

Spoken Word no. 240
“Vindication or nothing”
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Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; 16 According to all that thou desire of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. 17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. 18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. 20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. 21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? 22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Let us pray, Dear Father we are so thankful that you have given us a prophet in this hour and you personally came down to vindicate him. We haven't had this privilege for nearly 2,000 years so we are certainly a most privileged people. Help us Father to keep our focus and keep Your Word in the midst of such a crooked and perverse generation. Help us to become one with Thy Word as Your Son Jesus was one with Your Word by becoming the manifestation of it. And help us as we further study this wonderful sermon, the Spoken Word is the Original Seed. For we ask it in Jesus Christ's name, amen.

So there we have it friends, it's either by vindication or nothing, and that is where I will take my stand. Too many of these pseudo scientists are making predictions about this, that or the other. If this Bible that was written by Prophets and Scribes of God did not say it, or if God's 20th Century prophet William Branham did not tell us, then I am sorry, but I am not interested.

God has only one prescribed means whereby he may tell us what to do and what not to do and that is His Word, either written down for our benefit or spoken through the lips of a prophet he has vindicated.

I am not interested in men's dreams as alluring as they might be, and sometimes they are very interesting, but if it doesn't line up with what this Bible tells us or what God's vindicated prophets have told us then it is only someone's guess, and what makes there guess any better than your guess.

Now, that doesn't mean that we have to be closed off from hearing the news and hearing what is coming on this earth as far as the judgments are concerned. No, but we must either line them up with vindication or just forget it. Besides the world doesn't look at what is happening as judgment on them, it looks at what is happening as some cosmic happening that can not be stopped.

But I tell you that if God wished it, he could have a man of the caliber of any of his Prophets, especially men like Moses, Elijah, Joshua, William Branham, or especially His Son Jesus Christ, and they could stand right in the path of a title wave a mile high, and that title wave would have to obey their command, if God showed them first what to say and when to say it.

And we had a Vindicated prophet of God stand still and wait for the vision to play itself out as a gigantic grizzly bear ran straight at him. He never moved, he just stood firm. Because the Apostle Paul said, "*when you have done all you can do to stand, then stand therefore.*"

Br. Bud Southwick the guide who took brother Branham on that bear hunt, told me back in 1977, "*that grizzly dropped dead right at the feet of Brother Branham, and He stood there expecting it to do so because he saw it in the vision*". Br. Bud said he was scared half to death himself and he had shot many grizzly bears himself. He was a professional guide and hunter of grizzly bears. But brother Branham told him he didn't move because the visions never failed. That's Trusting God my brothers, and that is what we will need in this end-time if we are going to make it. We need to stand on "Thus Saith the Lord" or keep still.

Now, brother Branham said in his sermon, The Spoken Word is the Original Seed, from paragraph 178 *Like the mighty anointed prophet Moses knew God would use him, for He had proved Moses to be His servant by his peculiar birth. At the right time that if deliverance for Abraham's seed was at time. (Are you getting it?) Moses never stayed in Egypt and argued his Scriptural points with them. He never fussed with the priests, but he went to the wilderness and waited on the Lord until the people was ready to receive him. He had come to testify of them, but they would not receive him. God called His prophet to the wilderness. God had testified He had chose him, but the waiting was not by Moses, but for the people to get ready to receive Moses. Moses thought the children would understand that he was sent. (I never wrote it; He did.) So is it now.*

179 *Like Elijah, after that mighty vindicated prophet that the Word of God came to had finished preaching his message to the modern American groups of the first lady with her bobbed hairs and Jezebel paint groups, God confirming His prophet; every time he prophesied, it was the Truth... God had to call him off of the field until He plagued that generation with mighty plagues for rejecting the message of His prophet and the Word of God that He'd sent to them.*

Now, we could stop right here and take a series on those plagues that are coming, and perhaps we might some day the Lord willing, and if you would like for me to do it.

But Brother Branham continued saying, God sent him into the wilderness in hiding. Not even the king could call him out. And them that tried to persuade him against the will of God died for doing so. Oh, God. Whew. Umph. But when God spoke to His faithful

*prophet by a vision, out of the wilderness he come with **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. What did he do? Straight to the Word; back to the Word he went, brought the twelve stones and rolled them together.*

Now, let me say this, we can all look in our own lives and perhaps we've witnessed a miracle or two, or even had many great supernatural things take place in our lives or ministry. I know for certain that I've seen and witnessed quite a few supernatural things take place in my ministry overseas, but you know what? I never saw those things in a vision before seeing them first hand. I am not guided by visions, nor is Brother Vayle or any other five fold minister. What we have is what God promised; *"to write his Word in our hearts and our minds"*, and then to the best of our ability we take what a vindicated prophet said and line it up with the Word of God so you can better understand what God is doing in this hour. But we are not prophets led by God through visions, so don't try to make any of the five fold ministry above the others, as brother Vayle said it a couple weeks ago to me, and I have it on tape, he said, *"we are all equal, and none of us answers to the other, we answer to God. God doesn't who the five-fold what he is to do in advance, he simply guides by His Word and Spirit"*. And if we are mindful and sensitive to God's Spirit and stay humble before Him, then perhaps he can use us to help others, but there are no big ones among us?

Now, that is not to mean that we have never had visions or dreams that showed us things that would come to pass. But that's different than to have "Thus Saith the Lord" as the prophets do. They talked to God and God talked back to them audibly. And the messenger prophet when he spoke, it was God moving their lips, and speaking through his mouth. God doesn't do that with the five-fold ministry. He moves our hearts and our minds into the channel of His Word, but He doesn't speak mouth to mouth through the Five Fold ministry or laity. Not for one moment.

No, sir, God said in **Deuteronomy 13:1** *If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.*

5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee. 6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; 7 Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; 8 Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither

shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: 9 But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. 10 And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 11 And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.

So you see the man who claims to be a prophet because he is a dreamer of dreams or perhaps has visions, must be tested by the Word first. And if the test does not measure up to the Word of God for their dream or visions, then forget it, it means nothing. Look, I have had a lot of dreams. I have dreamed my whole life and I can honestly say many of my dreams have come to pass exactly as I saw them, but that doesn't make me a prophet. What we see in **Deuteronomy 18** is when God comes down and speaks through the lips of a man that He vindicates and those words are ***Thus Saith the Lord***, because they are not the words of the man, but the words of the God who uses the man's mouth.

Deuteronomy 18:18 *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.*

Now, look, Moses own sister got a little too haughty one day and thought because she was a prophetess that she was somebody, and she thought she had a right to tell Moses what to do and when to do it. And so she shot off her big Mouth and God once too often and God got sick and tired of it, and so He came sown to set her straight before the people. And sometimes the preachers wife get's out of line and begins to think like Miriam, and when that Happens you had better watch out. I know a brother whose church split mostly because his wife got to uppity with the people, and they recognized it and the pastor would not put his wife in her place, or she refused to be put in her place. And now, the other group is larger than the group that is left. And that is a real shame, because they did run well, but what stepped in and hindered them was nothing less than pride, and we know and are warned that pride comes before a fall.

Numbers 12:1 *And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom Moses had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. 2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.*

Now, isn't that the cry we are hearing from so many so-called Five Fold ministers who claim to belong to this Message? They say, "***Br. Branham wasn't the only one with the Word of the Lord, we got it too?***" And **right there they died.** That's right. Right there they die because they have elevated themselves to the place of a Messenger prophet of God.

Look, I do not know what I would do without the sermons of William Branham. I depend on them for my own ministry. I simply just say what he said, and take what he said one thought at a time, and then go right straight to the scriptures with it to show that everything he taught us is right from this Bible which is God's own Word in written format.

I've told you many times, I do not have a Message of my own. What Message I have is what I was taught by one who got it directly from God Himself. I wasn't standing there at the river when God came down. It wasn't my voice that God spoke through. I heard it from a man, A vindicated prophet, and subjected myself to a ministry that worked hand in hand with that vindicated ministry. And God wrote it into my heart, and etched it into my mind, and that is how I received it, and echoed back the same things he said.

So I want you to notice the scene in **Numbers 12**. We see Miriam and Aaron get puffed up because they were born into the same family Moses. Miriam I suppose remembered cleaning little Moses' diapers, and cleaning up after him when he was a little boy, and so she must have thought, I'm his older sister, so I have a say also. And that is when she missed the whole picture and showed she was totally clueless to the ways of God.

Years ago a sister in our church got uppity with me and said to me, ***"I'm old enough to be your mother, so you have to listen to me"***, and I said, sister ***"I am your pastor, and you are not my mother, and even if you were, I answer to God, not you"***.

In the book of **Psalms 103:7** David said, ***He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel.***

Now, I hope you see the difference here. ***God made known his ways to Moses***, that's ***His purpose and plan***, but to the people? ***They only saw his actions***. That's what he did. And that doesn't even mean that they understood what He did. They just saw His acts but they never understood what it was about. And hasn't that repeated again in this hour? The people who sat there in those meetings, hardly one of them understood what was going on. They saw Vindication in operation, and yet still questioned the purpose and plan of God what He was bringing to pass through His prophet whom He personally vindicated by His presence among us.

Verse ***3***, ***Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth***. That means Moses was a humble man, and he was gentle in his way towards others. He was not a bull dozer, he was a butterfly in his actions just like William Branham was. And any minister of God that abuses people by threatening them with expulsion if they don't cow tow to him, doesn't have the same spirit Moses had, that's for sure.

4. And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, "Come out you three unto the tabernacle of the congregation". And they three came out. 5 And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. 6 And he said, **Hear now my words**: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. 7 **My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house**. 8 **With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?** 9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and He departed. 10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, **Miriam became leprous, white as snow**; and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. 11 And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee,

lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. 12 Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. 13 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. 14 And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? Let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. 15 And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. 16 And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran.

Woe, Woe, woe, brothers and sisters... How dare a Five Fold minister or anyone else rise up in their own minds and think themselves worthy of comparing themselves with God's anointed Prophet. Now, look, I might have traveled a lot around the world, and seen the supernatural hand of God in many instances, but that doesn't mean that I have ever tried to compare myself with what he had.

Even brother Vayle mentioned to me a few weeks ago that I have a lot more experience in travel than he has had and even though that may be true, I am not a teacher, and I do not compare myself to him. I have never claimed to be a prophet or teacher. I know God has called me to do the work of an Apostle and to go where he sends me, but that doesn't elevate me above any one else. And if he doesn't open a door and send me, who am I to go when he didn't say go. And even Jesus said, he that is greatest among you is to be servant of all. So if we do not go to serve, then we go in vain, and if we do not serve then our lives are in vain. It matters not what you aspire to, it's what God has called you to that counts, and if Jesus was our example, and he said in **St. John 13: 12** *So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? 13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.*

And again in **Matthew 23:8** *But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹ And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and He is in heaven. ¹⁰ Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

All we should care to do is to uplift what we have been taught through a vindicated Prophet of God and I know first hand that is all Br. Vayle has ever wished to do as well. I know there are some that would try to elevate brother Vayle as THE TEACHER, but that is not what Jesus said. He said there is one TEACHER, Christ, The Holy Spirit. John said the same thing. So do not lift any member of the five-fold above the any other ministry because that is just carnal.

Some would try to place one ministry above another, but let me say this, Paul said, *“What have you got that wasn’t given to you, and if it was given to you why would you boast as though you received it on your own?”* You know if your Daddy gave your older brother a bicycle when he was 13, and then four years later you turn 13 and get a bicycle, that doesn’t mean that he is greater in the family than you because he got his gift sooner than you got yours. So don’t try to pull that nonsense on me, we are all equal in this family.

In **Romans 12:3** The Apostle Paul said, *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*

We have each been given a measure of faith and we know faith is a revelation, something that has been revealed to you. Then if it has been revealed to you, then how can anyone get puffed up as though you came up with it on your own. You had no more to do with what took place in this hour than nothing. It was a gift of God to us.

God is the One who came down, He child trained and chastened William Branham until he became a very obedient son, God subdued him, God used him, and then you say, O, I sure wish I were like Him. No you don’t because you wouldn’t want to go through what he went through to get there.

Just be thankful that God is the author and finisher of your faith. Place your trust in what He is doing and just get out of His way. Learn to let go and let God. When I see men get puffed up in the ministry and think they are somebody because they have a little more knowledge on a subject than the next fellow, it sickens me. Why get puffed up. God didn’t come down for puffed up kids. He came for obedient sons and daughters.

The Apostle Paul said *“what do you have that was not given to you? And if it was given to you, then why do you boast as though you haven’t received it?”*

And He also said in **Romans 3: 27** *Where is boasting then? It’s excluded. By what, the law? By works? Nay: but by faith* (revelation ought to exclude boasting, and a true revelation of God and His Purpose and plan will). And *we are justified by Faith* not by what we know.

And if *“you are justified by Faith”* and *“faith is a revelation, something God has revealed to you,”* then you didn’t get it because you’re smarter than the next guy, and you didn’t get it because you got more people following you than the next guy. You got it because God revealed it to you. So shut your big mouths and humble down or God will smack you down, if you are His kids. Because every sons that cometh to God must first be chastened.

1 Corinthians 14:36 *What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man thinks himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.*

Now, Paul said in **1 Corinthians 1:11** *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God knoweth.*

So unless God has given you of His Spirit you have nothing. So whether you have or whether you do not have, it all goes back to what God has done. And then if you have anything it is because God gave it, so how can you be so proud that you could boast when you had nothing to do with it in the first place except you are just a vessel that God has chosen to place His Word in.

Now, in getting back to what Brother Branham was telling us, **180** he continues, *“Like John the Baptist, Christ's faithful forerunner, **the anointed prophet**, no school of his father, no school of Pharisee, no denomination could call him from the wilderness where God had sent him **until he heard the Voice of God**, the Messiah's Lamb. Are you listening spiritual mind? What more could I say here? I'm skipping something here, now.*

*181 How different today. Many so-called evangelists claim they have the answer from God for the people, just as **Korah did, denying, disputing the authority of God's vindicated anointed prophet Moses**, claiming he (Korah) had the answer. This was a money making scheme too, a golden calf, as many do today: big buildings, big schools, hatch out incubators of their same seed. And then, people then as like now, fell for it **after they had heard the true Word of God through an anointed prophet that was a-vindicated**. They fell for Korah's lie. God proven prophet, and knew God had told them... Israel knew God had told them distinctly that **He would vindicate His prophets by His Word**. Korah was not a Scriptural prophet, but it looked awful good to the people; same as it does now. Today it's blood on your hands, balls of fire on the platform, oil in your fingers; and **the same thing produces women preachers, short hair, bobbed, makeup**. What do you have? You would not think that people would fall for it, but **they did for Korah, and they do the same thing now and turn away from the true Word for denominations**. Shorts: shows what kind of a seed that's in them.*

Now, look, brother Branham mentions Korah here and he was in the lineage of Levi, He was a genuine Levite, that means he was born to be a minister of God. But look what happened here. Remember, the children of Israel didn't know the ways of God, they only saw His Acts.

Now, in closing we're going to read from the Book of **Numbers 16**: beginning at verse **1** and let's see just what happened that William Branham wanted to bring to our attention.

Numbers 16:1 Now **Korah**, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, (You see? There you are, he was a Levite,) and **Dathan and Abiram**, the sons of Eliab, and **On**, the son of Peleth, **sons of Reuben** (and Reuben was the first born of Jacob), the brethren **took men: 2 And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: 3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? 4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:**

Why against organized religion 62-1111E P:24 Korah, in **Numbers 16:1**, if you'd like to read, Korah tried the very same thing. He got all the Levites together, and he got some of the celebrity, the high men, great men, holy men, and him and Dathan got together and said, "It's not right, one man trying to be over us all." And so they tried to get an organization started together, and they come up before Moses and Aaron, who God had chosen for the work, and told them they took too much upon themselves, that the whole congregation was holy, and they had a right to... **"In the multitude of counsel there's safety,"** of course, they say. That doesn't apply to Christianity. That's in war. Notice, a whole lots of difference. You can take a Scripture, and say, **"Judas went and hung himself,"** and, **"you go do likewise,"** if you want to, but that don't make it right.

25 God had chosen Moses and God had chosen Aaron, and it was the message of the day. And no matter how good the other side looked, it was contrary to God's thinking. And **we've got to let God's thinking be our thinking. Let the mind that was in Christ be in you.** And **this Bible reveals the mind of Christ.** And the whole Book of Revelations, called the Apocalypse, is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. And we can see how He condemns the thing, how He takes it to one side, and we'll get to it after a bit. All right.

26 Korah, I believe he was sincere in his act. I believe the man didn't mean to do wrong. I believe it was the ignorance of the man that didn't see the hand of God moving and know the Scriptures, and that's the reason he just brought it to reasoning. And that's just about ninety percent of the trouble today, that we try to inject into the program of God our thinking. And we're not supposed to think at all. He does our thinking. We're supposed to surrender our thinking to His will. See? You understand now? Korah, with good intent went around with a false doctrine, telling these brothers, and showing them by reason, that God hadn't only blessed Moses, the prophet, the messenger, and had only blessed him, but, "The whole congregation was holy," he said, "and now, the whole congregation has a right to do this, and the whole congregation has a right to do that." And so they got good men, Levites. Now, that is God's choice, which would be called today the ministers; Levite was the minister of the temple. Did not Moses call them down for it? And here he never went at it un--irreverent. He told them to take censors, and put holy fire in it, and put the incense over the top of it, and to wave this holy incense, which was the command of God. And they come up to make a group of men to control the church, where God had commanded one man to do so.

27 And when they did that, Moses fell on his face for he knew that God had commissioned him to that work. And God said, **"Have them to bring those censors up here before the tabernacle."** And so when they begin to wave their censors full of fire, and the incense a-going, God said to Moses and Aaron, **"Separate yourself from them. Come out from among them."** For later He called them sinners, unbelievers. And **sin is unbelief in the Word of God.** You steal because you don't believe; You lie because you don't believe. You commit adultery because you don't believe. If you was a believer, you wouldn't do such. There's only two roads, that's either faith or unbelief; you're controlled by one or the other.

Now, God in the beginning was the Word, and He was made flesh and dwelled among us. He was the Word; He is the Word. And when God dwells in you, it's the Word of God dwelling in you, where you can punctuate everything He says with an "Amen." That's God dwelling in you.

Numbers 16:5 And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: **even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.** 6 This do; **Take you censers,** Korah, and all his company; 7 And **put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD to morrow:** and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, **he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi.**

28 Now, if you notice these innocent men with censers in their hand, holy fire in their hand, God opened up the earth and swallowed them up, and separated them from Moses, because Moses separated himself from them. And Moses warned the congregation, **"Don't fool with that kind of a group. Get away from them."** Now, you know the Scriptures; read the **16th, 17th, 18th,** even, chapter, and you'll find it. **"Separate yourself from these sinners, unbelieving sinners. Come out from among them, for they're headed for destruction, and everything that they have."** And when -the earth followed and fell with these men holding this holy fire: innocent men deceived by a man. Same today. There's a many innocent man falling into the trap of tradition, holding the holy Word in his hand, and supposingly to be preaching from It. I seen an expression come across a minister's face just then, a Methodist minister, was a Methodist minister till last Sunday night. And when he looked, I suppose it means a whole lot to you, brother, to be out.

29 Now, see, holding censers, fire burning sweet smelling savior before God, and those hands holding that, yet perished with the censor in their hand, because they were trying to do something in sincerity, yet, against the Word of God, trying to make an organization. Said, **"You take too much upon yourself. Who are you to say that you've got all the Word of God?"** **They failed to see that Moses was the messenger of that hour. See, he had THUS SAITH THE LORD.** There was nobody on earth like him. He had the message, and the people failed to see it. And Moses was exactly with **THUS SAITH THE LORD.** Sure. All right.

Now, let's get back to Numbers 16 and pick up at verse 5.

8 And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi: 9 Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them? (You see? These were not true Five Fold, they were elders in Israel, who were ministers of God. And as brother Vayle said, it isn't the true Five Fold who mess things up, it's the so called elders who want to be pastors. And that is what Moses said to them.)

Even the Apostle Paul said in **1 Timothy 1:7** **Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.**

In other words, claiming to be teachers and yet they haven't got a clue as to what they are even supposed to teach.

Verse 10 *And he hath brought thee near to him, and **all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?*** You see, it wasn't enough for them to serve God as they served the people, they wanted to be in charge, they wanted to be authorities. Why? because they wanted to control men, to give them self importance.

*11 For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him? 12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, **We will not come up:** 13 Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, **to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?** 14 Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? **we will not come up.***

Ooh, this bunch were renegades. They were nasty. They didn't even have a clue as to what God was doing, and they certainly had no patience to wait for the promise. And look how they turned their hatred towards Moses, who was only doing what God had told him to do.

*15 And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, **Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.** 16 And Moses said unto Korah, Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, to morrow: 17 And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer. 18 And they took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood in the door of the tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron. 19 And **Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle** 20 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 21 **Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.** 22 And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, **shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?** 23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 24 Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. 25 And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. 26 And he spake unto the congregation, saying, **Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.** 27 So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. 28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for **I have not done them of mine own mind.** 29 **If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.** 30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and **the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up,** with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. 31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that*

was under them: 32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. 33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation. 34 And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also. 35 And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

30 Now, we find the same thing today, *good men, great men, precious men trying to preach the Word of God in their hand through some manmade tradition: cutting out here, and cutting down here, and making it this, and "Come join the church and change your membership," and spiritually die with that Word in their hand. See? They could not believe God's messenger or His message of that day. They couldn't understand why a great God wouldn't work with a whole group of people, and just put it upon one man. How many of them have I talked today, "What will we do, Brother Branham? We know you're right, but what will we do? The organization would put us out, we'd have no other place to go." I feel sorry for them; but there is a place. You say, "Well, we'd starve to death." David said, "Once I was young, and now I'm old, and I've never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed to beg bread."*

31 That's exactly on the same basis that they refused Jesus. They were so wrapped up in their denomination, and holy priests and holy buildings, and holy churches and holy temples, *they failed to see God in His human temple. Uh-huh. "You, being a man, make yourself God."* See, they were so wrapped up in it. These men were so wrapped up that Dathan and them were right. Nimrod was so wrapped up that he could achieve something that would take the people above the wrath of God. Adam was sure that if he covered his nakedness, God couldn't see it. You can't cover it; *God has to cover it. See, see? God's program covers it, not yours. It's always been that way. They fail to see Jesus in His temple, God manifested in flesh. Today it kind a makes me feel bad when I see that the Words of the Bible has been so cut up by traditions. And honest-hearted people who stand there and hear that Word, and they know It's the Truth, but they're daresn't to take a move, because their tradition teaches them different. Wash the pots and pans then, brethren; go ahead. But for us, and for me and my house, we take Christ the Word. See?*

Now, in closing let's go back to **Numbers 16** and pick up at verse **36** *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 37 Speak unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, that he take up the censers out of the burning, and scatter thou the fire yonder; for they are hallowed.*

38 The censers of these sinners against their own souls, let them make them broad plates for a covering of the altar: for they offered them before the LORD, therefore they are hallowed: and they shall be a sign unto the children of Israel. 39 And Eleazar the priest took the brasen censers, wherewith they that were burnt had offered; and they were made broad plates for a covering of the altar: 40 To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses. 41 But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured

*against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD. 42 And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared. 43 And Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation. 44 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 45 **Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment.** And they fell upon their faces. 46 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; **the plague is begun.** 47 And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, **the plague was begun among the people: and he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people.** 48 And he stood between the dead and the living; and **the plague was stayed.** 49 Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah. 50 And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and **the plague was stayed.***

What a shame that the people just the very day after witnessing God open up the earth and swallowed up those sinners, and yet the very next day how soon these people forgot what happened to those who came against God's Anointed Prophet of the Hour. And had it not been for the mercy of Moses, God would have destroyed them all by the plague.

Now, in closing we have some words of consolation by brother Branham as we read paragraph **182**. *“But **thank God all Israel never fell for Korah. Some stayed by Moses, the anointed prophet with the Word of God. Same is it today with many of God's elected, by His Word and His Spirit.**”*

Lets bow our heads in prayer...