made them liable.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you recognize when a 'prophetic' movement is actually mob rebellion against God's ordained structures?
2. What does it mean that Christ endured God's glory as judgment (the cross) so we could experience it as grace (transformation)?

Interlinear Text

אָלָּה בְּעִירָה: כָּלְכָל מִלְּקָדְשָׁה וְלִקְרָב לְ

gathered H5921 **And Korah** H853 **all the congregation** H3605 **appeared** H413

H6950 H7141 H5712

תְּבַעַד אֶל כָּל מִזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת

against them unto the door H6607 **of the tabernacle** H168 **of the congregation** H4150 **appeared** H7200

H3519 H3068 H5712

כְּבוֹד הָיָה אֶל כָּל בְּעִירָה:

and the glory of the LORD H413 **all the congregation** H3605

H3519 H3068 H5712

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 16:42 (Glory): And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

Numbers 14:10 (Glory): But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

Exodus 16:7 (Glory): And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?

Leviticus 9:23 (Glory): And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people.

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