

2. This issue decided by the LORD
 - a. "...the glory of the LORD appeared." 16:42
 - b. The LORD expressed His displeasure with this congregation AGAIN (16:20) – "Get away from among this congregation, that I may *consume them* in a moment." (No hesitation, no deliberation needed, just righteous judgement to be executed!)
 - c. The congregation's response – "...they fell on their faces." 16:43b AGAIN (16:22)
 - d. The LORD's executed judgment – "...for *the wrath* has gone out from the LORD. *The plague* has begun." 16:46 It came quickly.
 - e. The LORD's manifested mercy to this complaining, rebellious congregation.
 - the mercy , not so directly apparent, but observed in the conduct of Moses and Aaron, 16:46-48
 - the mercy , un-mistakenly apparent in the stopping of this plague, so that this plague did not consume everyone in this judgment-deserving nation of people
 - The plague was stopped – by the atonement made > Jesus, Heb.10:12-14
 - BUT 14,700 people died in this plague + the 253 men and their families.

IV. The Fear of God Applied

- A. Let this subject of "Fearing God" be **decided by The Lord Jesus Christ Himself** – "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather *fear Him* who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt.10:28
- B. It is an absolutely sure (certain) thing that you, as an individual, will stand before This God and give an account of your life here on earth, **especially and particularly your dealing with the Lord Jesus Christ!**
 1. Will you fall into the **arms** of **the loving heavenly Father**, as **His blood-bought child**, who has been enabled to **embrace Jesus Christ** freely offered to you in the Gospel and **has been given the desire to live for God's glory** in your earthly life? OR
 2. Will you fall into the **hands** of **the living God as His enemies**, who **rejected** His free offer of the gospel and **rebelled against His rule** in your earthly life?

Fearing God?!

Heb.10:31; 12:29; Num.16:1-50

(PBC Sun. AM 5/17/20 – 4th covid-19 message)

Introduction: Do you fear the God of the Bible? In what manner are you fearing God? Should anyone fear that God of the Bible?

I. The Main Verses Emphasized

- A. Heb.10:31 "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Why is this true?
- B. Heb.12:29 "For our God is a consuming fire."

II. The Fear of God Defined

- A. There are 2 kinds of fear.
 1. There is the terrorizing, paralyzing, knee-knocking fear that grips a person's mind, heart and emotions, dictating the actions they do and the words they speak. ex. the Israelite army's response to Goliath's daily challenge recorded in I Sam.17:11, 24
 2. There is the wholesome fear that inspires awe, respect and acceptance for what or who is being considered; and this also will be manifested in the actions a person does and in the words a person speaks. ex. the response of Saul of Tarsus, when the resurrected Christ appeared unto him on the road to Damascus, Acts 9:6-9
 3. Both of these fears, are recorded in the Bible when it comes to the subject of "Fearing God".
- B. For true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, the "Fear of God" is wholesome and very beneficial! It is manifested in:
 1. The believer's reverential awe of God's being, which is revealed (seen) in their supreme love for God and in their diligent obedience to God, as their heavenly Father, loving Savior and indwelling Comforter (as their Prophet, Priest and King). ex. David going out to fight Goliath, I Sam.17:45-47
 2. The believer's dread of God's temporal displeasure and chastisement of them because of their momentary disobedience of God's revealed will. ex. David in Psalm 51, seeking God's forgiveness and restored communion.

3. Summary: For believers, the “Fear of God” is a **reverential awe** of God’s being and a **continual desire to be abiding** in the favorable communion with God, **as His blood-bought children**.
- C. BUT for those not believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, the “Fear of God” is **terrorizing and exceedingly alarming!**
1. However, such “Fear of God” is **seldom realized or seriously regarded**, while living their earthly life - Rom.3:18, “*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*” -Read of man’s Downward Descent in Rom.1:21-32
 2. When it is somewhat realize here on earth, it is soon forgotten, as they quickly turn back to their old ways (sinful manner of living), **ex.** Pharaoh in Exod.9:27-35
 3. Summary: For unbelievers the “Fear of God” is an **unsettling, alarming dread** of God’s eternal judgment upon them **as His enemies** **because** of **their rejection** of Him **as their Creator and God**.

III. The Fear of God Illustrated – Num.16:1-50

- A. The Direct Rebellion of Korah, Dathan and Abiram and the 250 leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown – Num.16:1-40
1. What they did – “*They gathered together against Moses and Aaron...*” 16:3
 2. What their issue was – in a single word “pride”, human, sinful pride, that seeks self-exaltation in the eyes of man.
 - a. 16:3 “*...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?*”
 - b. 16:30b “*...these men have rejected the LORD.*”
 3. How Moses (& Aaron) responded – “*...fell on his face; and spoke to Korah and all his company...*” 16:4
 - a. Moses instructed them to let the LORD make it known who the Lord wanted in those places of responsibility (leadership) 16:5-7 -- “*...whom the LORD chooses...*” 16:8 (also stated in 16:5)
 - b. Moses instructed them to take their censers, put fire in them and incense in them before the LORD, 16:6; Moses applied their own words to them – 16:7 “*...You take too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi!*”

- c. Moses words to Korah (16:8-11,16,17) – they **belittled the choice God had made of them** to do the work of the tabernacle and stand before and serve the congregation. (see further 3:31; 4:4, 15)
 - d. Dathan and Abiram **refused to meet** with Moses, but sent a message **accusing Moses** of not bringing them into the promised land, keeping them in the wilderness and lording it over them like a prince 16:12-15
4. The issue decided by the LORD 16:19-40
- a. Korah gathered all the congregation together 16:19
 - b. “*Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.*” 16:19
 - c. The LORD’s expressed displeasure with the whole congregation – “*...that I may consume them in a moment.*” 16:20, 21 > Heb.12:29 “*Our God is a consuming fire.*”
 - d. The congregation’s response – “*...they fell on their faces...*” (16:22) and pled for God’s mercy
 - e. The LORD’s mercy to this congregation is manifested in the Lord’s command to separate themselves from those wicked men – “*Get away from...*” --obey and live, OR disobey and die.
 - f. The LORD’s executed judgment on those individuals who **rejected the LORD** and **rejected His rule** over them. 16:25-35
 - Moses’ declaration that he had NOT done these works of his own will > foreshadowing of Christ Jesus, who said what He said, did what He did and taught what He taught because He was doing His heavenly Father’s will – Jn.7:16; 12:50; 14:10 (8:29)
 - God’s wrath (judgment) executed
 - On Korah, Dathan and Abiram, 16:31-34 – the earth swallowed them and all those with them, along with their goods
 - On the 250 men of renown, 16: 35 – a fire came out from the LORD and consumed them.

The Next Day

- B. The Indirect Rebellion of the congregation, **complaining against God’s executed judgment** upon those 253 rebellious and wicked men (and their families) – Num.16:41-50
1. Their issue against Moses and Aaron – “*...You have killed the people of the LORD.*” 16:41