

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 (עדה, 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, כְּבוֹד יְהוָה).

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

וָקָה ל	עָלֶיהָ מ	קִרְחָ	אֶת	כָּל	הָעֵדָה:	אֶל
gathered	H5921	And Korah	H853	H3605	all the congregation	H413
H6950		H7141			H5712	
פָּ תַח		אֶל הַ	מוֹעֵד		וַיֵּרָא	
against them unto the door		of the tabernacle	of the congregation		appeared	
H6607		H168	H4150		H7200	
כְּבוֹד	יְהוָה	אֶל	כָּל	הָעֵדָה:		
and the glory	of the LORD	H413	H3605	all the congregation		
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.