



# The Rebellion of Korah and the Authority of God

Numbers 16-17

# What was the sin?

They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are 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



# What is authority?



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“Power is the ability or capacity to do something...  
Authority is the moral right to make decisions with  
that power.”

Jonathan Leeman



# This Morning

1. The Goodness of Authority
2. The Limits of Human Authority
3. The Trustworthiness of our Ultimate Authority



# The Goodness of Authority

1. Authority has always existed within God himself.



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**John 8:28-29** So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”



# The Goodness of Authority

1. Authority has always existed within God himself.

**John 16:13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.





# Creation Week in Genesis 1



**God used his authority to...**



# God used his authority to...

1. Create



# God used his authority to...

1. Create
2. Order



# God used his authority to...

1. Create
2. Order
3. Delegate



# The Goodness of Authority

1. Authority has always existed within God himself.
2. God's authority creates, orders and delegates.



# The Goodness of Authority

1. Authority has always existed within God himself.
2. God's authority creates, orders and delegates.
3. As image bearers, we also use authority to create, order and delegate.



# The Limits of Human Authority





# The Limits of Human Authority

1. We may not submit if an authority is leading us directly into sin.



# The Limits of Human Authority

1. We may not submit if an authority is leading us directly into sin.
2. We may not submit if an authority is significantly hindering us from following God's commands.



# The Limits of Human Authority

1. We may not submit if an authority is leading us directly into sin.
2. We may not submit if an authority is significantly hindering us from following God's commands.
3. We may not submit if an authority is wrongly harming us.



# The Trustworthiness of our Ultimate Authority

Let's mention one more quality of good authority.



# The Trustworthiness of our Ultimate Authority

Let's mention one more quality of good authority.

It intercedes.



# Numbers 16:20-22

And the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, “Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.” And they fell on their faces and said, “O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and will you be angry with all the congregation?”



# Numbers 16:46-48

And Moses said to Aaron, “Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the LORD; the plague has begun.” So Aaron took it as Moses said and ran into the midst of the assembly. And behold, the plague had already begun among the people. And he put on the incense and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped.



# Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.





# Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

