

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Foundations For Rebellion

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

John Weaver

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - Foundations For Rebellion

Part One

October 27, 2023

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-20.

Major Themes

Rebellion is primarily against God

All rebellion is fundamentally a sin against God, though it is expressed against human authorities He has ordained.

Lecture support: Rebellion is primarily a sin and a crime against God. However, it is usually directed and manifested against man. It manifests itself against the authority that God has ordained.

The progression of rebellion through changed thinking

Rebellion follows a pattern: changed thinking leads to changed attitudes, then changed desires, and finally disobedient action.

Lecture support: When your thinking changes, your attitude changes, so also do your desires... the last step is always disobedience and rebellion toward God.

Rebellion can be taught

False prophets and modern educational systems teach rebellion by shaping thinking and attitudes away from God's Word.

Lecture support: Hananiah... had taught rebellion against the Lord... public schools today are a hotbed for communism and Marxism. These schools are training insurgents.

Disregard for family and friends as a foundation of rebellion

Rebellion begins with dishonoring and discarding close relationships, as seen in Korah's betrayal of his cousins.

Lecture support: When rebelliousness and lawlessness grips the heart, neither family nor friendship matters... It is impossible to rebel against one without disregarding a relationship.

Discontent with one's calling and station

Rebellion is fueled by discontentment with the role God has assigned, leading to intrusion into unauthorized positions.

Lecture support: Korah was not satisfied with being a Levite... discontentment with your calling and your station in life.

The sacredness of all vocations

There is no secular-sacred divide for Christians; all work done for God's glory is sacred service.

Lecture support: In reality, there is no division between the secular and the sacred. For the child of God... do all to the glory of God.

Key Arguments

Rebellion is rooted in total depravity and imputed sin

Because all sinned in Adam, humanity has an inherent tendency toward rebellion against God.

Lecture support: Man, by nature, has a tendency to rebel because of total depravity. Sin was imputed to us because of our federal head and representative, Adam.

Rebellion manifests against God's ordained authorities

Since rebels cannot strike God directly, they attack His representatives: parents, pastors, and husbands.

Lecture support: When children then disobey and dishonor their parents, in reality, they're dishonoring and disobeying the God who gave the command... when wives refuse to submit to their husbands, it's the same principle.

Eve's fall illustrates the rebellion process

Eve's sin followed a sequence: she saw the fruit differently, her attitude and desires changed, and she acted in disobedience.

Lecture support: When the woman saw that the tree was good... she is seeing the fruit and that tree in a totally different light. She changed her thinking, and she also changed her attitude.

Education without Scripture fosters rebellion

When biblical principles are not instilled, wickedness and rebellion fill the void, as warned by Martin Luther.

Lecture support: If biblical principles and biblical morality is not instilled in our youth, wickedness and rebellion will be. Neither life nor learning operate in a vacuum.

Korah's rebellion began with family disregard

Korah led a rebellion against his own cousins, Moses and Aaron, demonstrating that rebellion discards family bonds.

Lecture support: Korah was a great-grandson of Levi... a cousin to Moses and Aaron... when rebelliousness and lawlessness grips the heart, neither family nor friendship matters.

Discontent with God-given roles leads to rebellion

Korah's desire for the priesthood and the Reubenites' possible desire for lost birthright illustrate how discontent fuels rebellion.

Lecture support: Korah was not satisfied with being a Levite... seek ye the priesthood also?

Same standing before God does not mean same position

The rebels erred by assuming that equal holiness meant equal authority, confusing standing with calling.

Lecture support: They were assuming that just because everyone had the same standing before God, that they likewise also had the same positions before God. That is not true.

Contentment in one's calling prevents rebellion

Scripture commands believers to abide in their calling and be content, serving God faithfully where they are.

Lecture support: Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called... godliness with contentment is great gain.

Scripture References

Numbers 16:1-3

Introduction of Korah's rebellion against Moses and Aaron.

Numbers 16:5-7

Moses' response that the Lord will show who is holy.

Romans 5:12

Sin entered the world through one man, Adam.

Romans 2:14-15

Fallen man has a consciousness of accountability to God.

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children obey parents; quotes the fifth commandment.

Genesis 3:16

God's judgment on the woman: desire to husband, he shall rule.

Genesis 3:4-6

The serpent's temptation and Eve's fall.

Jeremiah 28:15-16

Hananiah taught rebellion against the Lord.

Jeremiah 29:32

Shemaiah taught rebellion against the Lord.

John 8:36

If the Son makes you free, you are free indeed.

Exodus 6:18-21

Genealogy showing Korah as cousin to Moses and Aaron.

Jude 11

Korah is credited as the leader of the rebellion.

Numbers 16:8-10

Moses rebukes Korah for seeking the priesthood.

Numbers 3:30

Elizaphan appointed chief of the Kohathites.

Leviticus 10:4

Elizaphan called to assist; Uzziel is uncle of Aaron.

1 Corinthians 7:20-24

Abide in the calling wherein you were called.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Do all to the glory of God.

Numbers 2:10

Reuben camped on the south side of the tabernacle.

Numbers 3:29

Kohathites camped on the south side.

Genesis 29:32; 35:23; 35:22; 49:3-4

Reuben's birthright and its loss due to sin.

Study notes

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Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding that rebellion is primarily against God change the way we view conflicts with authority?

Consider: Weaver teaches that rebellion is a sin against God, manifested against His ordained authorities.

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2. In what ways can we guard our thinking to prevent the progression from changed thoughts to rebellious actions?

Consider: Eve's fall illustrates how changed thinking leads to changed attitudes, desires, and actions.

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3. What are some modern examples of rebellion being taught, and how can Christians counteract this influence?

Consider: Weaver warns that public education and cultural movements teach rebellion.

4. Why is disregard for family and friends a foundational pillar of rebellion? How can we strengthen these relationships?

Consider: Korah's rebellion against his cousins shows that rebellion begins with dishonoring close relationships.

5. How can we cultivate contentment in our current calling and station, even when we desire advancement?

Consider: Discontent with one's calling is a pillar of rebellion; Scripture commands abiding in our calling.

6. What is the difference between having the same standing before God and having the same position? How does this apply to church and family roles?

Consider: The rebels confused equal holiness with equal authority.

7. How does the doctrine of vocation (all work is sacred) change our perspective on daily work?

Consider: Weaver and Machen emphasize that all callings are service to God.

8. What practical steps can we take to honor our parents, spouses, and friends as God commands?

Consider: Applications include holding family and friends in high esteem and obeying biblical commands.

Applications

Honor family and friends

Hold family and friends in high esteem, obeying biblical commands to love, honor, and not forsake them.

Lecture support: We have to learn to hold our family and our friends in high esteem and do not fail to follow the biblical admonitions... Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not.

Be content with your calling

Serve God faithfully in your current vocation and station, trusting Him to open doors for advancement if He wills.

Lecture support: We have to learn to be content with the station to which God has called us, and we can serve Him where we are until He opens doors.

Guard your thinking

Monitor your thoughts and attitudes to prevent the progression toward rebellion.

Lecture support: When your thinking changes, your attitude changes, so also do your desires... the last step is always disobedience.

Instill biblical principles in youth

Ensure that children are taught Scripture to prevent wickedness and rebellion from taking root.

Lecture support: If biblical principles and biblical morality is not instilled in our youth, wickedness and rebellion will be.

Do all work for God's glory

View every task, no matter how secular it seems, as sacred service to God.

Lecture support: Whether therefore you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Maintain loyal friendships

Be a faithful friend who loves at all times and offers correction when needed.

Lecture support: A friend loveth at all times... Faithful are the wounds of a friend.

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - Foundations For Rebellion

Part Two

October 27, 2023

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 21-36.

Major Themes

Rebellion is ultimately against God

All acts of rebellion, even when directed at human authority, are primarily against God Himself. This is demonstrated through the examples of Korah's rebellion and David's sin.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'Your rebellion is primarily against God... The anger, the disobedience, the rebellion is against God.' He cites Numbers 16:11, 1 Samuel 8, and Psalm 51:4.

Disobedience as despising God

Disobedience to God's law is equated with despising God Himself. Sin is not just breaking a rule but rejecting the Lawgiver.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'you cannot despise God's law without despising God himself.' He references 2 Samuel 12:9-10 and 1 John 3:4.

Self-enthronement in rebellion

Rebellion involves dethroning God and enthroning oneself, seeking to be one's own authority and law.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the Greek word 'eritheia' and says: 'in sin and in rebellion we dethrone God and enthrone ourselves.'

Perversion of truth in rebellion

Rebellion leads to twisted, distorted thinking where truth is perverted, and false accusations are made to justify oneself.

Lecture support: Weaver points out how Dathan and Abiram called Egypt a land of milk and honey and charged Moses with murder and tyranny, showing perverted logic.

Rebellion blinds the mind

A rebellious person cannot think clearly, logically, or biblically because rebellion blinds the mind and hardens the heart.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'a rebellious person does not and cannot think clearly, logically, rationally, or biblically.' He illustrates with Deuteronomy 1.

The unteachable spirit of rebellion

Those in rebellion refuse to hear, heed, or obey, making it futile to reason with them unless God intervenes.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'unless God works in the heart, you're wasting your breath to try to speak logically... to a rebellious person because they will not hear.'

Key Arguments

Dishonor and discontent lead to disobedience

The progression from disregarding relationships and being discontent with one's calling inevitably results in outright disobedience.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'dishonor and discontent always lead to disobedience.' He points to Dathan and Abiram's refusal to come to Moses.

Moses' authority was legitimate and meek

Moses was not a tyrant but a meek leader acting on biblical principles of restoration, making the rebels' defiance unjustified.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Numbers 12:3 and Galatians 6:1-2 to show Moses' meekness and the proper approach to dealing with sin.

Sin is primarily against God

Even when sin harms others, its primary offense is against God, as seen in David's confession and God's indictment.

Lecture support: Weaver uses Psalm 51:4 and 2 Samuel 12:9-10 to argue that David's sin was 'against thee, thee only.'

Disobedience is rebellion and brings God's curse

Scripture equates disobedience with rebellion and warns of divine judgment, showing that rebellion is not a minor issue.

Lecture support: Weaver references Deuteronomy 11:28, 1 Samuel 12:15, Jeremiah 12:17, and Daniel 9:11.

Rebellion involves self-justification and perversion of truth

Rebels twist facts and make false accusations to justify their actions, as Dathan and Abiram did by calling Egypt a land of milk and honey and blaming Moses for their failures.

Lecture support: Weaver analyzes Numbers 16:13-14, showing how they perverted the promise of the land and charged Moses with murder and tyranny.

Rebellion renders one irrational and unteachable

The rebellious mindset is characterized by an inability to reason biblically and a refusal to listen, as illustrated by Israel's contradictory actions in Deuteronomy 1.

Lecture support: Weaver recounts how Israel first refused to enter the land, then presumptuously went up against God's command, showing irrational rebellion.

Scripture References

Numbers 16:1

Introduction of Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On, and their rebellion against Moses and Aaron.

Numbers 16:12

Moses summons Dathan and Abiram, but they refuse to come, demonstrating disobedience.

Numbers 12:3

Moses was very meek, above all men on earth, countering the charge of tyranny.

Galatians 6:1-2

The biblical principle of restoring a brother overtaken in a fault, which Moses was attempting.

Numbers 16:11

Moses declares that the rebellion is against the Lord, not just against Aaron.

1 Samuel 8

God tells Samuel that the people's rejection of Samuel is a rejection of God as king.

Psalms 51:4

David confesses that his sin was against God alone, despite harming others.

2 Samuel 12:9-10

God charges David with despising His commandment and despising God Himself.

1 John 3:4

Sin is the transgression of the law, equating law-breaking with sin.

Deuteronomy 11:28

Disobedience to God's commandments is linked to going after other gods.

1 Samuel 12:15

Rebellion against God's commandment brings His hand against the rebels.

Jeremiah 12:17

God will destroy a nation that will not obey.

Daniel 9:11

Israel transgressed God's law by departing and not obeying, bringing the curse.

Romans 2:8

Those who do not obey the truth will face indignation and wrath.

Numbers 16:13-14

Dathan and Abiram's malicious charges against Moses, perverting truth.

Numbers 14:30-31

God declares that the rebellious generation will not enter the promised land.

Deuteronomy 32:5

God calls Israel a perverse and crooked generation.

Proverbs 14:2

He that is perverse in his ways despises the Lord.

Isaiah 19:13-14

God mingles a perverse spirit in the midst of Egypt, causing them to err.

Deuteronomy 1:37-45

Israel's irrational rebellion: first refusing to enter, then presumptuously going up against God's command.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the progression from dishonor and discontent to disobedience manifest in our own lives or relationships?

Consider: Weaver outlines the first three pillars: disregard for relationships, discontent with calling, and actual disobedience.

2. In what ways might we be guilty of directing rebellion against human authorities when it is actually against God?

Consider: Weaver argues that all rebellion is primarily against God, using Numbers 16:11 and 1 Samuel 8.

3. How does understanding that sin is primarily against God change our perspective on repentance and confession?

Consider: Weaver uses David's confession in Psalm 51:4 to show that sin is against God even when it harms others.

4. What are some modern examples of 'perversion of truth' in rebellion, and how can we guard against such twisted thinking?

Consider: Weaver describes how Dathan and Abiram perverted the truth about Egypt and Moses, and how rebellion leads to irrational justifications.

5. Why is it so difficult to reason with someone in rebellion, and what should our response be?

Consider: Weaver states that a rebellious person cannot think clearly and will not hear, and that only God can open their eyes.

6. How does the example of Israel in Deuteronomy 1 illustrate the irrationality of rebellion, and what warnings does it offer us?

Consider: Weaver recounts how Israel first refused to enter the land, then presumptuously went up against God's command.

Applications

Examine your heart for rebellion

Weaver calls for self-examination to ensure there is no spirit of perverseness or rebellion in our lives.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes: 'We need to make sure that we do not have in our lives a spirit of perverseness or a spirit of rebellion.'

Cultivate a submissive and obedient heart

Pray for a submissive, believing, obedient, humble heart before God, to hear and heed His words.

Lecture support: Weaver prays: 'give us, Lord, a submissive, believing, obedient, humble heart before thee, that we may hear and heed and obey thy words.'

Be content in your calling

While seeking improvement is fine, we must be content with our station until God opens another door, doing all to God's glory.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes contentment in vocation, quoting Martin Luther on good craftsmanship.

Avoid self-justification

Recognize the tendency to justify sinful actions and instead submit to God's truth without twisting it.

Lecture support: Weaver warns against the perversion of truth and self-justification seen in Dathan and Abiram.

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 3

Pastor John Weaver - Foundations For Rebellion

Part Three

December 31, 2023

Read Chapter 3 in the companion book, pages 37-53.

Major Themes

Rebellion is ultimately against God

All rebellion, even when directed at human leaders, is in reality against the Lord, as seen in Korah's challenge to Moses and Aaron.

Lecture support: Moses says in Numbers 16:11, 'For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the Lord.'

The severity of God's judgment on rebellion

God's judgment on Korah and his company was uniquely severe - the earth swallowing them alive and fire consuming others - to serve as a lasting warning.

Lecture support: Numbers 16:31-33 describes the earth opening and swallowing them; verse 35 describes fire consuming the 250 men.

God vindicates His appointed ministers

The judgment demonstrated that Moses and Aaron were truly sent by God, and it warns against attacking God's true preachers.

Lecture support: Moses said, 'If the Lord make a new thing... then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord' (Numbers 16:30).

The danger of lying against the truth

Rebellion involves 'gainsaying' - contradicting logic, reason, and God's Word - which is equated to lying against God.

Lecture support: James 3:14 says, 'lie not against the truth'; Isaiah 30:9 calls rebels 'lying children.'

The tragic consequences of defiant unbelief

The rebels stood defiantly at their tent doors until the moment of judgment, and their cries came too late, illustrating the peril of hardened hearts.

Lecture support: Numbers 16:27 shows them standing in the door of their tents; verse 34 describes Israel fleeing at their cry.

God's judgments serve as signs and memorials

The unique judgment and the altar covering made from the censers were intended to be a perpetual warning against unauthorized worship and rebellion.

Lecture support: Numbers 16:38 says the censers 'shall be a sign'; verse 40 says 'to be a memorial.'

Key Arguments

Rebellion begins with disregard for relationships and discontent

Korah's rebellion violated family ties (he was Moses' cousin) and stemmed from discontent with his Levitical role, seeking the priesthood instead.

Lecture support: Numbers 16:1 identifies Korah as son of Izhar, making him a cousin; verses 8-10 show Moses rebuking their discontent.

Gainsaying is a contradiction of God's truth

The Greek word antilogia means speaking against logic and truth, which is lying against God, as seen in Korah's false accusations.

Lecture support: Jude 11 mentions the 'gainsaying of Korah'; James 3:14 warns against lying against the truth.

The judgment was uniquely severe to serve as a warning

God made a 'new thing' by opening the earth and sending fire, unlike previous judgments, to create a sign and memorial for all Israel.

Lecture support: Numbers 16:30 says, 'if the Lord make a new thing'; Numbers 26:10 says 'they became a sign.'

Rejecting God's messengers is rejecting God Himself

Because preachers are ambassadors in Christ's stead, to reject their biblical message is to reject Christ and the Father who sent Him.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 5:20 says, 'we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us.'

Defiant rebellion leads to irreversible destruction

The rebels' defiant stance at their tents and their late cries show that persistent rebellion results in sudden, inescapable judgment.

Lecture support: Numbers 16:27, 34; Proverbs 29:1 warns of sudden destruction without remedy.

Scripture References

Numbers 16:1-7

Introduction of Korah's rebellion and Moses' initial response.

Numbers 16:8-11

Moses rebukes Korah for discontent and seeking the priesthood.

Numbers 16:23-35

The unique judgment: earth swallows rebels, fire consumes 250 men.

Numbers 16:36-40

Censers made into altar covering as a sign and memorial.

Numbers 26:7-11

Summary of the rebellion and note that Korah's children did not die.

Jude 1:11

Mention of the 'gainsaying of Korah' as a warning.

James 3:13-16

Warning against bitter envying, strife, and lying against the truth.

Isaiah 30:9

Rebellious people are lying children who will not hear God's law.

Isaiah 59:13

Transgressing and lying against the Lord, speaking oppression and revolt.

Deuteronomy 9:7, 24

Israel's continual rebellion from Egypt onward.

Psalm 106:16-18

Recounts the envy of Moses and Aaron, and the earth swallowing Dathan.

Psalm 105:13-15

God's protection of His anointed and prophets.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Believers as ambassadors for Christ, speaking in His stead.

Philemon 1:12-13

Paul's use of 'in thy stead' to illustrate substitutionary ministry.

Matthew 10:40

Receiving Christ's messengers is receiving Christ and the Father.

Proverbs 29:1

Sudden destruction for those who harden their necks despite reproof.

Acts 17:30-31

God commands repentance because a day of judgment is appointed.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does Korah's rebellion illustrate the four foundational pillars (disregard for relationships, discontent, disobedience, and perversion of truth)?

Consider: Weaver reviews these pillars from previous messages.

2. In what ways is rebellion ultimately against God, even when it appears to be against human leaders?

Consider: Moses states that the gathering was 'against the Lord' (Numbers 16:11).

3. Why was God's judgment on Korah and his company uniquely severe compared to previous judgments on Israel?

Consider: The earth swallowing them and fire consuming the 250 men was a 'new thing' (Numbers 16:30).

4. What does it mean that the judgment and the altar covering were to be a 'sign' and a 'memorial'? How should that affect us today?

Consider: Numbers 16:38-40 explains the purpose of the censers.

5. How does the concept of being 'ambassadors in Christ's stead' (2 Corinthians 5:20) shape our view of rejecting or accepting biblical preaching?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that rejecting God's messengers is rejecting God.

6. What can we learn from the defiant stance of Dathan and Abiram at their tent doors, and their late cries?

Consider: Numbers 16:27, 34 shows their defiance and the people's reaction.

7. How should the warning of Proverbs 29:1 ('he that being often reproved hardeneth his neck') influence our response to correction?

Consider: Weaver applies this verse to the rebels' refusal to listen.

Applications

Examine your heart for seeds of rebellion

Recognize that rebellion often starts small - through discontent, disregard for relationships, or disobedience - and leads to severe consequences.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Rebellion may begin in a very small and insignificant way, and yet it may grow quickly into a gigantic quagmire of misery, death, and destruction.'

Be content with your God-given calling

Instead of seeking higher positions, serve God faithfully in whatever vocation He has placed you, doing all for His glory.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'What we must learn to do is do that which God has called us to do, and to do it for His honor and His glory.'

Heed God's warnings and reproofs promptly

Do not harden your heart when corrected by God's Word or His messengers, lest you face sudden, irreversible judgment.

Lecture support: Proverbs 29:1 is cited: 'He that being often reprov'd and hardeneth his neck shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.'

Respect and receive God's true messengers

Recognize that when a preacher faithfully expounds Scripture, rejecting his message is rejecting God; receive it as from Christ Himself.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 5:20: 'we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us.'

Flee from the influence of rebellious people

Just as Israel was told to depart from the tents of Korah, separate yourself from those who promote rebellion against God's order.

Lecture support: Numbers 16:26: 'Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.'

Trust in Christ for salvation today

Do not delay repentance, for judgment is certain and may come without warning; today is the day of salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'The harvest is past, the summer's ended, and we're not saved... Behold, today is the day of salvation.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 4

Pastor John Weaver - Foundations for Rebellion

Part Four

January 02, 2024

Read Chapter 4 in the companion book, pages 55-72.

Major Themes

The Severity of God's Judgment Against Rebellion

God's judgment on Korah and his company was uniquely severe, serving as a sign and memorial that rebellion, especially against God's ordained worship, brings destruction.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'this is a unique judgment... God did something that had never ever been done before... He calls the earth to open up and swallow them down... He did this for a sign and for a memorial.'

Worship Must Be on God's Terms

God cannot be worshipped except by the means He has ordained; all fleshly methods, ceremonies, and rituals are condemned, and true worship requires spirit and truth.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'God cannot be worshipped except by the means which He has ordained... Man may not come to God in any way that he pleases... all fleshly worship is worthless, useless, void, and blasphemous.'

Sin Always Affects Others

No one lives or dies to himself; personal sin brings consequences on family and community, as seen in the deaths of the rebels' children and the plague that killed 14,700.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes: 'your life, whether it's right or wrong, good or bad, always influences and affects others... your sin always affects others.'

The Necessity of Dealing with Rebellion

Rebellion must be dealt with through genuine repentance or judgment; otherwise, it continues its path of death and destruction, as seen in the subsequent plague.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'rebellion must be dealt with, either by judgment or genuine repentance, or else it will continue its path of death and destruction.'

The Goodness and Severity of God

In this passage, we see both God's mercy in sparing those who heeded the warning and His severity in destroying the unrepentant rebels.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'we see the goodness of God, but we also see the severity of God... God had mercy upon some, and some had justice.'

Key Arguments

Rebellion begins with a breach in relationship

Korah's rebellion was against his cousins Moses and Aaron, showing that rebellion always involves a severance of relationship.

Lecture support: Weaver points out: 'Korah was a cousin... it is cousin against cousins... you cannot have a rebellion without a severance of a relationship.'

Discontent with one's calling is a pillar of rebellion

Korah was discontent with being a Levite and sought the priesthood, and the sons of Reuben were discontent with their role, leading them to join the rebellion.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'Korah... was discontented with being a Levite. He wanted the priesthood... anytime you get discontented with your calling and vocation in life, it is a foundational pillar of rebellion.'

Rebellion involves actual disobedience and defiance

Dathan and Abiram refused to come when Moses called, openly defying his authority.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'when he called upon them to come up, they said, "We will not come up. We're not going to recognize you. We're not going to recognize your authority."'

Rebellion perverts truth and assassinates character

The rebels falsely claimed Moses brought them out of a land of milk and honey (Egypt) to kill them, twisting the truth and attacking Moses' character.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'they perverted the truth by saying that Moses had brought them out of a land flowing with milk and honey into the wilderness to kill them... they took the title of Canaan land and applied it to Egypt.'

God's judgment vindicates His appointed ministers

The severe judgment proved that Moses and Aaron were God's chosen ministers, and rejecting their message is rejecting God.

Lecture support: Weaver argues: 'the judgment of God was extremely severe because in this judgment there was a vindication of Moses and Aaron... to not hear the exposition of the Word of God... is not to hear God.'

Rejecting God's Word brings devastating loss

Those who refuse to heed God's Word communicated through His ministers will suffer loss, as seen in the defiant stance of Dathan and Abiram.

Lecture support: Weaver notes: 'those who will not hear and heed and obey the Word of God communicated from God through His ministers will suffer a devastating loss.'

The judgment pictures the doom of those who reject Christ

The instant judgment on the rebels foreshadows the final destruction of those who refuse to submit to Christ, as described in 2 Thessalonians 1.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'it pictures the doom of all who will not submit to and obey the sovereign God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ... He's going to destroy His enemies.'

Miraculous escape does not stop rebellion

Despite witnessing the earth swallow the rebels, the congregation murmured the next day, showing that a miraculous escape alone does not cure rebellion.

Lecture support: Weaver points out: 'A miraculous escape from judgment, in itself alone, will not stop rebellion... less than 24 hours, they're saying to Moses, "You murdered the people of God."'

Scripture References

Numbers 16:1-3

Introduction of Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On, and their rebellion against Moses and Aaron, claiming all the congregation is holy.

Numbers 16:5-7

Moses' response that the Lord will show who is holy and chosen, and the test of the censers.

2 Peter 3:1

Peter's purpose to stir up pure minds by way of remembrance, used to emphasize the need to remember foundational truths.

Hebrews 2:1

Warning to give earnest heed to what we have heard lest we let them slip, applied to the need to remember the lessons on rebellion.

Numbers 16:8-10

Moses accuses Korah of seeking the priesthood also, highlighting discontent with his Levitical calling.

Jude 11

The gainsaying of Korah, explained as antilogia, meaning strife, contradiction, and speaking against truth.

Numbers 16:38, 40

The censers made into plates for the altar as a sign and memorial, warning against unauthorized worship.

Numbers 16:27

Dathan and Abiram stood defiantly in their tent doors with their families, refusing to move.

Numbers 16:34

All Israel fled at the cry of the rebels as the earth swallowed them, fearing the same fate.

Luke 16:19-31

The rich man in torment remembers his lifetime, illustrating the horror of remembering rejected counsel at judgment.

Luke 19:27

The parable where the king orders his enemies who rejected his reign to be slain before him, picturing final judgment.

2 Peter 2:4-9

Examples of God's judgment on angels, the flood, and Sodom and Gomorrah, showing God knows how to deliver the godly and punish the unjust.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Christ's return in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who know not God and obey not the gospel, with everlasting destruction.

Exodus 25

God gave Moses the pattern for the tabernacle, beginning with the most holy place, showing that God must initiate worship.

John 6:44

No man can come to Christ unless the Father draws him, emphasizing that salvation begins with God.

Philippians 1:6

Confidence that God who began a good work will perform it until the day of Christ, showing God's initiative and completion.

Philippians 2:12-13

Work out your own salvation, for it is God who works in you to will and to do, showing human responsibility rooted in divine work.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Salvation by grace through faith, not of works, emphasizing God's gift.

John 14:6; Ephesians 2:18

Jesus is the only way to the Father; through Him we have access by one Spirit.

Isaiah 1:10-18

God rejects the empty rituals of Judah and Jerusalem, calling them Sodom and Gomorrah, because their hands are full of blood.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the breach of relationship in Korah's rebellion (cousin against cousins) illustrate the nature of rebellion in families and churches today?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that rebellion always begins with a breach in relationship, using the family ties between Korah, Moses, and Aaron.

2. In what ways can discontent with our calling or vocation lead to rebellion, and how can we cultivate contentment with God's assignments?

Consider: Weaver warns that discontent with being a Levite led Korah to seek the priesthood, a foundational pillar of rebellion.

3. Why is it dangerous to pervert the truth and assassinate the character of God's ministers, and how can we guard against such sins?

Consider: The rebels falsely accused Moses of bringing them out of Egypt to kill them, twisting the truth and attacking his character.

- 4.** How does the judgment on Korah serve as a warning against unauthorized worship, and what does it teach us about approaching God on His terms?

Consider: Weaver explains that God cannot be worshipped except by His ordained means, and the censers became a memorial against unauthorized worship.

- 5.** In what ways does our personal sin affect others, and how should this truth change our daily decisions?

Consider: Weaver stresses that no one lives or dies to himself, using the examples of the rebels' families and Achan's sin causing the death of 36 men.

- 6.** Why did the Israelites continue to rebel even after witnessing the earth swallow Korah, and what does this reveal about the hardness of the human heart?

Consider: The next day the congregation murmured against Moses, showing that a miraculous escape from judgment does not stop rebellion.

7. How can we ensure that our ways and thoughts align with God's ways, as warned in Proverbs 14:12 and Isaiah 55:8-9?

Consider: Weaver concludes with the warning that there is a way that seems right to a man but ends in death, urging alignment with God's thoughts.

Applications

Guard against discontent with your God-given role

Recognize that discontent with your calling is a foundational pillar of rebellion; instead, be content with the gifts and vocation God has given you.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'anytime you get discontented with your calling and vocation in life, it is a foundational pillar of rebellion... whatever gifts that God has given us, we must be content with those gifts.'

Worship God only on His terms

Ensure that your worship is in spirit and truth, not mere ritual or fleshly ceremony, because God rejects worship that is not according to His Word.

Lecture support: Weaver warns: 'all fleshly worship is worthless, useless, void, and blasphemous... God cannot be worshipped except by the means which He has ordained.'

Consider the impact of your sin on others

Remember that your sin always affects others, including your family and community; live in a way that brings blessing, not judgment, to those around you.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes: 'your life, whether it's right or wrong, good or bad, always influences and affects others... your sin always affects others.'

Deal with rebellion through repentance

If you recognize rebellion in your heart, deal with it through genuine repentance before God's judgment falls; do not harden your heart like Korah.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'rebellion must be dealt with, either by judgment or genuine repentance, or else it will continue its path of death and destruction.'

Align your ways with God's ways

Do not trust your own understanding; instead, submit to God's Word and align your thoughts and actions with His revealed will to avoid the way of death.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes: 'to escape the ways of death, we must make sure that our ways are God's ways and our thoughts are God's thoughts.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - Foundations For Rebellion - Part One

Lecture JW01723

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Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Foundations For Rebellion - Part Two

Lecture JW01724

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Lesson 3: Pastor John Weaver - Foundations For Rebellion - Part Three

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Lesson 4: Pastor John Weaver - Foundations for Rebellion - Part Four

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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

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