



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 16:1-18:32
- Hebrews 12:3-11
- I Timothy 6:6-11
- Luke 12:16-21

DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEES

- Glass Half Empty
- Spare the Rod Spoil the Child
- Glass Half Full
- Bonus: Stories-at-a-Glance

The Bible comes alive when we insert ourselves into the various narratives and stories, when we contemplate how we might have acted if we were there. It's fascinating to me and disappointing how often God's children resisted Him and resorted to complaining about, well, everything. Would you have done that? It's easy to know; if you act that way now, you would have then! This is most often how the people related to God. Be honest; is this you?

"We don't like Your leaders; put us in charge."

"We don't like your instructions; we'll do it our own way."

"We don't like where You're sending us; we'll stay right here."

"We don't like your directions; we'll choose our own path."

"We don't like Your consequences; we'll skirt the punishment."

"We don't like your assignments; we'll do what we please."

“We don’t like this work; we’ll choose what we like.”

“We don’t like Your warnings; we’ll hear what we want.”

“We don’t like what you call us; we’ll pick our own identity.”

And even in the midst of God’s lovingkindness, His tender mercies, and His long-suffering, His chosen usually act like negative nellys: pessimistic about everything, constantly complaining, glass-half-empty-type people, who when given a choice, opt for the negative outlook on life.

Can you imagine? God gives you yet another chance to be content, to avoid the most serious of consequences for your bad decisions. He lays out His plan and to what you must stipulate. And then, your negative glass-half-empty-attitude takes over again. You assume you are just going to blow it anyway, so why bother?

“Surely we die, we perish, we all perish!” It’s utterly depressing.

How miserable, how wretchedly unhappy you must be to always assume the worst outcome, to believe you just can’t obey God, won’t obey God. You exist in a forgone conclusion; we are going to fail, so why even try? We’re going down, so we might as well have a good time doing what pleases ourselves along the way.

In contrast to a negative outlook and a never-ending dissatisfaction with what we’ve been given, we have this wisdom: godliness with contentment is great gain. Think about it; discontentment leads to envy and strife, and contentment opens the

doors to an abundant life of blessings and favor. No one likes to be around constant pessimism and complaining: not Moses, not God, and not even you! And no one is striving for chastening and poverty, but that is what you'll get if you don't stop whining. So, snap out of it, "Surely we will live, we will thrive, we will all thrive!"

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom; thus I will rid Myself of the complaints of the children of Israel, which they make against you [Moses]."" Numbers 17:5 NKJV

"And the Lord said to Moses, "Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die."" Numbers 17:10 NKJV

"So the children of Israel spoke to Moses, saying, "Surely we die, we perish, we all perish!" Numbers 17:12 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." I Timothy 6:6-8 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This week's Torah reading tells the story of how Korah led an unsuccessful rebellion against Moses and Aaron. After thwarting the insurrection, God confirms Aaron in the priesthood and provides additional legislation regarding priestly and Levitical privileges and responsibilities.

Numbers 16

2. **Rebellion Against Moses and Aaron:** Korah leads 250 leaders, men of renown, against Moses as he accuses Moses of exalting himself as 'more holy' than the rest of them, making himself a prince among men, and of taking too much upon himself.
3. Moses' powerful response is a declaration that Yahweh will show them all who is 'holy' by drawing near to Himself those He has chosen.
4. Moses tells Korah to have him and all his cohorts put fire incensers to bring before Yahweh the next day and Yahweh will choose.
5. Moses then asks some powerful questions and makes a powerful declaration, challenging the seeming dissatisfaction Korah and his compatriots have for their special calling inside the priesthood.

- (a) **“Is it a small thing** to you that the God of Israel has **separated you** from the congregation of Israel, **to bring you near to Himself**, to do the work of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to serve them?” “And are you seeking the priesthood also?”
- (b) “Therefore you and all your company *are* gathered together against the Lord. And what is Aaron that you complain against him?”
6. **Now catch this Satanic shift:** Korah gives a brutally sarcastic and rebellious answer to Moses’ directive that they come up before Yahweh the next day to determine who He will draw near to Himself as His chosen. It’s almost beyond comprehension, and in reality as is always the case, the rebelling is against Yahweh, not man (Moses)! They even think Moses is calling them up so he can enact his own punishment against them, to quell any uprising and silence the voices of anyone exposing his secret agenda of exalting himself .
- (a) **Their answer:** “We will not come up! **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 should keep acting like a prince over us?”
- (1) **Did you catch it?** Moses is being absolutely authentic as he reminds Korah that the sons of Levi have been

separated from all the tribes of Israel for such honorable and awesome positions, each called to specific duties. He's shocked that they are so dissatisfied and jealous that their unique calling is not appreciated, and instead that they feel disdain for their role, even unto coveting the role of Aaron and his sons. They answer Moses back so sarcastically, even to use Moses' own words, **"Is it a small thing...?"** Moses reminds them that their unique calling is NOT to be looked upon as insignificant, but rather as an immense honor. And in response they accuse Moses of orchestrating his own agenda so he can stay in power.

(b) They continue: "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!"

(1) Yahweh promised to provide for all the Levites in a special way WITHOUT giving that tribe an "inheritance in the land." He called them into special service instead and, as such, He would provide for them abundantly without them needing to participate in dividing the land. I guess Yahweh's promises and provision are not good enough!

7. Moses entreats Yahweh to respond as such: "Do not respect their offering."

- (a) **Showdown Time:** Aaron will take his censor representing the priesthood, and you, Korah, and your 250 men, each take your own censor before Yahweh.
 - (b) So Korah gathered them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, but notice that Korah, Dathan, and Abiram stay at their tents to “protect themselves” from what they believe will be Moses’ punishment. And the glory of the Lord appears to all the congregation.
8. **A NEW THING was about to happen:** Yahweh tells Moses to separate from these rebels and Moses even intercedes on their behalf. “Please don’t kill them all just because one man, Korah, has led so many astray.”
9. **Yahweh warns:** “Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.” And Moses warns everyone to get away from the tents and the belongings of these men, so they are not consumed with them.
10. **What is at stake here?** Has Moses been sent by Yahweh to do all these works or has he appointed himself?
- (a) **Special Note:** *Notice that this is the EXACT spirit in operation when a scribe accuses Y’shua of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub in Matthew 12 and when the Jews accuse Him of coming with “His own” deceiving doctrine in John 7.*

11. These key men leading the rebellion, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, stood at the door of their tents with their wives, their sons, and their little children. (They would not come up for the challenge as they believed it was just a scheme of Moses to lure them out.) Then Moses lays down the challenge; “if these men go on to live natural lives and die like all men, then it is true, Yahweh has not sent me and indeed I have done this on my own strength.” “But if Yahweh does a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected Yahweh.”

12. And that is exactly what happens, the rebels, their families and all their belongings are swallowed by the earth as the people watching run for their lives. Oh, and what about the 250 conspirators who had joined Korah in the insurrection who were standing in rebellion with their censers at the door of the tabernacle? They arrogantly showed up with their fire-filled censers and were **consumed by the fire** of Yahweh!

(a) **Special Note:** *This reminds me of three separate narratives:*

- (1) The profane fire offered by Aarons sons Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10:1-3, when Yahweh consumes them with fire.

- (2) Later in 1 Kings 18:1-46 (read it all), in the third year of the drought, when Elijah tells Ahab he is the only prophet left and that he will bring the rain. Ahab just falsely accuses him of being the cause of the drought and the one who troubles Israel, and just wants him killed. But Elijah challenges Ahab's 450 false prophets of Baal, and they are exposed as frauds, as their religious antics cannot produce fire. Elijah does call down the fire of Yahweh which consumes his waterlogged sacrifice and then he turns his attention to all the false prophets and has them executed. Finally he prophesies that the rain will come and the heavy rain falls with Ahab as the witness.
- (3) It also reminded me of 2 Kings 1:1-18 when Ahaziah wished to inquire of Baal-Zebub about whether or not he would recover from his injuries from a fall, and he sends messengers to inquire of the pagan god. The messengers are instead intercepted by Elijah. Elijah sends back a word to Ahaziah that because he inquired of a pagan god, he would not recover, but instead die. When the report gets back to Ahaziah, three times he sends a captain plus fifty men, presumably to apprehend Elijah. The first two captains and their men are **consumed by fire** at the word of Elijah, **"If I am a man of God, then let fire come down**

from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” The third captain begs for mercy and he and his men are spared. Instead, an angel of Yahweh tells Elijah to go down with this last group and to confront Ahaziah. He does so and **Ahaziah perishes** at the words of Yahweh which Elijah had spoken.

13. **Back to mopping up Korah’s rebellion:** Yahweh tells Moses to have Eleazar collect the 250 censers which were scattered among the incinerated ashes of the rebels. The censers are holy and are not to be treated as common. He tells them to melt them down into plates that they can use to cover the altar, as a memorial of what happens when you rebel against Yahweh. **No one outside (of their calling) should come and make an offering before Yahweh!**

14. You would think this entire incident was enough proof of Moses’ authenticity for all those who witnessed the fruit of the rebellion. But instead, on the next day, **the people complain against Moses and Aaron**, blaming THEM for killing the people as if Moses was instituting his own agenda. It is absolutely beyond imagination that this is what they have concluded.

(a) **The result:** Yahweh is ready to consume them ALL and sends a PLAGUE and they start dropping like flies. If it were not for the decisive action of Moses to stop the plague, by quickly

instructing Aaron to make intercession, the whole of the congregation may have fallen that day in the wilderness! Even so, 14,700 people died that day, in addition to all who were swallowed up or consumed by fire the previous day!

Numbers 17

15. **The Budding of Aaron's Rod:** Yahweh instructs the heads of each tribe to bring a rod to the tabernacle to put their tribe's name on it and that He will cause one of them to bud, like it is still alive. This testimony should end the complaining of the people as they witness the the miracle and the clear message from the Almighty that it is His agenda at play here!
16. **The outcome:** Not only does the rod of Aaron, representing Levi, sprout buds the next day, but it puts forth blossoms and ripe almonds!

Numbers 18

17. **Duties of Priests and Levites:** Next is a review of the priestly calling on the Levites and their duties. They will bear the iniquity of the tabernacle and attend to all its needs, to the needs of the people, and to the needs of Aaron himself as a gift to him. However, just because they are in the priestly line as a Levite, it does not mean they can touch the articles of the sanctuary. Permission to do so will be very specific and anyone who operates outside of that permission will die.

18. **Offerings for Support of the Priests:** Yahweh speaks to Aaron and reminds him that there is a portion of the offerings of the people that are reserved for him and his family forever. He calls it “a covenant of salt {v. 19} forever before the Lord with you and your descendants with you.”
19. Why? Because the Levites “shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall they have any portion among them; Yahweh is their portion and their inheritance among the children of Israel.
20. **Tithes for Support of the Levites:** The Priests get the tithes of Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform. It shall be a statute forever as they shall have no other inheritance.
21. **The Tithe of the Levites:** The Levites shall tithe on the tithe! The best tenth of what the people have is offered to the priests and the best tenth of that tenth (the best of the best) is offered by the priests to Yahweh! The rest is theirs to use in their households as a reward for their work.
22. SEE SECTION FOUR: This portion is filled with so many important topics that we will not be NOT covering today. If you wish to study them, go watch the teachings from past two years!
- (a) Two years ago: [A House Divided](#)
- (b) Last year: [The Best of the Best](#)

GLASS HALF EMPTY

1. Ungrateful people are impossible to satisfy!

A. A trip down (recent) memory lane...(See: [Adding Insult to Injury](#))

(1) Pessimistic (a Bad Report)

(a) Ten spies (negative nellies). We are not able; we will get devoured; they are giants and we are grunts; we see ourselves as little bugs, so they see us the same way!

1. **“We are not able** to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.” Numbers 13:31 NKJV
2. The land devours its inhabitants. Numbers 13:32
3. The men are giants—the descendants of Anak.
Numbers 13:32 NKJV
4. **“We were like grasshoppers in our own sight,** and so we were in their sight.” Numbers 13:33 NKJV

(2) Optimistic (a Good Report)

(a) Caleb and Joshua are “can-do” men. We are able! We should be “can-do” Christians. I can do... because I see my self the way God sees me!

1. **“Let us go up at once and take possession,** for **we are well able** to overcome it.” Numbers 13:30 NKJV
2. **“I can do all things** through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 NKJV

3. “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with **unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**” II Corinthians 3:17-18 NKJV

(3) It’s your choice!

- (a) We see ourselves a certain way and, as a result, others see us the same way! (Grasshopper ID vs. God ID)
- (b) If we looked into the mirror and saw Christ, then our enemies would look at us and see Christ!
- (c) How we view ourselves dictates our attitudes, beliefs and actions.

(4) Disgruntled Employee

- (a) A member of an organization who feels they've received unfair treatment that the company has not appropriately addressed. Sometimes, a single event offends an employee, and other times, a company policy or series of instances leads to an employee's increasing dissatisfaction. This always ends badly!

1. “**Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!** For what good is the day of the Lord to you? **It will be darkness, and not light.** It will be as though a man

**fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though
he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall,
And a serpent bit him!"** Amos 5:18-19 NKJV

B. Fictional characters who fit the bill—perfectly...

- (1) **Eeyore:** complaining, wanting, disgruntled, envious, dissatisfied, negative, gloomy, downbeat, bleak, despairing, despondent, depressed, dejected, hopeless, melancholy, glum, suspicious, distrustful, doubting, alarmist, etc.
 - (a) Stuffed donkey with a deeply cynical and borderline mentally depressed view of life. Often around to share a negative view of things.
 1. **Gloomy:** "I was so upset, I forgot to be happy."
 2. "If it is a good morning, which I doubt."
 3. **Downbeat:** "I'd say thistles, but nobody listens to me, anyway."
 4. **Negative:** "Wish I could say yes, but I can't."
 5. **Dejected:** "Not much of a house, just right for not much of a donkey."
 6. **Suspicious:** "They made me catch the cold I caught."
 7. **Self-deprecating:** "I'm telling you. People come and go in this Forest, and they say, 'It's only Eeyore, so it doesn't count.'"

8. **Fearful:** "Use caution when standing by the river bank minding your own business. You might get bounced into the water."
9. **Glum:** "Don't blame me if it rains."
10. **No self-worth:** "No need to bother on my account."
11. **Weak:** "Those two bothers will have to rhyme with each other... the fact is this is more difficult than I thought."
12. **Dreary:** "Sure it's a cheerful color. Guess I'll have to get used to it."
13. **Pessimistic:** "Could be worse. Not sure how, but it could be."
14. **Fatalistic:** "It's snowing still. And freezing. However, we haven't had an earthquake lately."
15. **Rationalization:** "When your tail is missing, Remember you have every right to mope."
16. **Identity issues:** "The Poem which I am now about to read to you was written by Eeyore, or myself, in a quiet moment."
17. **Demoralized:** "It's the only cloud in the sky and it's drizzling, right on me. Somehow, I'm not surprised."
18. **Self-defeated:** "When stuck in the river, it is best to dive and swim to the bank yourself before someone

drops a large stone on your chest in an attempt to hoosh you there." [Hoosh: to shoo, drive away, or turn out an animal; (informal) to move quickly.]

19. **Apathetic:** "I never get my hopes up, so I never get let down."

20. **Uninspiring:** "Everybody crowds round so in this forest. There's no space. I never saw a more spreading lot of animals in my life and in all the wrong places."

21. **Defeatist:** "You think you can, depend on tails. You don't expect tails to go wrong."

22. **Compromising:** "It's not much of a tail, but I'm sort of attached to it."

23. **Self-loathing:** "It's an awful nice tail, Kanga. Much nicer than the rest of me."

24. **Cynical:** "They're funny things, accidents. You never have them till you're having them."

(2) **Yoda:** optimistic, satisfied, fulfilled, content, pleased, appreciative, positive, cheerful, confident, hopeful, sanguine, bullish, encouraging, promising, reassuring, favorable, auspicious, propitious.

(a) A legendary Jedi Master. He was revered among his fellow Jedi for his advanced age and wisdom. For over 800 years, he mentored others in the ways of the Force

and had a hand in the training of many Jedi during their time as younglings.

1. **Confident:** “No! Try not. Do. Or do not. There is no try.”
2. **Favorable:** “Size matters not. Look at me. Judge me by my size, do you?”
3. **Practical:** “You must unlearn what you have learned.”
4. **Mature:** “Wars not make one great.”
5. **Reassuring:** “Luminous beings are we...not this crude matter.”
6. **Encouraging:** “Train yourself to let go of everything you are afraid to lose.” “Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering.” “Anger, fear, aggression. The dark side are they.”
7. **Inspiring:** “Named must your fear be before banish it you can.”
8. **Insightful:** “Attachment leads to jealousy. The shadow of greed, that is.”
9. **Optimistic:** “If no mistake you have made, losing you are. A different game you should play.” “The greatest teacher failure is.”

10. **Sanguine:** "In a dark place we find ourselves, and a little more knowledge lights our way."
11. **Hopeful:** "Death is a natural part of life. Rejoice for those around you who transform into the Force. Mourn them do not. Miss them do not."
12. **Innocent:** "Truly wonderful the mind of a child is."
13. **Reassuring:** "You will find only what you bring in."
14. **Auspicious:** "To be Jedi is to face the truth and choose. Give off light, or darkness, Padawan. Be a candle, or the night."
15. **Insightful:** "On many long journeys have I gone. And waited, too, for others to return from journeys of their own. Some return; some are broken; some come back so different only their names remain."
16. **Disciplined:** "Control, control, you must learn control!"
17. **Wise:** "Pass on what you have learned."
18. **Convicting:** "In the end, cowards are those who follow the dark side."
19. **Sage:** "Difficult to see. Always in motion is the future."

20. **Meek:** "To answer power with power, the Jedi way this is not. In this war, a danger there is, of losing who we are."
21. **Comforting:** "Smaller in number are we, but larger in mind."
22. **Challenging:** "Your path you must decide." "Once you start down the dark path, forever will it dominate your destiny."
23. **Imparting:** "Feel the Force!" "May the force be with you!"

C. The Disease of Discontent

- (1) Discontented and ungrateful people are never satisfied...
 - (a) Bottom line: after being forgiven right at the point of being wiped out, instead of being eternally grateful...
 1. "On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel **complained against Moses and Aaron,** saying, "**You have killed the people of the Lord.**""
Numbers 16:41 NKJV
- (2) The Backstory (Numbers 16)
 - (a) **Rebellion against Moses and Aaron:** Korah leads 250 men against Moses as he accuses Moses of exalting himself as 'more holy' than the rest of them, making

himself a prince among men, and of taking too much upon himself.

1. “They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, **“You take too much upon yourselves,** for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. **Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?”**” Numbers 16:3 NKJV
2. **“Is it a small thing** to you that the God of Israel has **separated you** from the congregation of Israel, to **bring you near** to Himself, **to do the work** of the tabernacle of the Lord, and **to stand before the congregation to serve them;** and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And **are you seeking the priesthood also?”** Numbers 16:9-10 NKJV.
 - a) Moses’s Response: Yahweh will show who is ‘holy’ by drawing near to Himself those He has chosen.
 - b) Moses rebukes Korah and challenges the ungratefulness and dissatisfaction that Korah and his compatriots have for their special calling inside the priesthood.

3. Korah's brutally sarcastic and rebellious answer: It's almost beyond comprehension, and in reality, as is always the case, the rebelling is against Yahweh, not man (Moses)!
 - a) **Their answer:** "We will not come up! **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 should keep acting like a prince over us?" Numbers 16:13 NKJV
4. **Did you catch it?** Moses is being absolutely authentic, as he reminds Korah that the sons of Levi have been separated from all the tribes of Israel for such honorable and awesome positions, each called to specific duties. He's shocked that they are so dissatisfied and jealous that their unique calling is not appreciated, and instead that they feel disdain for their role, even unto coveting the role of Aaron and his sons. Moses reminds them that their unique calling is NOT to be looked upon as insignificant, but rather as an immense honor. And in response they accuse Moses of orchestrating his own agenda so he can stay in power.

5. **Moses has a showdown with Korah and Co.:** Aaron will take his censor representing the priesthood, and you, Korah, and your 250 men, each take your own censor before Yahweh.
 - a) So Korah gathered them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, but Korah, Dathan, and Abiram stay at their tents to “protect themselves” from what they believe will be Moses’ punishment. And the glory of the Lord appears to all the congregation.
6. **A NEW THING was about to happen:** Yahweh tells Moses to separate from these rebels and Moses even intercedes on their behalf. “Please don’t kill them all just because one man, Korah, has led so many astray.”
7. **Yahweh warns:** “Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.” And Moses relays the warning for everyone to get away from the tents and the belongings of these men, so they do not become collateral damage.
8. The rebels, their families and all their belongings are swallowed by the earth as the people watching run for their lives.

9. And what of the 250 conspirators who had joined Korah in the insurrection, those standing in rebellion with their censors at the door of the tabernacle? They arrogantly showed up with their fire-filled censors and were **consumed by the fire** of Yahweh! **No one outside (of their calling) should come and make an offering before Yahweh!**
10. You would think this entire incident was enough proof of Moses' authenticity for all those who witnessed the fruit of the rebellion. But instead, on the next day, **the people complain against Moses and Aaron**, blaming THEM for killing the people, as if Moses was instituting his own agenda. It is absolutely beyond imagination, after all they just witnessed, that this is what they've concluded.
- a) "On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel **complained against Moses and Aaron**, saying, "**You have killed the people of the Lord.**" " Numbers 16:41 NKJV

D. Envy and Strife

- (1) "*Attachment leads to jealousy. The shadow of greed, that is.*" ~Yoda

- (a) Just observe the jealousy of Korah. He is envious of Moses and his envy causes great conflict!
1. “They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, **“You take too much upon yourselves,** for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. **Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?”**” Numbers 16:3 NKJV
 2. “We will not come up! **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 should keep acting like a prince over us?**” Numbers 16:13 NKJV
- (b) **Envy:** A feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else’s possessions, qualities, favor or position.
1. “A sound heart is life to the body, **But envy is rottenness to the bones.**” Proverbs 14:30 NKJV
 2. “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, **an evil eye [envy],** blasphemy, pride, foolishness. **All these**

evil things come from within and defile a man.””

Mark 7:21-23 NKJV

(c) **Strife:** Angry or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict.

1. **“By pride comes nothing but strife,** But with the well-advised is wisdom.” Proverbs 13:10 NKJV
2. **“He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife,** But **he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered.”** Proverbs 28:25 NKJV [Preview the opposite in Section 3: *“Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”* I Timothy 6:6]
3. **“Do all things without complaining and disputing,** that you may **become blameless and harmless,** children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,” Philippians 2:14-15 NKJV
4. “Where do wars and fights [strife] come from among you? **Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?** You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you

ask amiss, **that you may spend it on your pleasures.**"

James 4:1-3 NKJV

5. "but to those **who are self-seeking** and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath," Romans 2:8 NKJV

(2) *"Attachment leads to jealousy. The shadow of greed, that is."*

(a) Korah's Heart!

1. You take too much upon yourselves!
2. Why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?
3. Is it a small thing that you have brought us out to kill us?
4. Why should keep acting like a prince over us?

(b) **Korah's Envy:** A feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, favor or position.

1. **Envy is rotteness to the bones.**
2. From out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, covetousness, **envy**, pride, foolishness.

(c) **Korah's Strife:** Angry or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict.

1. By pride comes **nothing but strife.**

2. He who is of a **proud heart stirs up strife**, But he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered.
3. Do all things **without complaining and disputing**
4. Where do wars and strife come from among you? **Your desires for pleasure** that war in your members.
5. Those who are **self-seeking** and do not obey the truth.

Summary: GLASS HALF EMPTY

1. Ungrateful people are impossible to satisfy!

A. A trip down (recent) memory lane...(See: [Adding Insult to Injury](#))

(1) Pessimistic (a Bad Report)

- (a) Ten spies (negative nellies). We are not able; we will get devoured; they are giants and we are grunts; we see ourselves as little bugs, so they see us the same way!

(2) Optimistic (a Good Report)

- (a) Caleb and Joshua are “can-do” men. We are able! We should be “can-do” Christians. I can do... because I see my self the way God sees me!

(3) It's your choice!

- (a) We see ourselves a certain way and, as a result, others see us the same way! (Grasshopper ID vs. God ID)

- (b) If we looked into the mirror and saw Christ, then our enemies would look at us and see Christ!
 - (c) How we view ourselves dictates our attitudes, beliefs and actions.
- (4) Disgruntled Employee
- (a) A member of an organization who feels they've received unfair treatment that the company has not appropriately addressed. Sometimes, a single event offends an employee, and other times, a company policy or series of instances leads to an employee's increasing dissatisfaction. This always ends badly!

B. Fictional characters who fit the bill—perfectly...

- (1) Eeyore: complaining, wanting, disgruntled, envious, dissatisfied, negative, gloomy, downbeat, bleak, despairing, despondent, depressed, dejected, hopeless, melancholy, glum, suspicious, distrustful, doubting, alarmist, etc.
 - (a) Stuffed donkey with a deeply cynical and borderline mentally depressed view of life. Often around to share a negative view of things.
- (2) Yoda: optimistic, satisfied, fulfilled, content, pleased, appreciative, positive, cheerful, confident, hopeful,

sanguine, bullish, encouraging, promising, reassuring, favorable, auspicious, propitious.

- (a) A legendary Jedi Master. He was revered among his fellow Jedi for his advanced age and wisdom. For over 800 years, he mentored others in the ways of the Force and had a hand in the training of many Jedi during their time as younglings.

C. The Disease of Discontent

(1) Discontented and ungrateful people are never satisfied...

- (a) Bottom line: after being forgiven right at the point of being wiped out, instead of being eternally grateful...

(2) The Backstory (Numbers 16)

- (a) Rebellion against Moses and Aaron: Korah leads 250 men against Moses as he accuses Moses of exalting himself as 'more holy' than the rest of them, making himself a prince among men, and of taking too much upon himself.
 1. Moses's Response: Yahweh will show who is 'holy' by drawing near to Himself those He has chosen.
 2. Moses rebukes Korah and challenges the ungratefulness and dissatisfaction that Korah and his compatriots have for their special calling inside the priesthood.

3. Korah's brutally sarcastic and rebellious answer: It's almost beyond comprehension, and in reality, as is always the case, the rebelling is against Yahweh, not man (Moses)!
 - a) Moses is being absolutely authentic, as he reminds Korah that the sons of Levi have been separated from all the tribes of Israel for such honorable and awesome positions, each called to specific duties. He's shocked that they are so dissatisfied and jealous that their unique calling is not appreciated, and instead that they feel disdain for their role, even unto coveting the role of Aaron and his sons. Moses reminds them that their unique calling is NOT to be looked upon as insignificant, but rather as an immense honor. And in response they accuse Moses of orchestrating his own agenda so he can stay in power.
4. Moses has a showdown with Korah and Co.: Aaron will take his censor representing the priesthood, and you, Korah, and your 250 men, each take your own censor before Yahweh.
 - a) So Korah gathered them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, but Korah, Dathan, and

Abiram stay at their tents to “protect themselves” from what they believe will be Moses’ punishment. And the glory of the Lord appears to all the congregation.

5. A NEW THING was about to happen: Yahweh tells Moses to separate from these rebels and Moses even intercedes on their behalf. “Please don’t kill them all just because one man, Korah, has led so many astray.”
6. Yahweh warns: “Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.” And Moses relays the warning for everyone to get away from the tents and the belongings of these men, so they do not become collateral damage.
7. The rebels, their families and all their belongings are swallowed by the earth as the people watching run for their lives.
8. And what of the 250 conspirators who had joined Korah in the insurrection, those standing in rebellion with their censors at the door of the tabernacle? They arrogantly showed up with their fire-filled censors and were consumed by the fire of Yahweh! No one

outside (of their calling) should come and make an offering before Yahweh!

9. You would think this entire incident was enough proof of Moses' authenticity for all those who witnessed the fruit of the rebellion. But instead, on the next day, the people complain against Moses and Aaron, blaming THEM for killing the people, as if Moses was instituting his own agenda. It is absolutely beyond imagination, after all they just witnessed, that this is what they've concluded.

D. Envy and Strife

(1) *"Attachment leads to jealousy. The shadow of greed, that is."* ~Yoda

- (a) Just observe the jealousy of Korah. He is envious of Moses and his envy causes great conflict!
- (b) Envy: A feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, favor or position.
- (c) Strife: Angry or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict.

(2) *"Attachment leads to jealousy. The shadow of greed, that is."*

- (a) Korah's Heart!

1. You take too much upon yourselves!
 2. Why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?
 3. Is it a small thing that you have brought us out to kill us?
 4. Why should keep acting like a prince over us?
- (b) Korah's Envy: A feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, favor or position.
1. Envy is rottenness to the bones.
 2. From out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, covetousness, envy, pride, foolishness.
- (c) Korah's Strife: Angry or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict.
1. By pride comes nothing but strife.
 2. He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered.
 3. Do all things without complaining and disputing
 4. Where do wars and strife come from among you? Your desires for pleasure that war in your members.
 5. Those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth.

SPARE THE ROD SPOIL THE CHILD

2. God disciplines the ones He loves!

A. The rod decides...

(1) Disciplined Sons

(a) True sons must be molded by discipline. Absent the rod of correction, sons cast off restraint.

1. **“He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”** Proverbs 13:24 NKJV

2. **“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.”**
Proverbs 29:18 NKJV

(2) Legitimate Sons

(a) Legitimate sons must be molded by discipline.

Discipline yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

1. “For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: **“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by**

Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.” If you **endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons;** for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **But if you are without chastening,** of which all have become partakers, **then you are illegitimate and not sons.** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it **yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”** Hebrews 12:3-11 NKJV

- (3) There is no such thing as a disciple without discipline.
- (a) You must extract what is “in” discipline (disciple)! And it does not matter how far you must dive in, including if it costs you everything.
1. “Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and

children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, **he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.** For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. **So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”** Luke 14:25-33 NKJV

B. The rod is Good; it’s your response that stinks...

(1) The Rod Decides!

(a) God is going to use a rod to display which head of which tribe He has chosen. Take one rod for each tribe and place it in the tabernacle in front of the Ark of the Covenant.

1. **“And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to the children of Israel, and get from them a rod from each father’s house, all their leaders according to their fathers’ houses—twelve rods. Write each man’s name on his rod. And you shall write Aaron’s name on the rod of Levi. For there shall be one rod for the head of each father’s house.** Then you shall place them in the tabernacle of meeting before the Testimony, where I meet with you.” Numbers 17:1-4 NKJV
- (b) Remember, this whole “choosing thing” is because of what took place in Chapter 16 when Korah complains that Moses could not possibly be the only one chosen to be in charge—what about us? God is tired of the complaints, especially those following His discipline!
 1. **“And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom; thus I will rid Myself of the complaints of the children of Israel, which they make against you [Moses].”**” Numbers 17:5 NKJV
 - a) This is how you will know. The rod of the chosen man will blossom. And this will settle the issue and Yahweh will settle the issue causing the complaints of the people against Moses. Remember, they complained again this time because they did not

like the punishment doled out as a response to Korah's rebellion.

(2) The Results!

(a) The rod of Aaron, signifying the house of Levi not only blossomed but produced ripe almonds—overnight!

1. "So Moses spoke to the children of Israel, and each of their leaders gave him a rod apiece, for each leader according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods; and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. And Moses placed the rods before the Lord in the tabernacle of witness. Now it came to pass **on the next day** that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and **behold, the rod of Aaron**, of the house of Levi, had **sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds.**" Numbers 17:6-8 NKJV

(3) Settled!

(a) Moses presents the results to the people. It is settled; Yahweh has clearly shown who is leading. Now, place the rod in front of the Ark of the Testimony and leave it there as a reminder. This should be enough to stop their complaining! They should realize, every time they indulge in a complain-fest, people die. Now all they have to do is STOP and all will be good!

1. “Then **Moses brought out all the rods from before the Lord to all the children of Israel;** and they looked, and each man took his rod. And the Lord said to Moses, “Bring Aaron’s rod back before the Testimony, **to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die.**” Thus did Moses; just as the Lord had commanded him, so he did.” Numbers 17:9-11 NKJV

(4) We will die!

- (a) Why do they assume they will die. There is no other reasons than to think they believe they have no chance of NOT complaining—how depressing!

1. “So the children of Israel spoke to Moses, saying, **“Surely we die, we perish, we all perish!”** Numbers 17:12 NKJV

(b) It is obvious—we will complain again and we will die!

1. “Whoever even comes near the tabernacle of the Lord **must die. Shall we all utterly die?**” Numbers 17:13 NKJV

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GLASS HALF FULL

3. **Godliness with Contentment** (See: [Godliness with Contentment](#))

A. **I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content!**

(1) Thriving and fulfilled being who I am, with what I have, in the circumstances I've been placed, and doing what I've been called to do!

(a) I am content in my calling, assignment, position and present circumstance...

1. "Not that I speak in regard to need, **for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:11-13 NKJV

B. **"Now godliness with contentment is great gain." I Timothy 6:6 NKJV**

(1) Godliness

(a) Godliness is holistic integrity. That means your spirit, soul and body are in complete alignment with all things God! Every aspect of your life, your mind, will, emotions, intentions, inspiration, health, finances,

relationships, prayer life, devotion, ministry, etc. are in complete integrity with Yahweh's will!

1. "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and **may your whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." I Thessalonians 5:23-24 NKJV

(2) Contentment

- (a) It should be apparent that the only way you will ever be satisfied as a believer is when you are living in this place.

1. "For we brought **nothing into** this world, and it is certain we can carry **nothing out**. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." I Timothy 6:7-8 NKJV

(b) Contrast Korah's Discontent!

1. "**You take too much upon yourselves**, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. **Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?'"** Numbers 16:3 NKJV

3. Great Gain—this is what true riches are, as opposed to living for personal gain! This is what it means to have the

abundant life of blessings and favor—to thrive “*He who is of a **proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered.***” Proverbs 28:25 NKJV]

(a) Look around you. Go ahead and try to gain the whole world. All the riches and toys. You cannot take it with you! You should be able to find joy simply because you are a child of God. Everything else is a bonus and all you really need to be content is a life in Him.

1. “Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: **I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”**’ But God said to him, ‘**Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?**’ “So is he **who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**”” Luke 12:16-21 NKJV ““Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or

‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things **the Gentiles seek**. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**” Matthew 6:31-33 NKJV

- (b) The “desire” to be rich...is NOT GREAT GAIN! And consider that the desire for ANYTHING that substitutes for satisfaction in the Lord is a trap leading to destruction, the foundation for all sorts of evil.
1. “But **those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men** in destruction and perdition. For **the love of money** is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their **greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**” I Timothy 6:9-10 NKJV
 2. Note about wealth!
 - a) This is such an important concept. There is nothing wrong with wealth and abundance. These are blessings from the Lord, when they are obtained in a righteous manner.

- b) How so? When riches are not the goal of your life, but instead are the byproduct a righteous life, they are the abundance and favor of God.
- c) When wealth is generated within God's will and used to build His Kingdom, they are a blessing.
- d) When they are motivated by greed and personal fulfillment, they are a curse, and money then becomes the root of all sorts of evil

(c) Run Away!

1. "But you, O man of God, **flee these things** and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness." I Timothy 6:11 NKJV
 - a) If you are tempted by the riches of the world and it feels like it's for personal reasons, run!
 - b) Instead pursue godly things. And be content with who you are, where God has you, and what He has called you to do
 - c) This will bring you permanent satisfaction, not just stuff that will be left behind for someone else.
 - d) You never see a U-haul following a hearse!

Summary: GLASS HALF FULL

3. Godliness with Contentment (See: [Godliness with Contentment](#))

A. I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content!

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(a) It should be apparent that the only way you will ever be satisfied as a believer is when you are living in this place.

(b) Contrast Korah's Discontent!

3. Great Gain—this is what true riches are, as opposed to living for personal gain! This is what it means to have the abundant life of blessings and favor—to thrive.
 - (a) Look around you. Go ahead and try to gain the whole world. All the riches and toys. You cannot take it with you! You should be able to find joy simply because you are a child of God. Everything else is a bonus and all you really need to be content is a life in Him.
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 - 4. You never see a U-haul following a hearse!

BONUS: STORIES-AT-A-GLANCE

4. This portion is filled with so many important topics that we will NOT be covering today. If you wish to study them, watch the teachings from past two years!

A. This is two years ago:

- (1) What you are are missing! [A House Divided](#)

B. Story-at-a-Glance

- (1) I want what is yours!
 - (a) The covetous accusations of Korah.
 - (b) The Rebellion against Moses and Aaron.

- (c) The green-eyed monster—envy and jealousy personified.
- (d) The Spirit of the Humble and Contrite vs. the Iniquity of Covetousness.
- (e) Challenging dissatisfaction.
- (f) How pride distorts reality.
- (g) What fuels dissatisfaction? Not being satisfied with the the gifts you have been given by Yahweh.

(2) Jealous Accusations

- (a) He's not from Yahweh; He comes on His own authority!
- (b) Both Moses and Y'shua faced these same type of accusations ("You are coming in your OWN authority").
- (c) Be sure of this, "A house divided cannot stand!"
- (d) Making yourself the authority IS the height of pride and the hallmark of Satan's rebellion!
- (e) What it looks like when a leader ACTUALLY DOES operate on his own authority!
- (f) Rebellion, and how it is the sin witchcraft!
- (g) Man twists his rebellious disobedience into a declaration of obedience by ridiculous excuses! This is the height of witchcraft!

- (h) Like Aaron in the Golden Calf incident and Korah in his rebellion proclaiming that they were doing it all for the benefit of the people!
- (3) The Truth is Always Exposed
 - (a) Yahweh always picks sides in what seems to be an ultimate showdown!
 1. First you have the lying accusation...
 2. Then you have the challenge...
 3. Then the leaders and people are forced to pick sides... "My sheep hear My Voice!"
 4. Then...
- (4) Yahweh Separates His Side from Evil
 - (a) It becomes obvious who is on Yahweh's side...
 - (b) And the punishment for the evil side is definitive!
 - (c) Yahweh always gives a final warning, so there is no excuse for those who wish to stand in rebellion.
 - (d) Then He drops the hammer!
 - (e) And the "The seat of judgment always returns to the way of the righteousness."

C. Last year's teaching!

- (1) What you are are missing! [The Best of the Best](#)

D. Story-at-a-Glance

- (1) The Giving Shadow

- (a) Pay Attention to the High Priest.
- (b) Keep this context in mind. Y'shua is a our High Priest.
- (c) The Heave Offering: in Numbers 18, it is the consecrated portion of an offering preserved for the High Priest.
- (d) AKA the Elevation Offering: a motion up and down to Yahweh as the ruler of heaven. Wave offering: a horizontal motion to Yahweh as ruler of the earth.
- (e) The Heave or Elevation Offering— What removes anything blocking your path!
- (f) Covenant of Salt: indicative of an enduring, generational covenant, like to David or through Y'shua to us (we are the salt of the earth.)
- (g) The Tithe of the Tithe: We are to give the best of the best to Yahweh and Y'shua. This will remove everything blocking our paths!

(2) The Giving Reality

- (a) Don't Hold Back—Don't rob your High Priest.
- (b) Be a Cheerful Giver.
- (c) Make a choice; Choose this Day whom you will serve.
- (d) Lukewarm is not an option!
- (e) The Covenant of Salt—Discipleship Style! You cannot go halfway with God—it takes all-in!

- (f) Salt is not good if it loses its flavor.
- (g) God is not into half-hearted attempts.
- (h) If half-in won't work, what will?
 1. Be the living sacrifice! It's Reasonable not Extraordinary!
 2. Be Crucified with Christ!
- (i) You cannot sell a car—keep a set of keys—and still drive it whenever you wish! It was bought with a price!!!
- (j) You cannot be forgiven for your sin and then go back to your sin whenever you wish!
- (k) Live with NO regrets and NO excuses.
- (l) Don't let your salt lose its flavor!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Feelings of jealousy and envy lead to bad decisions...

- A. What was apparently brewing in Korah's heart in Numbers 16:1-10?
- B. What did he accuse Moses of doing?
- C. What did he desire instead?
- D. What was Moses' response to Korah's accusations?

2. Envy can cause us to say and do really stupid things...

- A. It should be quite obvious from Numbers 16:9-10 that Moses has not only given Korah an acceptable response, but has also encouraged him. What four roles does he remind Korah that he should be satisfied fulfilling?
- B. Instead of backing down and accepting his role, what sarcastic rebuttal does Korah give to Moses? (See Numbers 16:13)

3. Read the remainder of Numbers 16:14-50...

- A. Write a short description or make a list of bullet points recounting what Yahweh tells Moses to do and what happens to Korah and company.
- B. What is the shocking response of the people to what they witnessed? (Hint: Numbers 16:41)
- C. In your estimate, how should have they responded instead?

4. Envy and strife are like poison...

- A. Relate the following scriptures to Korah's rebellion. (See: Proverbs 14:30, 13:10, 28:25; Mark 7:21-23; Philippians 2:14-15; James 4:1-3; Romans 2:8)
- B. How would I Timothy 6:6 have helped Korah?

5. If the people of Numbers 16:41 had known Proverbs 13:24 and Hebrews 12:3-11, how might they have responded differently?

- A. In Numbers 17, how does God resolve the leadership question?

- B. In Numbers 17:9-11, Moses settles the issue and leaves a sign for the people to remind them to stop complaining. What is their pessimistic response in Numbers 17:12-13?
- C. What does their response tell you about what they think about themselves and their capabilities? (Also see Numbers 13:33)

6. “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” I Timothy 6:6

- A. How does Paul display this in Philippians 4:11-13?
- B. How were Korah and the children of Israel not living I Timothy 6:6?
- C. How would have knowing I Timothy 6:7-8 and Proverbs 28:25 helped them?
- D. Relate I Timothy 6:9-10 to Matthew 6:31-33.

7. Godliness is holistic integrity. That means your spirit, soul and body are in complete alignment with all things God!

- A. How does I Thessalonians 5:23-24 call us to godliness?