

‘Don’t Believe Everything You Think’

Continuing the series through Numbers – Trusting God on the Way Home

What benefits us the most? Is everything that is beneficial for me easy to receive?

- Everything that is beneficial is helpful. Not everything that is beneficial is necessarily easy to hear or receive. God always has what is best for us.

The Apostle Paul told the church in Corinth that the ‘things’ that happened to the children of Israel in the wilderness were examples for us and were written down for our instruction. (1 Corinthians 10:6-12)

Numbers 16-17 (today’s text)

Korah, a Levite, along with Reubenites Dathan and Abiram, led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. And really it was against God, as this type of rebellion typically is. (16: 1-35)

- False accusation – ‘Why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?’
- Moses and Aaron did not defend themselves against the false accusations. God took action and made clear examples of the sinful behavior of the rebels.
- Gene Getz (Bible scholar, Author, Pastor) calls this behavior “Inexcusable Disloyalty”. The life lesson he shares is “we must never become a part of a conspiracy against godly spiritual leaders”.

(16:41-50) The next day, all the congregation grumbled against Moses and Aaron with another false accusation, ‘You have killed the people of the Lord’. Why did they, and Korah and company earlier, think and believe these lies?

In Jeremiah 7:23-26 God explains what happened here and what happens whenever His voice is not obeyed. When we do not walk in the way He commands, we go backwards rather than forwards. Whose voice are you and I obeying?

God took action again to acknowledge the sinful behavior of the rebellious congregation. Aaron, as God’s High Priest made atonement for the sins of the people and God halted the plague He had initiated.

Chapter 17:

God took action to reaffirm Aaron as His high priest, who He set in place in Leviticus chapter 9.

The 12 staffs, one from each head-of-tribe including Aaron's for the tribe of Levi, were dead pieces of wood.

Overnight, God put life back into Aaron's staff so that it produced buds, blossoms and ripe almonds. This staff that was dead was 'resurrected' to identify the high priest and confirm his role.

Aaron was the first high priest. Jesus, through the atoning power of His resurrection has been established by God as the final and ultimate High Priest.

Aaron was from the line of Levi. Jesus, as High Priest, is from the priestly-kingly line of Melchizedek, a line much older than Aaron's line and a line now with no end. Jesus is God's Great High Priest; once for all.

Jesus, as Great High Priest, has made atonement 'for all time those who are being sanctified' (Hebrews 10:14).

Whose voice do you hear? His or yours? To hear His, spend time with Him frequently so you know His voice – if you cannot hear His voice, ask Him to forgive your sins and ask Him to be the Lord of your life. Your faith in Him, which leads to your surrender of your life for His, will save your life.