

## Jeremiah 1:11-12

<sup>11</sup> And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see an **almond branch**.” <sup>12</sup> Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am **watching** over my word to perform it.”

### *The Blessing of God’s Appointed Authority*

#### Key Idea:

Godly authority serves God’s people sacrificially to bring the blessings of God’s life-giving favor.  
To reject God’s appointed leaders/High Priest is to reject God’s authority and to forfeit your life.

### Ultimately Jesus...

#### Godly Rulers, Pastor/Elders & Fathers...

- **Authority:** the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience. Vs. **Power:** the ability to do something
  - Households
  - Civil Government
  - Church

#### Hebrews 13:7, 17

<sup>7</sup> **Remember your leaders**, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ...

<sup>17</sup> **Obey your leaders and submit to them**, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- Servant Authority not Selfish Authority
- Authority not (necessarily) Inequality (Trinity)
- Derived & Limited Authority
- Self-Government vs. Self-Rule

Notes:

## In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#18 in Series] (Numbers 15–25) **Forty Years in the Wilderness: Part 3, Respect God Given Authority** – Numbers 16-17

### Sermon Outline – August 16, 2015

#### Children’s Sermon/Introduction

- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> thing you need in able to **think clearly** and **make right choices** (aka – Wisdom) ...

#### Jeremiah 5:21, 23-24

<sup>22</sup> **Do you not fear me?** declares the Lord. **Do you not tremble before me?**

- ❖ **God** keeps the whole ocean from going past its boundaries!  
<sup>23</sup> But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and gone away. <sup>24</sup> **They do not say in their hearts, ‘Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain...’**
- ❖ One Bad Result: **Disobedience...**

#### Transition:

- ❖ Some in Israel did **not fear God...**

#### BIG PICTURE:

### THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM...

NUMBERS 1-10:10 – GETTING READY TO GO...

NUMBERS 10:11-36 – SETTING OUT FOR THE LAND, LED BY THE LORD

THE JOURNEY OF REBELLION FROM SINAI TO KADESH (11-14) **ISRAEL REJECTS & DESPISES GOD!**

LAWS FOR THE LAND: OFFERINGS, FORGIVENESS & WARNING (15) **GOD’S RESPONSE**

**THE SOUTHSIDE REBELLION, GOD’S LEADERS CONFIRMED (16-17)**

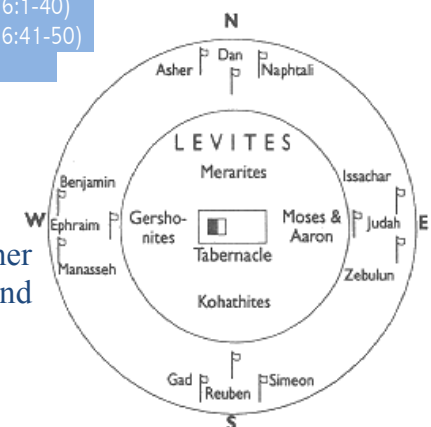
1. KORAH, DATHAN AND ABIRAM’S REBELLION (16:1-40)
2. ISRAEL GRUMBLES AGAINST THE JUDGMENT (16:41-50)
3. A SIGN: AARON’S STAFF BUDS (17:1-13)

#### Southside Rebellion (16:1-40)

#### A Rebellion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier Elite (1-2)

#### Korah’s Rebellion (3-11)

<sup>3</sup> They assembled themselves together **against Moses and against Aaron** and said to them,



“You have gone too far! For *all in the congregation are holy, every one of them*, and *the Lord is among them*. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?”

- God is with us. We all are Special. We can all approach God on our own (no need for the priests God appointed).

<sup>6</sup> Do this: **take censers** (Lev. 10), Korah and all his company; <sup>7</sup> put fire in them and put incense on them before the Lord tomorrow, and the man whom the Lord chooses shall be the holy one. **You have gone too far, sons of Levi!** <sup>8</sup> And Moses said to Korah, “Hear now, you sons of Levi: <sup>9</sup> *is it too small a thing for you* that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do service in the tabernacle of the Lord and to stand before the congregation to minister to them, <sup>10</sup> and that he has brought you near him, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? And would you seek the priesthood also? <sup>11</sup> **Therefore it is against the Lord that you and all your company have gathered together.** What is Aaron that you grumble against him?”

Do you ever wish for a different place than the one God has given you?

### **(Dathan and Abiram) Reuben’s Rebellion (12-15)**

<sup>12</sup> And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and they said, “**We will not come up.** <sup>13</sup> *Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you must also make yourself a prince over us?* <sup>14</sup> *Moreover, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? **We will not come up.**” <sup>15</sup> And Moses was very angry and said to the Lord, “Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, and I have not harmed one of them.”*

### **The LORD’s Judgment (16-40)**

Notes:

- 1) The Rebels & their Households Buried Alive (16-34)
- 2) 250 who Offered Incense Consumed (35)
- 3) The Sign of the 250 Bronze Censers (36-40)

### **Israel Grumbles against the Judgment (16:41-50)**

#### **The People Grumble against Moses & Aaron (41-42a)**

<sup>41</sup> But on the next day all the congregation of the people of Israel **grumbled against Moses and against Aaron**, saying, “You have killed the people of the Lord.” <sup>42</sup> And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aaron

#### **The Plague & God’s Mediator**

[The LORD...Moses & Aaron] <sup>45</sup> “Get away from the midst of this congregation, **that I may consume them in a moment.**” And they fell on their faces. <sup>46</sup> And Moses said to Aaron, “Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the Lord; the plague has begun.” <sup>47</sup> ...And behold, the plague had already begun among the people. And he put on the incense and made atonement for the people. <sup>48</sup> And **he stood between the dead and the living**, and the plague was stopped. <sup>49</sup> Now those who died in the plague were 14,700, besides those who died in the affair of Korah.

#### **The LORD Gives a Sign: Aaron’s Staff Buds (17:1-13)**

<sup>8</sup> ...Moses went into the tent of the testimony, and behold, the staff of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth **buds** and produced **blossoms**, and it bore **ripe almonds**.

#### **Why an Almond Tree?**

Where else in Scripture do you find a miniature tree with almond flowers and buds? (Cf. Exodus 25:31–40)

Notes: