

OPEN HEAVEN 30 OCTOBER 2025 TODAY DEVOTIONAL

TOPIC: RUN FROM REBELS

MEMORISE:

God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

Psalms 68:6

READ: Numbers 16:1-35:

- 1 Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sonsof Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:
- 2 And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:
- 3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?
- 4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:
- 5 And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who

are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.

- 6 This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company;
- 7 And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD to morrow: and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi.
- 8 And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi:
- 9 Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them?
- 10 And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?
- 11 For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?
- 12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up:
- 13 Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?
- 14 Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up.
- 15 And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.
- 16 And Moses said unto Korah, Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, to morrow:
- 17 And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.
- 18 And they took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood in the door of the tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron.
- 19 And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.
- 20 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,
- 21 Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.
- 22 And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?
- 23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- 24 Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.
- 25 And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him.
- 26 And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wickedmen, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.
- 27 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.
- 28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have

not done them of mine own mind.

29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

- 31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:
- 32 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.
- 33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.
- 34 And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earthswallow us up also.
- 35 And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

RCCG OPEN HEAVEN 30 OCTOBER 2025 TODAY MESSAGE

Today's Bible reading is a sad story with many important lessons. It is a sad story because many people died avoidable deaths by joining a rebel to gang up against Moses, the man of God. The Bible reading begins by telling us that Korah and two brothers, Dathan and Abiram, came together to confront Moses.

If you study the story carefully, you will see that the rebellion began with Korah because in many verses of the chapter, the words 'Korah and his company' were used. Just one man started a rebellion that killed about fifteen thousand people. Rebellion is deadly!

The story might have played out differently if the other people mentioned in the chapter had refused to join Korah in the rebellion when he approached them. They should have discouraged him from being rebellious and counselled him to honour Moses. God can speak to anyone, but He doesn't choose everyone to lead His people or be at the forefront of His move. If Korah had understood the sacred office that Moses occupied, maybe he wouldn't have incited a rebellion against him.

Today, there are also rebels in the body of Christ. They think that they know more than the spiritual leaders God placed over them and often believe that they should be at the forefront of what God is doing. If God has not called you into a particular office in His church, don't try to bring those who occupy such offices down.

Also, don't try to operate in an office that God has not called you into because you will only expose yourself to danger. King Uzziah became leprous because he tried to function in an office God had not called him into (2 Chronicles 26:16-21). When people rebel against God's ordained hierarchy, they become stranded in life.

We live in a generation where some young people think they have enough revelation from God's word

to speak against the spiritual elders in the church. When some of them have a large social media following, they begin to think that they have attained a notable spiritual height and can say anything they like to anyone. Popularity and social media followership are, however, not the same as spiritual authority.

Beloved, if there are rebels around you, run far away from them so that you do not partake in their judgement. Also, if you have been speaking disrespectfully against those that God has given the authority to lead the church, repent now. Rebellion is dangerous, and it never profits anyone.

REFLECTION

Are you supporting or keeping company with rebels?

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Luke 21-22

HYMN 34: YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION

OPEN HEAVEN DEVOTIONAL 30 OCTOBER 2025 COMMENTARY

MEMORISE: Psalm 68:6

"God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land."

This verse presents a stark contrast. God's heart is to place the lonely in families (community, church) and set prisoners free. However, the rebellious—those who reject God's order and authority—choose a destiny of isolation and barrenness: they "dwell in a dry land."

BIBLE READING: Numbers 16:1-35

This passage is a sobering case study on the sin and consequences of rebellion:

- v. 1-3: The **Rebellion:** Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 leaders rise up against Moses and Aaron, questioning their God-given authority.
- v. 28-30: The **Judgment:** Moses declares that if these men die a natural death, God did not send him. But if God creates a new thing (the earth opens its mouth), it will be a sign of judgment.
- v. 31-33: The Execution: "The ground clave asunder that was under them... and they perished from among the congregation."
- v. 35: The **Consumption:** Fire from the Lord consumed the 250 men offering incense.

The Deadly Sin of Rebellion

Pastor E.A. Adeboye delivers a critical and timely warning to the body of Christ, using the tragic story of Korah's rebellion to illustrate a timeless principle: rebellion against God-ordained authority is not a minor offense; it is a deadly sin that invites severe judgment and cuts short destiny.

The Anatomy of Rebellion

- It Often Starts with One Person: Korah was the instigator. His pride and ambition infected others, leading to a widespread rebellion that cost 15,000 lives. One rebellious spirit can poison a whole community.
- It Masquerades as Righteous Inquiry: Rebels often use spiritual language. They said, "Ye take too much upon you... all the congregation are holy" (v.3). They questioned authority under the guise of promoting equality, but their true motive was a lust for power.
- It Rejects God's Sovereign Choice: God chooses and appoints leaders (1 Corinthians 12:18). Rebellion is ultimately against God Himself, for it is He who sets up and removes authorities (Romans 13:1-2).

The Modern Faces of Rebellion

The devotional identifies clear parallels today:

- 1. **Undermining Spiritual Leaders:** Thinking "they know more" than the pastors and leaders God has placed over them in the local church.
- 2. **Coveting Unauthorized Offices:** Striving for positions God has not anointed or called them to, like King Uzziah who was struck with leprosy for usurping the priest's office (2 Chronicles 26:16-21).
- 3. **Social Media Arrogance:** Mistaking a large online following for spiritual authority and using that platform to speak disrespectfully against God's ordained elders.

The Consequences of Rebellion

- **Divine Judgment:** The earth opening and fire from heaven are extreme examples, but God still judges rebellion today through closed doors, spiritual barrenness, and a life that becomes "a dry land" (Psalm 68:6).
- **Collateral Damage:** Rebellion never affects only the rebel. It harms families, congregations, and anyone foolish enough to align with it.
- **Stranded Destiny:** Rebels become "stranded in life." They forfeit the blessing, protection, and guidance that flow through God's established order.

The Godly Response

1. For Those in Authority:

Lead with humility, integrity, and fear of God, as Moses did. Be a leader worth following.

2. For Everyone Else:

- **Honor and Respect:** Give due honor to those God has placed over you (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).
- Run from Rebels: Do not join in criticism or gossip against leaders. Distance yourself from those who have a rebellious spirit (Proverbs 22:24-25).
- Stay in Your Lane: Serve faithfully in the assignment God has given you without coveting another's.
- Repent if Guilty: If you have been speaking against or undermining leadership, repent quickly and seek forgiveness.

Conclusion: Choose Blessing Over Barrenness

Pray this:

"Heavenly Father, forgive me for any seed of rebellion, disrespect, or pride in my heart towards the leaders You have placed over me. I choose to honor them as Your representatives. Give me a discerning heart to recognize and flee from a rebellious spirit. Keep me in the place of humility and alignment with Your divine order, so that I may dwell in Your blessing and not in a dry land. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Action Steps:

- 1. **Conduct a Heart Check:** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any attitude of rebellion, criticism, or disrespect towards your spiritual leaders.
- 2. **Pray for Your Leaders:** Instead of criticizing, commit to praying regularly for your pastors and church leaders.
- 3. **Guard Your Associations:** Evaluate your close friendships. Are there people who constantly criticize church leadership? Distance yourself.
- 4. **Embrace Your Assignment:** Find joy and fulfillment in serving where God has currently placed you.

Remember: The path of honor and submission is the path of life and blessing. The path of rebellion is the path of isolation and barrenness. Your choice determines your destination.

"God setteth the solitary in families... but the rebellious dwell in a dry land." (Psalm 68:6). Choose the family over the dry land.

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