

Numbers 16:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

Analysis

Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram—God's mercy provides escape: *he'alu* (הָעַל, 'get you up') commands physical separation from the rebels' tents. The phrase *mi'saviv* (מִשְׁבֵּב, 'from about/around') indicates that many Israelites were camped near or associating with the three rebel leaders—guilt by proximity unless they repent and depart.

Note the expanded list: **Korah, Dathan, and Abiram**—this was a coalition rebellion. Korah (a Levite, Kohathite clan) represented religious grievance; Dathan and Abiram (Reubenites) represented tribal/political grievance against Moses. Together they mounted a two-front attack: 'you've taken too much religious authority' (Korah) and 'you've failed as political leader' (Dathan/Abiram, v. 13-14). God will answer both charges decisively.

Historical Context

Reuben's tribe camped south of the tabernacle, adjacent to the Kohathites (Numbers 2:10, 3:29), creating geographic proximity that fostered the conspiracy. Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, had lost preeminence due to sin (Genesis 49:3-4), breeding resentment that Dathan and Abiram exploited. The tribe never recovered prominence in Israel.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does proximity (physical, relational, ideological) to rebellion endanger you, even if you're not actively participating?
2. What modern parallels exist to the Korah-Dathan-Abiram coalition—religious grievance allied with political grievance against biblical authority?

Interlinear Text

Speak	H413	unto the congregation		saying		Get you up		from about
H1696		H5712		H559		H5927		H5439
the tabernacle		of Korah	Dathan	and Abiram				
H4908		H7141	H1885	H48				
למִשְׁכָּן		אֶת־	אֶת־	אֶת־				

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