



GOD JUDGES REBELLION

NUMBERS 16:6-7, 16:12-14, 21:5-6, 21:8-9

LEARN THE WORD

Deuteronomy 7:9

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.

- God judged the rebellion of men who spoke against Moses and Aaron by making the earth open up and swallow them, their families, and their belongings.
- The Israelites complained about food and water, and God judged them with poisonous snakes. God showed mercy by having Moses create a bronze serpent that the people could look to and be saved from death.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose your friend is having a hard time obeying her parents, and she says to you, “I don’t see why I have to listen to them, anyway. Why do I have to obey?”

What could you say?

I know that it's hard to obey. It takes work and goes against what we want to do. You see, all of us naturally want to rebel and do our own thing. That's because we're sinners. But God gave authority to parents over their children. Their job is to protect us, teach us, and correct us. They have a big responsibility! God commands us to honor and obey our parents because He knows that's best for us. Kids aren't the only ones who have to obey authorities, though. Parents have to obey government authorities and police. All of us have God as our authority. When we obey God and the authorities He has placed over us, God can bless us and protect us from harm.

Activity: Trace the path, over and under, from each sin to find the judgment God gave.

Moses and Aaron disobeyed God's instructions to bring water from the rock.

The Israelites complained that Moses and Aaron killed the rebellious people.

The Israelites complained about food and water.

250 leaders offered incense although they were not priests.

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram rebelled against Moses and Aaron.

Fire consumed them.

Fiery serpents bit some.

Earth swallowed them up.

Never enter the Promised Land.

Plague killed some.

HOMESWORD FOR PARENTS

During the wilderness wanderings, Korah, a Levite, along with Dathan and Abiram instigated a rebellion against God's authority. They assembled against Moses and Aaron with 250 leaders who wanted to be priests. This rebellious gathering incurred the wrath of the Lord, who was ready to destroy them all if Moses and Aaron had not interceded. Instead, God in His mercy told Moses to warn the Israelites to move away from the three rebels and their dwellings before He miraculously caused an earthquake to swallow them up. The Israelites panicked and fled. Then fire from the Lord consumed the 250 leaders who wanted to be priests (Numbers 16:23-35).

In spite of these judgments, the Israelites continued to complain about food and water, even saying they hated the manna God provided (Numbers 21:5). This time, God judged them with fiery serpents, causing many to die. The people recognized their sin and came to Moses and asked him to pray on their behalf. God answered with an amazing picture of the coming Savior. He had Moses make a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. Anyone who was bitten by the snakes could look to the serpent and be healed (Numbers 21:6-9). Just as the bronze serpent saved the people from physical death, Christ was raised on a cross so that all who look to Him for salvation may be saved from eternal death. The people had to believe God would save them when they looked to the serpent, and we must repent and believe in Christ's sacrificial death and subsequent resurrection to receive eternal life (John 3:14-15).