

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* (מִסָּבִיב, '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* (נִצָּבִים, '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

וַעֲלֹ	יַמַּעַל	מִמֶּשֶׁן	קֹרַח	וְדָתַן	וְאַבִּירָם	
So they gat up	H5927	from the tabernacle	of Korah	Dathan	and Abiram	
		H4908	H7141	H1885	H48	
מִכָּל־יָבֵ	וְדָתַן	וְאַבִּירָם	יָצְאוּ	וַעֲמָדוּ	בְּפֶתַח	אֹהֶל־מִוֶּלֶדָם
on every side	Dathan	and Abiram	came out	and stood	in the door	of their tents
H5439	H1885	H48	H3318	H5324	H6607	H168
וְנָשֵׁיהֶם	וּבְנֵיהֶם	וְטַפָּם:				
and their wives	and their sons	and their little children				
H802	H1121	H2945				