



DEATH

The Wages of Sin

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

GOD'S INTOLERANCE OF THE SIN OF REBELLION

Scripture to be studied: Numbers 16-17

The aim of the lesson: To show that death is God's judgment for sin.

What your students should know: Rebellion against God is sin.

What your students should feel: Respect for the authority of God.

What your students should do: Submit to God's authority today.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Korah's rebellion (Numbers 16:1-30).
2. God's judgment (Numbers 16:31-50).
3. God's confirmation of His high priest (Numbers 17).
4. Our High Priest (Hebrews 5:5-10; 7:25).

The verse to be memorized:

God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken and shall He not make it good? (Numbers 23:19)

(Teacher: As you teach the memory verse, emphasize that the answer to the question is "Yes, God will do what He promises.")

THE LESSON

What do you think of when you hear the word *death*? (Encourage discussion. Death is separation, sorrow, weeping, end of life, loneliness, etc.) Death is not a happy time. But (with the exception of believers who are alive when the Lord Jesus comes) everyone will die one day. (See Hebrews 9:27.)

When did death begin? (Review briefly Adam and Eve's sin of disobedience. Emphasize that death was God's punishment for their sin. Explain that physical death is separation of the soul from the body. Spiritual death is separation of the person from God.)

Many years after Adam sinned, another man rebelled against God's authority.

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

These events in the history of Israel are not recorded simply for information. They are given as examples and warnings for us. (See 1 Corinthians 10:11.) Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach you spiritual lessons for your own life. Then apply the lessons to the lives of your students.

God says, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). This truth is vividly illustrated in the chapters of Numbers which we shall study in this volume. The Israelites repeatedly rebelled against God. They rebelled against His authority, His leaders, His provision and His direction. The *punishment* for their rebellion was death. The *remedy* for their sin of rebellion was repentance: returning to trust in God and obeying Him.

In our lesson today, we have the record of Korah's rebelling openly against God's appointed high priest. God showed that Aaron alone had been appointed to the priesthood. Any who dared to intrude into this office would be killed.

Today many false leaders present themselves as gods. They claim to be worthy of trust and implicit obedience. They reject and rebel against God's Son, the only way to God (John 14:6). God's judgment for such rebellion is eternal death.

1. KORAH'S REBELLION

Numbers 16:1-30

In the camp of Israel was an important man named Korah. He belonged to the tribe of Levi. As a Levite, where would his tent be located? (Near the tabernacle.) Why would he live close to the tabernacle? (The Levites were not priests. But they were chosen by God to help Aaron and the priests in the service of the tabernacle.)

Korah belonged to the family of Kohath. Do you remember what special work was assigned to the Kohathites when the tabernacle was moved? (They carried on their shoulders the furniture of the holy place and the most holy place.)