

Numbers 16:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of their's, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.

Analysis

Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins. Moses warns Israel to separate from Korah's company before judgment falls. The imperative 'Depart' commands immediate action. The description 'these wicked men' identifies their rebellion as evil. The warning 'lest ye be consumed in all their sins' shows that association with rebels brings judgment. This demonstrates the principle of separation from wickedness. While Christians live in the world, we must not participate in evil or identify with God's enemies. The warning 'touch nothing of theirs' indicates contamination through association. Second Corinthians 6:17 echoes this: 'Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.' Wisdom requires discernment about associations and alliances.

Historical Context

Moses' warning came just before the earth opened and swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram with their households (Numbers 16:31-33). The congregation heeded the warning and moved away, escaping judgment. The phrase 'consumed in all their sins' indicates judgment for their rebellion would affect anyone remaining close. Ancient Near Eastern concepts of corporate solidarity meant families often shared leaders' fates. The following day, when the congregation grumbled about the rebels' deaths, 14,700 died in a plague (Numbers 16:41-49), showing the danger of sympathizing with God's enemies. The principle of separation from evil

appears throughout Scripture—Lot's wife looked back and perished (Genesis 19:26); Revelation 18:4 commands 'Come out of her, my people' regarding Babylon.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the command to separate from Korah's company teach about the danger of associations with those rebelling against God?
2. How can we practice biblical separation from evil while still engaging the world as witnesses?

Interlinear Text

מַעַל	נָא	סִרְוָה	לְאַמְרָה	רֹאשׁ	יִזְבֶּבֶר	כָּעֵד	הַ	אֵל	יִזְבֶּבֶר	וְ	וְ	מַעַל
And he spake	H413	unto the congregation	saying	Depart	H4994	H5921						
H1696		H5712	H559	H5493								
אֶלְךָ	יְמִינְךָ	בְּאַנְשָׁים	בְּרָשָׁעִים	בְּאַלְמָנָה	בְּאַלְמָנָה	תְּגַעַן	וְ	אֶלְךָ	בְּאַלְמָנָה	וְ	תְּגַעַן	
I pray you from the tents	H168	H376	of these wicked	H428	H408	H5060						
			H7563									
בְּכָל	לֹא	מִן	אֲשֶׁר	בְּכָל	תְּסַפֵּר	וְ						
H3605	H834	H0	H6435	nothing of theirs lest ye be consumed	H5595	H3605						
מַטְאָתָם:												
in all their sins	H2403											

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 52:11 (Parallel theme): Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.

Revelation 18:4 (Sin): And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

2 Corinthians 6:17 (Parallel theme): Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

Acts 8:20 (Parallel theme): But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Acts 13:51 (Parallel theme): But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

1 Timothy 5:22 (Sin): Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

Deuteronomy 13:17 (Parallel theme): And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers;

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