

## Life-Study of Numbers Summaries - Messages 21–25

### Failures

Although God's bringing of the people into the good land was apparently for the people, it was actually to accomplish, to carry out, God's eternal plan, which is altogether centered on the all-inclusive Christ. As human beings we need to be concerned for our daily life, our jobs, our safety, and our security. But we should not forget that God's enemy, Satan, is hidden behind the scene and that the real issue on earth today is a matter not between God and man but between God and Satan. Thus, if we care only for our existence, security, safety, peace, and future, we may become an abhorrence in the eyes of God.

### Ordinances

Statutes are regulations without judgment, whereas ordinances are regulations with judgment. The ordinances concerning the offerings were to be applied in the good land. Once the people entered the land, they were to keep these ordinances.

In Numbers 15 verses 32 through 36 we have the ordinance concerning breaking the Sabbath. To break the Sabbath is not merely to do something wrong; to break the Sabbath is to deny God an all that He has done for us. To keep the Sabbath is to believe in God and obey God to participate in what He has accomplished for us. To break the Sabbath is to break the principle that we should not strive for ourselves. Breaking this principle leads to death.

### Rebellion

The fifth rebellion of the children of Israel was on a much larger scale. Korah, a descendant of Levi, Dathan, Abiram, and On, descendants of Reuben, and two hundred fifty leaders of the assembly rebelled. The cause of the rebellion was the struggle for position and power. In a struggle for power the only one who can judge and expose the real situation is God Himself. We all need to be careful to guard against the "gopher" of ambition within us. The history of Christianity is a history of the struggle for power. This struggle is within each one of us. Eventually, the church life will be a test to our real situation. As long as we are in the church life, sooner or later we will be tested and exposed. In such a rebellious situation, it is better not to do anything. The Lord is still living. He is still on the throne and is still sovereign. We must always refer these things to Him and let Him be what He is.

In God's judgment of the rebellious ones, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, together with their wives, sons, little ones, and all the men with their goods were swallowed by the earth and sent down alive into Sheol. The two hundred fifty men were consumed by fire which came forth from Jehovah. Finally, God intervened immediately in the case of the murmuring of the people against Moses and Aaron, sending a plague to kill them under His wrath. If we consider God's way of judging, we will see that He executes His judgment from three directions: the earth, from heaven, and from within the rebellious ones. God's judgment does not subdue people; rather, it consumes them.

### God's Vindication

God's vindication always goes along with His judgment. Actually, God's judgment is a form of vindication. After His judgment, God commanded that twelve rods be laid before the testimony, which typified Christ and was the place where God met with His people. This signifies that everything had to be brought into the presence of God to let God deal with the real situation by speaking the truth to all the people through His vindication. A rod is a piece of dead wood which has not been cut, dead and dried up. Yet such a dead and dried up piece of wood would bud. The budding rod of Aaron was put back before the testimony and was kept as a sign for the sons of rebellion, that their murmurings against God might be ended, lest they die. The budding rod of Aaron typifies not a dead Christ but the resurrected Christ, the budding Christ, who imparts life to others. (Life-Study of Numbers – Messages 21–25).