

Substitution
Please!

Numbers
16:46-50



- Oftentimes, in our society, there is need for a substitution, or a person to take the place of the original starter, due to their inability or unavailability to perform (football, actors, speakers, teachers, co-workers, etc.)
- Sometimes we are unable or even unqualified to do what needs to be done, and a substitute is needed
- In Numbers 16, there was a serious need for a substitution and the lesson there has practical advantages for us
- As I speak, there are individuals with the Covid-19, and need a substitution at hospitals, or at home, to perform their usual functions, as we all try to survive the present crisis



Look at Numbers 16

- As you know, Moses, God's man, had led the Children of Israel out of the land of Egypt
- Well, it didn't take long for the "haters in the camp," to complain against his leadership
- Leaders, there will always be "people amongst us" that will second-guess, or even rebel against, decisions you've made as you wrestle with the question, "What does God's word say is in the best interest of His people?"
- The Pandemic that we are presently in, has spawned religious controversy on best practices (no grandstanding)



We Need the
Church to Do This:

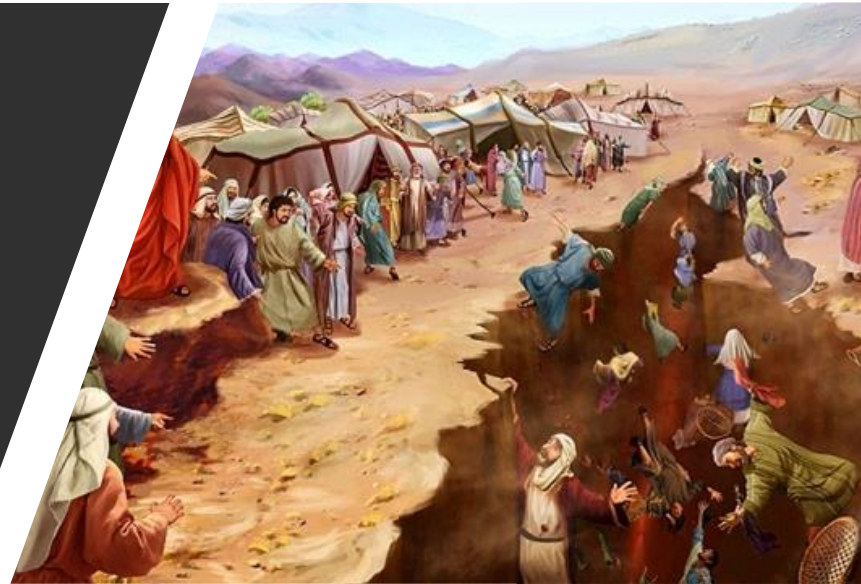
*Pray That Our
Leaders, Both Civil
and Spiritual, Will
Seek God's Guidance
On the "Best" Path
to Follow!*



- One of God's children, named Korah, led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, actually accusing them of usurping and abusing their authority over the Israelite nation
- The Bible says that Korah and 250 leaders were going to make an offering to the Lord, which they were not anointed or authorized to do (in rebellion)
- And so, in Numbers 16:31-35, during a "standoff" between Moses, Aaron and Korah and the 250 leaders, the ground under Korah and the 250 leaders opened up and swallowed them and their families, along with lightning from heaven, and they perished



- Now if you and I were there at that time and that happened to the rebellious Israelites, around us—that would have been enough for us to decide which side we would support
- But these were some stubborn people!
- In verse 41, the Bible says that the next day, the rest of the Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron, accusing them of murdering the people that had perished



Observations

- But when the assembly got together against Moses and Aaron, turning toward the “tent of Meeting,” the Bible says that a cloud covered it and the Lord said, verse 45-50, *“Get away from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once.”* (Onery people)
- *Now watch this!* Moses tells Aaron, *“Take your censer and put incense in it, along with burning coals from the altar, and hurry to the assembly TO MAKE ATONEMENT FOR THEM. Wrath has come out from the Lord; the plague (disease) has started.”*

The Plague!

Numbers 16:47-50

“So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly. The plague (disease) had already started among the people, but Aaron offered incense and made atonement for them. He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped. But 14,700 people died from the plague, in addition to those who had died because of Korah. Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance to the tent of meeting, for the plague had stopped”

God Used a Plague (Disease) to Defend Moses and Aaron and Destroy 14,700 rebellious Israelites!



Look at the Interesting Way the Plague Was Stopped!

- Aaron took incense, put it on the altar and ran into the middle of the people. There no fear mentioned here!
- Moses says in verse 47, that by offering incense, Aaron, “*made atonement*” for the people, which means to provide a covering or payment for the people!
- So think about this picture: People are already “dropping like flies” one after another, but Aaron runs into the middle of the crowd, people on one side dying, people on the other side living(but on their way out), and Aaron trusting in God, standing there literally between Death and Life, with a censer and incense, and the plague stops

**SO IT WAS CLEAR: GOD STARTED THE
PLAGUE AND ENDED THE PLAGUE!**

What's the Point?

This Story Shows What Jesus Did For Us!

- **For example, we are told that because certain areas of our country are infected with the Coronavirus to stay away**
- **But Jesus did just the opposite for us**
- **He walked right into this plague infested, and sin infected world, from which we would certainly die and burn in an everlasting Hell because of OUR REBELLION!**
- **Christ didn't just bring a censer to His Father with a fire of atonement for us. He knew that the payment (covering) for us was going to cost more than that**

Observations

- When the crowd came to arrest Him, to put Him to death, He didn't run from them
- The Bible says that He humbled himself, *“and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”Philippians 2:8*

Instead Of Us Dying For Our Sins, He Became Our Substitute For An Atonement (Payment) That We Could Not Pay!

Look at Romans 5:6-8

“For when we were yet without strength (unable to play, unavailable, needing a substitute), in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners (inadequate, already beaten, powerless), Christ died (made the atonement or payment) for the ungodly.”

God Still Sends In Substitutes In The Game Of Life For Us!

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities (weaknesses): for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession (substitution) for us with groanings that cannot be uttered.”

Romans 8:26,27

- God loves us so much that when we can't put into words “the stress or predicament we are in,” God's Holy Spirit does that for us (He allows the Holy Spirit to SUBSTITUTE or intercede for us)



We Also Can Substitute For Each Other:

Provided That We Are Living Righteously!

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

- In order to substitute or prolong God’s grace and mercy for our brothers and sisters, our prayer life and our religious life has to agree with each other
- Remember Genesis 19, when Lot, Abraham’s nephew, was living in a bad city (Sodom), that God was going to destroy? Abraham’s relationship with God, interceded (substituted) for Lot, and saved almost all of his family (parents, siblings, children). You can intercede too by living righteously)

Observation

***The Best We Can
Do For The
World, For The
Resolution Of
The Present
Plague, Is To
Pray And Live
Righteously!***

Jesus Substituted Himself, So We Could Be Eligible For Eternal Life

- Through His death He purchased the Church, where all the saved exist, Acts 20:28, 2 Timothy 2:10
- His body is the Church, Ephesians 4:4, Colossians 1:24, Ephesians 1:22,23
- You can become a member of His body today, thereby taking advantage of His atonement (substitution, or payment) for you!

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

1Corinthians 15:1-4

Believe the Gospel

Hebrews 11:6

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38