

Numbers 16:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

Analysis

They 'went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.' The emphasis on 'alive' (Hebrew 'chai') indicates conscious descent into Sheol, amplifying terror. Complete removal ('they perished from among the congregation') left no physical trace, only warning to future generations.

Historical Context

This judgment answered the rebels' question 'wherefore lift ye up yourselves?' (v.3) definitively. God's choice of Moses and Aaron was vindicated beyond dispute through supernatural demonstration.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does conscious awareness in judgment teach about eternal consequences of rebellion?

2. How should remembrance of God's past judgments inform present obedience?

Interlinear Text

וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ
opened	And the earth	H853	her mouth	and swallowed them up	H853	H853
H6605	H776		H6310	H1104		
וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ
and their houses	H853	H3605	and all the men	H834		
H1004			H120			
וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ	וַתִּפֹּתָהּ
that appertained unto Korah	H853	H3605	and all their goods			
H7141			H7399			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 26:11 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding the children of Korah died not.

Revelation 12:16 (Parallel theme): And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Psalms 106:17 (Parallel theme): The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram.

Isaiah 5:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

1 Chronicles 6:22 (Parallel theme): The sons of Kohath; Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son,