Don’t Tell ME What to Do!

Good morning Seekers! It is great to be back with you, and I am looking forward to digging into a quickly growing, and extremely dangerous subject this morning.

Let’s get right at it by me asking you a basic question, related to the subject we will be looking at… **[Q]** What was the original sin? (Most everyone in this room thought the same thing…Adam and Eve eating the fruit)

**Luke 10**

18He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Jesus is giving us the results of the REAL original sin. **[Q]** Why did it happen? (It happened because of pride. Satan desired to be God. He did not want to be subject to, and be a servant to God. He did not want to praise Him all day….he wanted it. All he could envision was “himself” setting on that throne, and receiving all of the glory. He envisions that to this very day, and you can attribute all of the trouble he is causing here on this Earth, to that end.

**Fall** {**pipto**} pip’-to… fall under condemnation; fail;

By the way…Satan didn’t really “fall” from Heaven; he failed to perform what he was created for, and was pushed out of Heaven, as a result of his own **pride**.

Let’s look at a metaphorical description of Satan, which is used in this case to also describe the King of Babylon. It gives us an idea of why Satan was pushed out of Heaven.

**Isaiah 14**

12How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!

You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

[**13**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/14-13.htm)You said in your heart, “**I** will ascend to the heavens; **I** will raise my throne above the stars of God; **I** will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.[***b***](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/14.htm#footnotes)

[**14**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/14-14.htm)**I** will ascend above the tops of the clouds; **I** will make myself like the Most High.” [**15**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/14-15.htm)But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,

to the depths of the pit. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/14-16.htm)Those who see you stare at you,

they ponder your fate: “Is this the man who shook the earth

and made kingdoms tremble,[**17**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/14-17.htm)the man who made the world a wilderness, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?”

We read all of this; and shudder. This is the heart, and desire of Satan, and many who have followed him, since his ejection to Earth. God **HATES** this type attitude. He will judge it severely, for every human being who displays it. He has to, because He is just.

If he did it to Satan, and all who have emulated him, he will do it to anyone who has this mindset. **[Q]** Is there any chance that there is some of this attitude in you and I, here this morning? (I will let you answer this yourself, as we study on)

Just to strengthen the point I am trying to make, let’s look at a few more related verses…

**Proverbs 11**

2When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/proverbs/11-3.htm)The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

**Proverbs 16**

18Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

[**19**](http://biblehub.com/proverbs/16-19.htm)Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

**Proverbs 29**

23Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor.

**Pride**: An excessive high opinion of oneself; Arrogant or disdainful conduct; haughtiness; a high or inordinate opinion of one’s own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority; conceit

One last verse on this. Listen to Jesus…

**Matthew 23**

11The greatest among you will be your servant. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/23-12.htm)For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

If you are watching any of the news networks, and are listening to the amazing anarchy, protests, and rebellion that has swept our nation; I am guessing you are as appalled as I am about it, and are wondering where we are headed.

I can tell you…pain, heartache, and certain destruction. Our nation, as a result of the ridiculous teaching that our children have received, both from their homes, and from our school systems, are rebelling. They want all of the focus to be on THEM. They don’t want anyone to tell them what to do. **[Q]** Did you see my title this morning? (Don’t tell **ME** what to do!)

We are going to see what direction God’s Word can give us on His preference for how you and I choose to approach living our lives. We watch this foolishness, and shake our heads; BUT… **[Q]** Could you and I be somewhat guilty of the same attitudes? I would like us to contemplate the current authority structures in our lives this morning, and how we relate to each of them.

Every one of us has a totally different list of who would fill these positions. For example: If I were to hand you a list of different relationships, and there was a line after each one of them…your list, and mine, would probably coincide in a few areas, but would be much different in most. As a matter of fact, I have made one of those lists for you, and we won’t take time to fill it out this morning. It is for you to take home, and do on your own, **if you desire**; and think about each of these relationships.

After this message, I would think it very prudent on your part, if you did so. You should humble yourself, and truly open yourself up to being vulnerable enough, to ask the Lord, in prayer, how you are doing in each one; and what He would have you to do, to make each as productive, and Biblical as possible. I KNOW! None of us like homework, but listen to this…

**2 Corinthians 13**

5Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? [**6**](http://biblehub.com/2_corinthians/13-6.htm)And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/2_corinthians/13-7.htm)Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/2_corinthians/13-8.htm)For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. [**9**](http://biblehub.com/2_corinthians/13-9.htm)We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. [**10**](http://biblehub.com/2_corinthians/13-10.htm)This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. ***{Put a marker here}***

Everything we read in the Word of God, is meant for our encouragement, and instruction. Even though Paul was speaking to a carnal Corinthian church here, when we read this, it should cause you and I to look at ourselves…not with rose-colored glasses, but with a full desire to examine ourselves, and be willing to change any area that we realize, we too, fall short in.

**Hebrews 4**

12For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. [**13**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/4-13.htm)**Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight**. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

As true followers of Christ…since we know God is watching us every moment, and taking note of every action, we should be concerned. We should realize that every one of them is being recorded for future playback…

**1 Peter 1**

15But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; [**16**](http://biblehub.com/1_peter/1-16.htm)for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy

**[Q]** Don’t you think it would be wise to open ourselves up to being changed by His Word, and instruction? (Every one of us should have the same attitude that the “**Man after God’s own Heart**” displayed)

**Psalm 139**

23Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

[**24**](http://biblehub.com/psalms/139-24.htm)See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

**[Q]** Have I, at least, convinced you that you should listen to God’s Word this morning, with an open mind, and heart to change, seeing if you might possibly be coming up short of His will for you?

Let’s go back to our opening verse for just one second, before we get into the meat of this morning’s message…

**2 Corinthians 13**

5Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.

**[Q]** What does Paul mean when he makes this statement to the Corinthian Church?

**Examine yourselves** {**peirazo**} pi-rad’-zo… I try; I tempt; I test. To make proof of.

Truthfully, this tells us that the examining of ourselves is our own personal responsibility; and should be done in a serious manner. When it says “I try”…my feeling is that it is referring to the fact that we should “put ourselves on trial”.

**[Q]** Is there evidence against ourselves, in the area of authority, involving how we stack up against God’s Word? **[Q]** Are we doing it His way, or ours? If we are not doing it His way; maybe the greater question should be this… **[Q]** Are we willing to change?

**Test yourselves** {**dokimazo**} dok-ee-maz’-o… from base word {**dokimos**}… word used for proving of coins, to see whether they were genuine, or not; not counterfeit; what passes the necessary scrutiny; acceptable because validated.

So, to make this very simple, we should test our own actions, against Bible Truth…and make a determination as to whether we need to change, or not.

The area we are going to do that together in this morning is that of “**allowing yourself to be under the authority of those in charge”**, in multiple situations”.

I didn’t have to think long to find the perfect example of how this is to work, in the Word of God. We will look at that same special servant of God, who we read about just a moment ago, and who asked God to filet him, and cut out anything offensive. King David…not perfect, as has no one ever been, other than Jesus; BUT still, his attitude made him the “man after God’s own heart”. He radically wanted to please God.

David had been placed by God, under authority of a man who was named King over Israel. His name was Saul. After David had slain Goliath, Saul rewarded him by taking him into his own household. David became great friends with Saul’s son, Jonathan.

**1 Samuel 17**

54David took the Philistine’s head and brought it to Jerusalem; he put the Philistine’s weapons in his own tent.[**55**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/17-55.htm)As Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is that young man?”Abner replied, “As surely as you live, Your Majesty, I don’t know.”[**56**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/17-56.htm)The king said, “Find out whose son this young man is.”[**57**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/17-57.htm)As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine’s head. [**58**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/17-58.htm)“Whose son are you, young man?” Saul asked him. David said, “I am the son of **your servant** Jesse of Bethlehem.”

**1 Samuel 18**

1After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. [**2**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-2.htm)From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-3.htm)And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-4.htm)Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt. [**5**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-5.htm)Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul’s officers as well. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-6.htm)When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-7.htm)As they danced, they sang: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.” [**8**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-8.htm)**Saul was very angry**; this refrain displeased him greatly. “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?” [**9**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-9.htm)And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David. [**10**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-10.htm)The next day an evil[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/1_samuel/18.htm#footnotes) spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand [**11**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-11.htm)and he hurled it, saying to himself, “I’ll pin David to the wall.” But David eluded him twice. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-12.htm)Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed from Saul. [**13**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-13.htm)So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-14.htm)In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him. [**15**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-15.htm)When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-16.htm)But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

Now that you have a little background, let’s skip forward in time, a bit, and see how this all develops…

28When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David, [**29**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-29.htm)Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days. [**30**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/18-30.htm)The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with more success than the rest of Saul’s officers, and his name became well known.

**1 Samuel 19**

1Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to David [**2**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/19-2.htm)and warned him, “My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there.

In light of time, let me tell you this…Saul tried repeatedly to kill David, and finally David had to run to save his life. Now, we come to what I want us to see together…

**1 Samuel 23**

15While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/1_samuel/23.htm#footnotes) Saul had come out to take his life. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/23-16.htm)And Saul’s son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/23-17.htm)“Don’t be afraid,” he said. “My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and **I will be second to you**. Even my father Saul knows this.” [**18**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/23-18.htm)The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

Remember this…the throne was rightfully Jonathon’s, but he bowed to his friend David, because he knew he was much more qualified for it.

**1 Samuel 24**

1After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the Desert of En Gedi.” [**2**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-2.htm)So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-3.htm)He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-4.htm)The men said, “This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/1_samuel/24.htm#footnotes) to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’ ” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. [**5**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-5.htm)Afterward, **David was conscience-stricken** for having cut off a corner of his robe. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-6.htm)He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; **for he is the anointed of the Lord**.” [**7**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-7.htm)With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-8.htm)Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. [**9**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-9.htm)He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you’? [**10**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-10.htm)This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, ‘I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord’s anointed.’ [**11**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-11.htm)See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-12.htm)May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. [**13**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-13.htm)As the old saying goes, ‘From evildoers come evil deeds,’ so my hand will not touch you.

[**14**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-14.htm)“Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? [**15**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-15.htm)May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.”

[**16**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-16.htm)When David finished saying this, Saul asked, “Is that your voice, David my son?” And he wept aloud. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-17.htm)“You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. [**18**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-18.htm)You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. [**19**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-19.htm)When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. [**20**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-20.htm)I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. [**21**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-21.htm)Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father’s family.”

[**22**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/24-22.htm)So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Wow…there are so many teaching points within what we just read, but let me just say this… David, as wronged as he was, knew that God was in total control, and had put him under the authority of Saul, as wicked as he was, and as much as he hated David.

David stated it well…**Verse 6**: He is the anointed of the Lord, I cannot harm him in any way. David was so close to the Lord, that it broke his heart, when he actually considered what he had done, and had to apologize to the man who wanted him dead.

**[Q]** Why? (Because he loved God, more than his own life; and was more interested in pleasing Him, than himself; even if what was happening to him wasn’t fair)

Let’s look at one more scene…

**1 Samuel 26**

1The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?” [**2**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-2.htm)So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand select Israelite troops, to search there for David. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-3.htm)Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul had followed him there, [**4**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-4.htm)he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived. [**5**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-5.htm)Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-6.htm)David then asked Ahimelek the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab’s brother, “Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?” “I’ll go with you,” said Abishai. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-7.htm)So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.

[**8**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-8.htm)Abishai said to David, “Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won’t strike him twice.” [**9**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-9.htm)But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed and be guiltless? [**10**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-10.htm)As surely as the Lord lives,” he said, “the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. [**11**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-11.htm)But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let’s go.” [**12**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-12.htm)So David took the spear and water jug near Saul’s head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the Lord had put them into a deep sleep.[**13**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-13.htm)Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-14.htm)He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, “Aren’t you going to answer me, Abner?” Abner replied, “Who are you who calls to the king?” [**15**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-15.htm)David said, “You’re a man, aren’t you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn’t you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-16.htm)What you have done is not good. As surely as the Lord lives, you and your men must die, because you did not guard your master, the Lord’s anointed. Look around you. Where are the king’s spear and water jug that were near his head?”

[**17**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-17.htm)Saul recognized David’s voice and said, “Is that your voice, David my son?” David replied, “Yes it is, my lord the king.” [**18**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-18.htm)And he added, “Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of? [**19**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-19.htm)Now let my lord the king listen to his servant’s words. If the Lord has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, people have done it, may they be cursed before the Lord! They have driven me today from my share in the Lord’s inheritance and have said, ‘Go, serve other gods.’ [**20**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-20.htm)Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the Lord. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea—as one hunts a partridge in the mountains.”

[**21**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-21.htm)Then Saul said, “I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have been terribly wrong.” [**22**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-22.htm)“Here is the king’s spear,” David answered. “Let one of your young men come over and get it. [**23**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-23.htm)The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed. [**24**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-24.htm)As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord value my life and deliver me from all trouble.” [**25**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/26-25.htm)Then Saul said to David, “May you be blessed, David my son; you will do great things and surely triumph.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

**[Q]** Can you believe the amazing restraint within David? **[Q]** How could he do this? (I think it is because he truly lived by, and totally believed this Proverb)…

**Proverbs 3**

1My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, [**2**](http://biblehub.com/proverbs/3-2.htm)for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/proverbs/3-3.htm)Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/proverbs/3-4.htm)Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. [**5**](http://biblehub.com/proverbs/3-5.htm)**Trust in the Lord** with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; [**6**](http://biblehub.com/proverbs/3-6.htm)in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/proverbs/3.htm#footnotes)

David trusted, and waited on God. He did not make his own fate. He continued to believe that God would intervene for him. **[Q]** What happened to Saul?

**1 Samuel 31**

1Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell dead on Mount Gilboa. [**2**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/31-2.htm)The Philistines were in hot pursuit of Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/31-3.htm)The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically.

[**4**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/31-4.htm)Saul said to his armor-bearer, “Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me.”

But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it. [**5**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/31-5.htm)When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/1_samuel/31-6.htm)So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together that same day.

So…**[Q]** How do we make these Old Testament stories relevant to you and I?

**Romans 13**

1Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. [**2**](http://biblehub.com/romans/13-2.htm)Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Simply…whoever is in authority over you, in any situation, has been placed there by God. You can disagree, but we just read it. We must believe it! God’s Word is true.

**[Q]** What is God’s opinion of rebellion, and anarchy? (The Jews in the wilderness found out the hard way)

**1 Samuel 15**

23For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.”

**[Q]** How did God deal with those who rebelled against Moses, in the wilderness?

Let’s quickly look at a few, in the book of Numbers…

**Numbers 12**: (Paraphrase) Aaron Moses’ brother, and Miriam, Moses’ sister rebelled against Moses. God called a meeting with the 3 of them. He came down in a pillar of cloud, at the entrance to the tent, and called Aaron and Mirian out. It says his anger burned against them. **[Q]** What happened as a result of their insolence against the one He had put in authority over both of them?

When the cloud lifted, Miriam was white with leprosy. Moses pleaded with God to heal her; and he did, and she had to stay outside the camp for 7 days to prove it. God made his point.

**Numbers 16**

1Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites—Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—became insolent[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/numbers/16.htm#footnotes) [**2**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-2.htm)and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-3.htm)They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. **Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord’s assembly?**”

[**4**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-4.htm)When Moses heard this, he fell facedown. [**5**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-5.htm)Then he said to Korah and all his followers: “In the morning the Lord will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-6.htm)You, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take censers [**7**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-7.htm)and tomorrow put burning coals and incense in them before the Lord. The man the Lord chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far!”

**[Q]** What happened?

**Numbers 16**

16Moses said to Korah, “You and all your followers are to appear before the Lord tomorrow—you and they and Aaron. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-17.htm)Each man is to take his censer and put incense in it—250 censers in all—and present it before the Lord. You and Aaron are to present your censers also.” [**18**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-18.htm)So each of them took his censer, put burning coals and incense in it, and stood with Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the tent of meeting. [**19**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-19.htm)When Korah had gathered all his followers in opposition to them at the entrance to the tent of meeting, the glory of the Lord appeared to the entire assembly. [**20**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-20.htm)The Lordsaid to Moses and Aaron, [**21**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-21.htm)“Separate yourselves from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once.”[**22**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-22.htm)But Moses and Aaron fell facedown and cried out, “O God, the God who gives breath to all living things, will you be angry with the entire assembly when only one man sins?” [**23**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-23.htm)Then the Lord said to Moses, [**24**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-24.htm)“Say to the assembly, ‘Move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.’ ”

[**25**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-25.htm)Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. [**26**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-26.htm)He warned the assembly, “Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins.” [**27**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-27.htm)So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing with their wives, children and little ones at the entrances to their tents.

[**28**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-28.htm)Then Moses said, “This is how you will know that the Lord has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea: [**29**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-29.htm)If these men die a natural death and suffer the fate of all mankind, then the Lord has not sent me. [**30**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-30.htm)But if the Lord brings about something totally new, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them, with everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the realm of the dead, then you will know that these men have treated the Lord with contempt.”

[**31**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-31.htm)As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart [**32**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-32.htm)and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possessions. [**33**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-33.htm)They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community. [**34**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-34.htm)At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, “The earth is going to swallow us too!” [**35**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-35.htm)And fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense.

Wow! **[Q]** Do you think the Lord is pleased with those of us who rebel, even the least bit, to those He has put in authority over us? (It is pretty obvious. Not only is He not pleased, He will deal with it. You may never know why certain parts of your life have fallen apart, but it could be related to this very subject)

**REMEMBER:** He said in **1 Samuel 15**… Rebellion is just like witchcraft in God’s eyes…Evil & Satanic!

Now, let me finish by showing you just how selfish, stupid, and reckless human beings can be. The very next day, those same people who were scared straight, and were running for their lives as they had seen the earth open up, and fire come down from Heaven, made this comment…

**Numbers 16**

41The next day the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. “You have killed the Lord’s people,” they said. [**42**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-42.htm)But when the assembly gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron and turned toward the tent of meeting, suddenly the cloud covered it and the glory of the Lord appeared. [**43**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-43.htm)Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the tent of meeting, [**44**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-44.htm)and the Lord said to Moses, [**45**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-45.htm)“Get away from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once.” And they fell facedown.

[**46**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-46.htm)Then Moses said to 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 has started.” [**47**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-47.htm)So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly. The plague had already started among the people, but Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them. [**48**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-48.htm)He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped. [**49**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-49.htm)But 14,700 people died from the plague, in addition to those who had died because of Korah. [**50**](http://biblehub.com/numbers/16-50.htm)Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance to the tent of meeting, for the plague had stopped.[***c***](http://biblehub.com/niv/numbers/16.htm#footnotes)

If what we have read today, does not give you a hint of what the Lord feels about those who rebel against, and speak against, those who He has put in authority over them, you may choose to fall into the same camp as those we just finished reading about. The end was not good for them.

You must make your own choice, but as Moses warned the Israelites, at a different time in their desert experience…

**Deuteronomy 30** 15See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/deuteronomy/30-16.htm)For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to **walk in obedience to him**, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/deuteronomy/30-17.htm)But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, [**18**](http://biblehub.com/deuteronomy/30-18.htm)I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. [**19**](http://biblehub.com/deuteronomy/30-19.htm)This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. **Now choose life**, so that you and your children may live [**20**](http://biblehub.com/deuteronomy/30-20.htm)and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.