

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

The Essence of Rebellion

Study Guide

Family Government

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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

The Essence of Rebellion

Part One

May 18, 2014

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21.

Major Themes

The Seriousness of Rebellion Against God

Rebellion is a sin akin to witchcraft and idolatry, meriting the death penalty, and is fundamentally treason against God's law order.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Samuel 15:22-23, equating rebellion with witchcraft, and argues that treason against God's law order demands the death penalty because no law order can survive if its foundations are attacked.

Sedition as the Seed of Rebellion

Rebellion begins with sedition - sowing discontent and recruiting others into dissatisfaction, as Korah did by 'taking men' in Numbers 16:1.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On 'took men' (Numbers 16:1), meaning they actively solicited and led 250 princes into conspiracy, illustrating how sedition precedes open rebellion.

Lawful Authority vs. Tyranny

Rebellion is only against lawful authority; resisting tyranny is obedience to God, and submission to tyrants is rebellion against God.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Rebellion can only be to lawful authority. If there is no lawful authority, it is not rebellion. It is merely resistance,' and quotes Benjamin Franklin: 'Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God.'

The Supremacy of God's Law Over Human Law

God's law is the ultimate foundation; unconstitutional human laws are void, and believers must belligerently claim their God-given rights.

Lecture support: Weaver reads from Supreme Court rulings and American Jurisprudence that unconstitutional laws are void, and asserts that 'there can be no law that will supersede God's law.'

Pride and Discontent as Roots of Rebellion

Rebellion stems from dissatisfaction with God's providence and prideful desire for positions not given by God, as seen in Korah's challenge to Moses and Aaron.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Numbers 16:3, 9-10, where Korah accuses Moses of exalting himself, and notes that 'all sedition and all rebellion begins with dissatisfaction with the providence of God in your life.'

The Danger of Sowing Discord

God hates those who sow discord among brethren; this is exactly what Korah and his company did, and it is an abomination to the Lord.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Proverbs 6:16-19, emphasizing that 'he that soweth discord among the brethren' is an abomination, and applies it to Korah's actions in recruiting the 250 princes.

Equal Standing vs. Different Positions

All believers have equal standing before God, but God assigns different positions and callings; rebellion often arises from confusing equality of standing with equality of position.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that while all are equally saved, positions differ (pastor, doctor, husband), and Korah's error was seeking a position God had not given him.

Humility as the Antidote to Rebellion

Walking humbly with God, as Micah 6:8 commands, protects against sedition and rebellion by fostering contentment with God's providence.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Micah 6:8 and states, 'Do you realize walking humbly with our Lord will keep us from the sins of sedition and rebellion?'

Key Arguments

Rebellion is fundamentally against God and His law order, not merely against human authority.

Treason against God's law order is more serious than civil treason because God's law is the foundation of all society; rejecting it leads to tyranny or chaos.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'You have to remember that rebellion and treason are primarily against God and His law order,' and explains that humanistic alternatives always lead to despotism or anarchy.

Sedition is the precursor to rebellion, as seen in Korah's recruitment of the 250 princes.

Korah and his allies actively 'took men' - they incited discontent and formed a conspiracy, demonstrating that rebellion begins with seditious speech and recruitment.

Lecture support: Weaver notes that the word 'took' in Numbers 16:1 means 'to catch by the hand, to carry along, to fetch and to lead,' showing intentional sedition.

Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God, but rebellion against lawful authority is sin.

Believers must distinguish between resisting evil rulers (which is duty) and rebelling against God-ordained authority (which is sin), as the apostles did in Acts 5:29.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Submission to tyrants is rebellion to God,' and cites Acts 5:29: 'We ought to obey God rather than man.'

Unconstitutional human laws are void and not binding, but God's law remains supreme.

Civil laws that contradict the Constitution or God's law are null and void; believers are not bound to obey them and must claim their rights.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Norton v. Shelby County: 'An unconstitutional act is not a law... it is as inoperative as though it had never been passed,' and asserts God's law supersedes all.

Korah's rebellion was motivated by pride, jealousy, and dissatisfaction with his God-given role.

Korah, a Levite and cousin of Moses, was discontent with his position and sought the priesthood, revealing that rebellion stems from rejecting God's providence.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Numbers 16:9-10, where Moses asks, 'Seek ye the priesthood also?' and explains Korah's likely grievances over family hierarchy and camp proximity.

God hates the sowing of discord, which is the essence of sedition.

Proverbs 6:19 lists sowing discord among brethren as an abomination; Korah's actions in recruiting the princes exemplify this sin.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Proverbs 6:16-19 and states, 'That's exactly what Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and On did... they sowed discord and got 250 princes on their side.'

Believers must refuse to entertain unsubstantiated accusations against leaders.

1 Timothy 5:19 commands not to receive an accusation against an elder without two or three witnesses, which would prevent gossip and sedition.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Timothy 5:19 and gives a practical example of how requiring witnesses would stop slander and discontent.

Humility and contentment with God's providence are the safeguards against rebellion.

Pride leads to destruction (Proverbs 16:18); walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8) fosters gratitude and prevents the discontent that fuels sedition.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Proverbs 16:18 and Micah 6:8, concluding that 'true biblical humility... will keep us from the sins of sedition and rebellion.'

Scripture References

Numbers 16:1-11

The primary text of the sermon, describing the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On against Moses and Aaron.

Numbers 26:9-11

References the fate of Dathan, Abiram, and Korah's company, noting the earth swallowed them and fire devoured 250 men.

1 Samuel 15:22-23

Samuel rebukes Saul, equating rebellion with witchcraft and stubbornness with idolatry, leading to Saul's rejection as king.

Judges 17:6

Illustrates the chaos of anarchistic law orders: 'Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.'

Acts 5:29

Peter and the apostles declare they must obey God rather than men, supporting resistance to tyranny.

Exodus 6:18

Lists the sons of Kohath, showing that Amram (father of Moses and Aaron) and Izhar (father of Korah) were brothers.

Genesis 49:3-4

Jacob's prophecy that Reuben would not excel because he defiled his father's bed, explaining the Reubenites' discontent.

Numbers 3:19, 30

Shows that Elizaphan, not Korah, was made chief of the Kohathites, possibly fueling Korah's jealousy.

Jude 1:11

Warns against the way of Cain, the error of Balaam, and the gainsaying (rebellion) of Korah.

2 Peter 2:15

Describes Balaam's error as loving the wages of unrighteousness, referenced in the context of Jude 11.

Numbers 16:5-6

Moses addresses Korah and his company, singling out Korah as the leader.

Numbers 26:9

Identifies Dathan and Abiram as those who strove against Moses and Aaron in the company of Korah.

Numbers 27:3

The daughters of Zelophehad note their father was not in the company of Korah, further singling out Korah's rebellion.

Exodus 23:2

Commands not to follow a multitude to do evil, applied to refusing to join a rebellious group.

1 Timothy 5:19

Instructs not to receive an accusation against an elder without two or three witnesses, to prevent gossip and sedition.

Proverbs 6:16-19

Lists seven things God hates, including a proud look, a lying tongue, and sowing discord among brethren.

Numbers 16:3

The rebels accuse Moses and Aaron of exalting themselves, claiming all the congregation is holy.

Numbers 16:8-10

Moses rebukes Korah for seeking the priesthood in addition to his Levitical service, showing discontent with God's calling.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall, applied to the rebels' fate.

Micah 6:8

God requires doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with Him, the antidote to rebellion.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the distinction between rebellion against lawful authority and resistance to tyranny apply to current events or personal situations?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that rebellion is only against lawful authority; resistance to tyranny is obedience to God. This question helps apply that principle.

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2. In what ways might we be guilty of 'taking men' - sowing discontent or recruiting others into dissatisfaction - in our families, workplaces, or church?

Consider: Korah and his allies actively recruited others into their rebellion. Weaver warns against being a leader or follower of such sedition.

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3. What does it look like practically to refuse to receive an accusation against an elder without two or three witnesses, and how might this prevent sedition?

Consider: Weaver cites 1 Timothy 5:19 and gives a practical example of requiring witnesses before hearing an accusation.

- 4.** How can we cultivate contentment with God's providence in our lives, especially when we feel overlooked or slighted like Korah?

Consider: Weaver identifies dissatisfaction with God's providence as the root of rebellion and points to humility as the antidote.

- 5.** Why does God hate the sowing of discord among brethren so severely, and how can we guard against it in our speech?

Consider: Proverbs 6:19 lists sowing discord as an abomination; Weaver applies this to Korah's actions and warns against gossip and slander.

- 6.** How does the concept of equal standing but different positions before God challenge our culture's emphasis on egalitarianism?

Consider: Weaver explains that all believers have equal standing in salvation but different God-given roles, which Korah rejected.

7. What are some modern examples of 'the way of Cain' or 'the error of Balaam' that we must avoid, according to Jude 11?

Consider: Weaver briefly explains these errors as humanistic worship and love of money, warning against them alongside Korah's rebellion.

8. How can we balance the biblical command to submit to governing authorities with the duty to resist unconstitutional or tyrannical laws?

Consider: Weaver argues that unconstitutional laws are void and that God's law is supreme, citing Acts 5:29 and legal precedents.

Applications

Refuse to lead or follow a rebellion against lawful authority.

Believers must not instigate or join in sedition against God-ordained authority, whether in church, family, or civil government, as Exodus 23:2 warns against following a multitude to do evil.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'We must always refuse to be a leader of such a rebellion. We must not only refuse to be a leader of such rebellion. We must also refuse to be a follower of such rebellion,' citing Exodus 23:2.

Reject unsubstantiated accusations against leaders.

To prevent sedition, do not entertain accusations against elders without two or three witnesses, as commanded in 1 Timothy 5:19, which would stop gossip and slander.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses,' and gives a practical scenario of how this would halt false accusations.

Cultivate humility and contentment with God's providence.

Walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8) and being content with the role and circumstances He has assigned prevents the pride and dissatisfaction that lead to rebellion.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Do you realize walking humbly with our Lord will keep us from the sins of sedition and rebellion?' and emphasizes that rebellion begins with dissatisfaction with God's providence.

Avoid sowing discord among brethren.

God hates the sowing of discord (Proverbs 6:19); believers must guard their speech and not incite discontent or division within the church or community.

Lecture support: Weaver warns that Korah and his company 'sowed discord and got 250 princes on their side,' and that this is an abomination to God.

Distinguish between sinful rebellion and righteous resistance.

Resisting tyranny and evil is obedience to God, but rebelling against lawful, biblical authority is sin; believers must discern the difference based on God's law.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Submission to tyrants is rebellion to God,' and cites Acts 5:29, while also warning against rebellion against lawful authority.

Accept God's assigned positions without envy.

Just as Korah sought the priesthood beyond his Levitical calling, believers must be content with the roles God has given them, not coveting positions He has not granted.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Numbers 16:9-10, where Moses rebukes Korah for seeking the priesthood, and applies it to contentment with one's own calling.

Uphold God's law as the supreme standard.

When human laws contradict God's law, believers must obey God rather than men, recognizing that unconstitutional or ungodly laws are void and not binding.

Lecture support: Weaver reads legal precedents that unconstitutional laws are void and asserts, 'There can be no law that will supersede God's law.'

Be willing to listen to rebuke and correction.

A repentant person is open to admonition, unlike Korah and his company who refused to listen; humility involves being teachable and correctable.

Lecture support: Weaver observes, 'Someone that is really repentant is always willing to listen and be rebuked... Someone who is unrepentant doesn't even want to listen.'

Study notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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

The Essence of Rebellion

Part Two

May 25, 2014

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-39.

Major Themes

Rebellion is ultimately against God

Though rebellion manifests against human authorities, it is fundamentally against God and His choices.

Lecture support: Moses and Aaron were accessible. God was not. So if they're going to strike out against someone, they have to strike out against Moses and Aaron. (11:26.1)

Rebellion against lawful authority equals rebellion against God

Scripture equates rebelling against God's appointed leaders with rebelling against God Himself.

Lecture support: Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets... (Nehemiah 9:26)

The most common rebellion comes from those in power

The 250 princes rebelled due to discontent with their position, illustrating that leaders often provoke rebellion.

Lecture support: 250 princes of the congregation were discontented with their position. 250 princes of the congregation were discontented with their power. (22:59.0)

Discontent with God's providence fuels rebellion

Rebellion stems from dissatisfaction with one's God-assigned station, leading to violations of God's law.

Lecture support: All rebellion has the root of discontent and dissatisfaction. (30:34.1)

Rebellion is contagious and must be fled

God commands separation from rebels to avoid sharing in their judgment.

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

Rebellion destroys families

Korah's rebellion resulted in the death of entire families, but those who separated were spared.

Lecture support: the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah... (Numbers 16:32)

Submission to God's Word is the essence of Christian life

Obedience demonstrates faith; lack of obedience is rebellion. Holiness is equated with obedience.

Lecture support: the most important aspect of your Christian life is that of being in submission and subjection to the Word of God (46:28.8)

Parents must model obedience for their children

Children learn submission by observing it in their parents; a tender, obedient heart is a vital legacy.

Lecture support: If you as a father, if you as a mother are unsubmissive... do not be surprised if your children are unsubmissive... (48:50.7)

Key Arguments

Rebellion requires lawful authority

Without lawful authority, resistance is not rebellion. Submission to tyrants is rebellion to God.

Lecture support: Rebellion is only against lawful authority. If there is no lawful authority, it is not rebellion, it is resistance. (05:39.7)

Korah's rebellion was against God's choice

Korah challenged Moses and Aaron, but was actually rejecting God's sovereign appointment.

Lecture support: their rebellion is against God. They were challenging the choice and the actions of God. (10:57.3)

Rebellion against parents is rebellion against God

God ordained parental authority; children who rebel against godly parents rebel against God.

Lecture support: When children rebel against their parents, it is nothing less than a manifestation of their rebellion against God. (11:26.1)

False teaching is teaching rebellion

Prophets who speak lies are charged with teaching rebellion against the Lord.

Lecture support: because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD. (Jeremiah 28:16)

Leaders in rebellion provoke resistance

Historical examples show that tyranny by rulers leads to secession and resistance by the people.

Lecture support: the next wave of secession... will be done by the people because of the rebellion of those in power (27:23.1)

Discontent leads to law-breaking

Theft, adultery, and workplace sins are rooted in dissatisfaction with God's provision.

Lecture support: theft displays our covetous discontent with the property that God has allowed us to possess (31:53.9)

Separation from rebels is commanded

God instructs His people to distance themselves from rebels to avoid judgment.

Lecture support: Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. (Numbers 16:21)

Obedience demonstrates love for Christ

Keeping Christ's commandments is the evidence of loving Him; disobedience is rebellion.

Lecture support: He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me. (John 14:21)

Scripture References

Numbers 16:1-11

Introduction of Korah's rebellion and Moses' response.

Proverbs 6:16-19

Sowing discord among brethren is an abomination, equated with sedition.

Acts 5:29

We ought to obey God rather than men, establishing God's law as supreme.

Numbers 16:3

Rebels accuse Moses and Aaron of exalting themselves.

Numbers 16:13

Korah twists facts, claiming Moses brought them out of a land of milk and honey.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey and submit to godly pastors who watch for your souls.

Nehemiah 9:26

Israel rebelled against God, cast His law behind their backs, and slew prophets.

Psalms 5:10

Destroy them for they have rebelled against thee.

Psalms 107:11

They rebelled against the words of God and contemned His counsel.

Isaiah 1:2

God nourished children, but they rebelled against Him.

Isaiah 63:10

They rebelled and vexed His Holy Spirit; He fought against them.

Jeremiah 28:15-16

Hananiah taught rebellion against the Lord and would die for it.

Jeremiah 29:32

Shemaiah taught rebellion against the Lord and would be punished.

Daniel 9:9

To the Lord belong mercies, though we have rebelled against Him.

Numbers 16:2, 17

250 princes rebelled; each took a censer.

Numbers 16:9-10

Moses rebukes Korah for seeking the priesthood beyond his Levitical role.

1 Kings 12

Ten tribes seceded due to Rehoboam's tyranny.

Proverbs 17:11

An evil man seeks only rebellion; a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

Numbers 16:19-26

God commands separation from Korah's company to avoid destruction.

Exodus 23:2

Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the distinction between rebellion and resistance apply to current events?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that rebellion is only against lawful authority; resistance to tyranny is obedience to God.

2. In what ways might we be rebelling against God by rebelling against human authorities He has placed in our lives?

Consider: Rebellion against godly parents or pastors is ultimately rebellion against God.

3. Why is rebellion among leaders more common than among the people, and what are modern examples?

Consider: The 250 princes rebelled; historically, leaders in power provoke resistance.

4. How does discontent with our station in life lead to specific sins like theft or adultery?

Consider: Discontent with God's providence is the root of rebellion and law-breaking.

5. What does it practically mean to 'separate yourselves' from rebels in our context?

Consider: God commanded Israel to depart from the tents of Korah to avoid judgment.

6. How can parents model a tender and obedient heart to their children?

Consider: Children learn submission by seeing it in their parents; parents must pray for submissive hearts.

7. What does it mean to be holy as God is holy in the context of obedience?

Consider: 1 Peter 1 calls believers to be holy in all conduct, equating holiness with obedience.

Applications

Submit to God's Word as the highest priority

Make submission and subjection to Scripture the central focus of daily Christian life.

Lecture support: the most important aspect of your Christian life is that of being in submission and subjection to the Word of God (46:28.8)

Examine your heart for discontent

Identify areas of dissatisfaction with God's providence that may lead to rebellion.

Lecture support: All rebellion has the root of discontent and dissatisfaction. (30:34.1)

Flee from rebellious influences

Separate from individuals or groups promoting rebellion against God's order.

Lecture support: Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs... (Numbers 16:26)

Model obedience for your children

Parents must visibly live in submission to God's Word to pass on a tender, obedient heart.

Lecture support: If you as a father, if you as a mother are unsubmitive... do not be surprised if your children are unsubmitive... (48:50.7)

Pray daily for a submissive heart

Continually ask God to fashion your life according to His will, not former lusts.

Lecture support: you should not only pray this every day, you should make this a constant, continual prayer daily. (50:44.6)

Resist tyranny as obedience to God

When human authority contradicts God's law, obey God rather than men.

Lecture support: We ought to obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)

Do not envy the wealth of the rebellious

Avoid desiring the possessions or positions of those in rebellion, as they are under judgment.

Lecture support: Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. (Psalm 37:1)

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: The Essence of Rebellion - Part One

Lecture JW00578

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00578&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00578&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: The Essence of Rebellion - Part Two

Lecture JW00573

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00573&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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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.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.