

## God Hates Rebellion!

by Fred DeRuvo – Study-Grow-Know Ministries

*“Then Moses arose and went to Dathan and Abiram, with the elders of Israel following him, and he spoke to the congregation, saying, ‘Depart now from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing that belongs to them, or you will be swept away in all their sin.’ So they got back from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the doorway of their tents, along with their wives and their sons and their little ones. Moses said, ‘By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these deeds; for this is not my doing. If these men die the death of all men or if they suffer the fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me. But if the LORD brings about an entirely new thing and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that is theirs, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have spurned the LORD.”* (Numbers 16:25-30)

God had told Moses to tell the people to move away from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and their dwellings (cf. Numbers 16:24). Moses did this, but also note that Moses goes onto say something very interesting about how Korah, Dathan, and Abiram will die. Obviously, the Lord placed this on Moses’ heart when he said that the ground would open up and they would fall in Sheol alive. Let’s see what happens.

*“As he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them split open; and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, and their households, and all the men who belonged to Korah with their possessions. So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. All Israel who were around them fled at their outcry, for they said, ‘The earth may swallow us up!’ Fire also came forth from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering the incense.”* (Numbers 16:31-35)

That is scary! So scary that the people who were *not* part of Korah’s rebellion moved even further away from him and his household for fear that they would be affected as well. As soon as the people had separated from Korah, the ground opened up and the text tells us that the earth swallowed Korah, his family, and his group alive and they went directly to Sheol.

As if that was not enough, God sent fire from heaven to destroy the 250 who rose up *with* Korah. They had offered incense (presumably to an idol), and that, along with their rebellion against Moses (and ultimately against God), was enough reason for God to take their lives.

God was building His nation, and He would not stand for rebellion against the man He had personally hand-picked to lead that ragtag, motley group from Egypt to the Promised Land, turning them from that motley crew into a nation that would give birth to the Messiah (cf. Revelation 12). They were to do it God's way, or not at all.

### **Esau**

Again, this is the way of the apostate, the false teacher, who has only his own interests at heart. His pride keeps him from caring about anyone else, and he thinks he is unquestionably correct. He sees no need to be under anyone else's authority and leadership because he himself is a leader. Since the apostate fancies himself a leader, why does he really need anyone else?

This is why Esau became hated by God (cf. Malachi 1:3; Romans 9:13). Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup (cf. Genesis 25). He did so because it was more important for him to feed his flesh than understand the importance of his birthright. The oldest son had the birthright, and it was this son that had the relationship with God on behalf of his family. Esau essentially said that a bowl of soup was worth far more than any birthright he may have inherited by being born first. He was really talking about a relationship with God. Pride caused Esau to look at the situation like this, and it was pride that eventually brought the nation Esau founded (Edom) down to nothing shortly after the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans under Titus in A.D. 70. It is interesting to note that according to Psalm 83, we may once again see the rise of the nation of Edom for God's End Time plan, but that's another story.

By the way, as an aside here, it is interesting to note that Esau married one of Ishmael's daughters. Ishmael is the father of the Arab nation, through which Islam came into being.

We read that the woman Esau married was named Mahalath (cf. Genesis 28:9), which also means that even though Edom is gone, modern-day Arabs can trace their roots back to Ishmael through Esau. In marrying into Ishmael's family, Esau cemented his place in history as siding *against* Jacob, his brother, which eventually became the nation of Israel.

We will continue on with the book of Jude in our next audio message. There is a great deal yet to discuss. I hope you'll join me then.

In the meantime, I pray that God will open your eyes to show you how blessed you are in Him!