

Numbers 16:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.

Analysis

So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side—The faithful obey God's warning (v. 24), creating physical separation: mi'saviv (מִשְׁבֵּב, 'on every side') shows complete withdrawal. In contrast, **Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents**—they position themselves defiantly at their tent entrances with **their wives, and their sons, and their little children**.

This is chilling: they involve their families in their rebellion, ensuring corporate destruction. The phrase nitsavim (נִצְבִּים, 'standing') suggests deliberate posture—not cowering but brazenly awaiting God's judgment. Their whole households become complicit, illustrating that sin's consequences spread beyond the individual. Contrast righteous Lot, whose angels dragged him from Sodom (Genesis 19:16); here no one compels Dathan and Abiram—they freely choose destruction, dragging their children with them. Next verse (28) Moses warns: 'hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me'—creation itself will judge.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern households were corporate units; a patriarch's decision bound his family (Joshua 24:15: 'as for me and my house'). Yet Dathan and

Abiram's wives and children weren't innocent bystanders—they participated in the rebellion's public theater. The earth swallowing them (v. 32-33) became a perpetual warning (Deuteronomy 11:6).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do your rebellious choices against God's authority affect those under your influence—family, employees, ministry followers?
2. What's the proper balance between 'counting the cost' of following God (Luke 14:26-33) and recognizing that obedience to God preserves rather than destroys families?

Interlinear Text

וְאַבִּירָם	וְדָתָן	וְקָרָה	מִשְׁאָכָן	מִעַל	וְעַל	וְאַבִּירָם	וְדָתָן	וְקָרָה	מִשְׁאָכָן	מִעַל	וְעַל
So they got up	H5921	from the tabernacle	H4908	of Korah	H7141	Dathan	H1885	and Abiram	H48		
H5927						H1885					
אֲחֶלֶת	מִתְחָדָה	בְּתַחַת	בְּתַחַת	בְּתַחַת	בְּתַחַת	וְאַבִּירָם	וְדָתָן	וְקָרָה	מִשְׁאָכָן	מִעַל	וְעַל
on every side	Dathan	and Abiram	came out	and stood	in the door	of their tents					
H5439	H1885	H48	H3318	H5324	H6607	H168					
וְנֶשֶׁיָּה	מִתְפָּמָה	וְבָנִים	וְבָנִים	וְבָנִים	וְבָנִים	וְנֶשֶׁיָּה	מִתְפָּמָה	וְבָנִים	וְבָנִים	וְבָנִים	וְנֶשֶׁיָּה
and their wives	and their sons	and their little children									
H802	H1121	H2945									