

**#20 Authority, Rebellion,
the Vindication of Delegated authority,
and a Proper Representative of God**

(Crystallization-Study of Numbers 2) 2019/10/7-13

I. God is the supreme authority; He has all authority:

Rom. 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?

A. God's authority represents God Himself; God's power only represents God's works.

B. God's authority is actually God Himself; authority issues out from God's own being. **Rev. 22:1** And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.

C. All authority—spiritual, positional, and governmental—derives from God.

D. When we touch God's authority, we touch God Himself:

1. Meeting God's authority is the same as meeting God.

2. Offending God's authority is the same as offending God Himself.

E. In our relationship with God, nothing is more important than touching authority.

F. Knowing authority is an inward revelation rather than an outward teaching. **Mon**

G. Only God is the direct authority to man; all other authorities are indirect authorities—delegated authorities, deputy authorities, appointed by God:

1. Only when we meet God's authority can we submit to the delegated authority whom God appoints. **1 Pet. 5:5** In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

2. God requires that we submit not only to Him but to all delegated authorities. **Heb. 13:17** Obey the ones leading you and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as those who will render an account, that they may do this with joy and not groaning; for this would be unprofitable to you.

3. Those who do not submit to God's indirect authority cannot submit to God's direct authority.

4. God wants us to submit to indirect authority—delegated authorities—so that we may receive spiritual supply.

H. We all must meet authority, be restricted by God, and be led by His delegated authority. **Tue**

II. There are two great principles in the universe—God's authority and Satan's rebellion; the unique controversy between God and Satan concerns authority and rebellion:

A. Rebellion is the denial of God's authority and the rejection of God's rule: **1.** Satan was originally an archangel created by God, but due to his pride he uplifted himself, violated God's sovereignty, rebelled against God, became God's adversary, and established his own kingdom.

2. When man sinned, he rebelled against God, denied God's authority, and rejected God's rule; at Babel men rebelled collectively against God to abolish God's authority from the earth.

B. Although Satan rebelled against God's authority and although man violates His authority by rebelling against Him, God will not let this rebellion continue; He will establish His kingdom on the earth.

C. The center of dispute in the universe relates to who has authority: **Rev. 4:2** ...and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

1. We must contend with Satan by asserting that authority is with God.

2. We need to set ourselves to submit to God's authority and uphold God's authority.

Matt. 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I extol You, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth...

D. The sin of rebellion is more serious than any other kind of sin. **1 Sam. 15:23** For rebellion is like the sin of divination, And insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim... **Wed**

III. Chapters 12 and 16 of Numbers speak of rebellion against God's delegated authority:

A. In speaking against Moses, Miriam and Aaron were speaking against the deputy authority of God:

1. God had appointed Moses to be His deputy authority, His representative authority on earth; the authority that Moses represented was the authority of God.

2. According to God's governmental administration, Miriam and Aaron should have submitted themselves to Moses, but they rebelled.

3. Neither Aaron nor Miriam knew authority; instead, they fostered a rebellious heart.

4. The word of rebellion ascended upward and were heard by God: **a.** When Miriam and Aaron offended Moses, they offended God in Moses; therefore, God became angry. **b.** Once a person touches delegated authority, he touches God in that delegated authority. **c.**

To offend the delegated authority is to offend God.

5. Miriam's becoming leprous was God's governmental dealing.

B. The rebellion recorded in chapter 16 was a corporate rebellion:

1. The rebellion in this chapter was a widespread, universal rebellion among God's people.

2. Numbers 16:3, 9, and 10 show that the root of this rebellion was ambition, the struggle for power and for a higher position: **a.** Ambition undermines God's plan and damages His people. **b.** Throughout the centuries many problems among Christians have been caused by ambition.

Matt. 20:25-27 But Jesus called them to Him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant, And whoever wants to be first among you shall be your slave;

3. Although Moses was humble in falling on his face, he did not give up his God-given position as God's deputy authority: **Num. 16:5** ...In the morning Jehovah will make known who is His and who is holy, and will bring him to Himself...

a. Moses did not fight back; rather, he brought the rebels and the ones against whom they rebelled to God. **b.** As God's deputy, or delegated, authority, Moses referred this case to God as the highest authority, for His speaking, exposing, and judging. **c.** In a struggle for power, the only One who can judge and expose the real situation is God Himself.

4. The murmuring of the people against Moses and Aaron proves that their rebellious nature had not been subdued. **Thu**

IV. Numbers 16 speaks of man's rebellion against God's deputy authority and how man opposed God's deputy authority; chapter 17 speaks of God's vindication of His appointed authority:

A. God vindicated to everyone that deputy authority is according to His appointment.

B. Since the rebellion of Korah and his company was related to the priesthood, the budding of Aaron's rod was a vindication indicating that Aaron was the one accepted by God as having authority in the God-given ministry of the priesthood.

C. The budding rod of Aaron typifies the resurrected Christ—the budding, blossoming, and fruit-bearing Christ—who imparts life to others:

Num. 17:8 And on the next day Moses went into the Tent

of the Testimony, and there was the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi: it had budded; it even put forth buds and produced blossoms and bore ripe almonds.

1. Christ, the greatest budding rod in the universe, imparts life to others; He always flows out life to enliven others.

2. Today Christ is still budding and we are the fruit, the almonds, of His budding.

D. In typology a rod signifies authority:

1. In Numbers 17 the rods represented the leaders of the twelve tribes, and Aaron's rod represented the tribe of Levi

2. It was God's intention that the budding of a dead rod would cause the murmurings of the people to cease.

3. Through the budding of the rod, God spoke to the Israelites and also to Aaron.

E. The budding rod signifies our experience of Christ in His resurrection as our authority in the God-given ministry:

1. The budding, blossoming, fruit-yielding rod signifies the resurrection life of Christ with its authority.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

2. Resurrection is the basis of authority: a. The budding rod indicates that authority is based on resurrection. b.

The basis of God's appointment of authority is resurrection.

c. The basis of God's vindication of His appointed authority is resurrection. **Fi**

V. One who has been appointed by God to be a deputy authority must be a proper representative of God:

2 Cor. 5:20 On behalf of Christ then we are ambassadors, as God entreats you through us; we beseech you on behalf of Christ, Be reconciled to God.

A. In Exodus and in Numbers 12 and 16, Moses represented God in a proper way.

B. We need to learn a serious lesson from the one time that Moses failed to represent God:

1. In striking the rock twice and in calling the people rebels, Moses did not sanctify God in the sight of the people of Israel: a.

To sanctify God is to make Him holy, that is, separate from all the false gods; to fail to sanctify God is to make Him common. b.

In being angry with the people and in wrongly striking the rock twice, Moses failed to sanctify God. c.

In being angry when God was not angry, Moses failed to represent God rightly in His holy nature, and in striking the rock twice, he did not keep God's word in His economy. d.

Moses offended both God's holy nature and His divine economy; he condemned the people as rebels, but he was the one who rebelled against God's word.

2. In all that we say and do concerning God's people, our attitude must be according to God's holy nature, and our actions must be according to His divine economy.

C. The apostle Paul was an ambassador of Christ, representing God:

1. A new covenant minister is one who has been authorized with the heavenly authority to represent the highest authority.

2. Paul exercised his apostolic authority not for ruling over the believers but for building them up.

3. Paul exercised the authority inherent in his apostleship by teaching, by engaging in spiritual warfare, by moving within the measure of God's rule, and by his jealousy for Christ over the believers.

2 Cor. 10:13 But we will not boast beyond our measure but according to the measure of the rule which the God of measure has apportioned to us, to reach even as far as you.

D. A person who represents God rightly must submit authority, realize that in himself he has no authority, and be a person in resurrection, living in the resurrection life of Christ. **Sat**

Crucial Point(1): Learn to be subject to God and the deputy authority God has set and set up the opposite testimony to Satan

OL1:When we touch God's authority, we touch God Himself. Knowing authority is an inward revelation rather than an outward teaching. **OL2:**Only God is the direct authority to man; all other authorities are indirect authorities—delegated authorities, deputy authorities, appointed by God: Only when we meet God's authority can we submit to the delegated authority whom God appoints.

OL3: God requires that we submit not only to Him but to all delegated authorities. **OL4:** God wants us to submit to indirect authority—delegated authorities—so that we may receive spiritual supply.

There are two principles in the universe—God's authority and Satan's rebellion....Although a rebellious person can preach, Satan will laugh, because the principle of Satan is there in the preaching. Service is ever attendant to authority....We who serve God must gain this basic understanding at some time. It is like touching electricity. Once one touches it, he will never be careless with it. In the same way, once a man meets God's authority and is smitten by it, his eyes will be enlightened.

No one dares to say that he would not submit to the Lord's authority. But there is also the authority of the members in coordination that we have to submit to. We have to realize that all the members are joined together....Sometimes the Lord uses one member directly. At other times, the Lord uses a member to supply another member. When the head directs the eyes to see, the whole body takes the seeing of the eyes as its own seeing because when the eyes see, the whole body sees. This delegated function, which is deputy authority, is also the authority of the Head. If any other members think that they can see for themselves, they are in rebellion. We cannot be so foolish as to think that we are almighty.

Application to the young people and college students

Authority is God Himself and it is for order, harmony and supply. Since God recovers His authority through the church, the church needs to take initiative to be subject to God's authority and set up the opposite testimony to Satan.

There is the authority of the head in the body and also the deputy authority of each members by the order from the head. Not all the members of the body see, but the eyes see. Not all the members of the body hear, but the ears hear. The members like eyes, ears and mouth function under the order of the head and are entrusted each function. They are the deputy authority. All the members need to learn to subject to the head and to the deputy authority.

Students, please learn to be subject to the deputy authority like your parents and school teachers. The rebellious nature in you is actually not yourself, but the sin, which is the nature of Satan who dwells in your flesh. Because those who revel are those who follow Satan, so please call upon the name of the Lord and be desperate to pray like this, "Oh, Lord Jesus. Satan was an archangel but due to his pride, he became the devil, Satan. Lord, have mercy on me that I would not become the follower of Satan.

I recognize and declare that God has all authority by setting the opposite testimony to the devil. Moreover, I will subject myself to the deputy authority God appointed at my school, family and the church.”

Crucial Point(2):Satan was originally an archangel but due to his pride he rebelled against God, became Satan the devil. By denying self, dealing the rebellion within and subject to God and the deputy authority, we are blessed by God.

OL1:There are two great principles in the universe—God’s authority and Satan’s rebellion; the unique controversy between God and Satan concerns authority and rebellion:

OL2:Satan was originally an archangel created by God, but due to his pride he uplifted himself, violated God’s sovereignty, rebelled against God, became God’s adversary, and established his own kingdom.

OL3:Chapters 12 and 16 of Numbers speak of rebellion against God’s delegated authority.

God has only one goal in the church, which is to manifest His authority in the universe. We can see God’s authority from the coordination in the church. God exercises the utmost of His strength to uphold His authority. His authority is stronger than anything else. We who are so self-confident, but who are in reality so blind, have to come face-to-face at least once with God’s authority. Only when we are broken can we come into submission....Only when a man meets God’s authority will he submit to the deputy authority whom God appoints.

In Numbers 16 there are two rebellions. In verses 1 through 40 we have the rebellion of the leaders, whereas in verses 41 through 50 we have

the rebellion of the whole assembly. A spirit of rebellion is contagious.... [The whole assembly] saw with their own eyes fire coming forth from God to consume the two hundred fifty incense burners. Yet they still rebelled. They even accused Moses of killing them. Moses and Aaron could not open the earth; it was God who opened it. Moses could not consume people with fire; it was the fire that proceeded from Jehovah God that judged the people. Some men only see through their own eyes.... Such people are very bold; they are not afraid even when they see judgment, because they do not have the knowledge of authority. This is a very dangerous matter. When the

whole assembly attacked Moses and Aaron, the glory of God appeared, proving that authority is from God. God came forth to judge. A plague broke out, and 14,700 died. Moses was quick in his spiritual sensation; he immediately ordered Aaron to take the censer, put fire in it, and place incense on it to make propitiation for the assembly. Aaron stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped.

God can bear His people’s ten murmurings in the wilderness. But He

cannot bear His authority being offended. God can bear many sins and can even pardon them. Once rebellion appears, however, God cannot tolerate it, for rebellion is according to the principle of death. It is according to the principle of Satan. For this reason, the sin of rebellion is more serious than any other kind of sin. Whenever someone opposes authority, God immediately comes in to

judge. How solemn a matter this is!

Application to the young working saints and graduate students

You as the young working saint or the researcher in the graduate school, should know that the rebellion is to deny God’s authority and God never tolerates any rebellion. God can overlook many sins of the people of Israel, but did not tolerate their rebellion at all. God immediately came into the scene and dealt with the rebellion. Because rebellion is the principle of Satan and it overturns God’s authority, it is more serious than any sin.

You should not rebel against your boss. Even if your boss has less ability it cannot be a reason for you to rebel. In the company, you need to be aggressive to go forward to gain the profit. But even if your boss was a negative person and could not push the department forward, you still should be subject to him and go forward according to your measure. Even with such an inconsistent environment apparently, if you could deal with the rebellion within you, the situation would get simplified.

Please put your thought which came from rebellion on the cross and perform according to the company’s direction and your boss’s direction. Then you’ll receive supply from God and the deputy authority and your performance will be blessed.

Prayer:”Oh Lord Jesus, let me realize that rebellion is more serious than sin. Deal with rebellion within. I will not criticize or rebel against the direction that my company or boss has set but put my thought which comes from rebellion on the cross. Bless my work by my submitting to God and the deputy authority. Amen!”

Crucial Point(3): The deputy authority of Aaron is based on resurrection. Experience the resurrection of Christ and have deputy authority. A person with delegated authority must submit to God and represent God rightly.

OL1: The budding rod of Aaron typifies the resurrected Christ—the budding, blossoming, and fruit-bearing Christ—who imparts life to others.

OL2: Christ, the greatest budding rod in the universe, imparts life to others; He always flows out life to enliven others.

OL3: The budding rod signifies our experience of Christ in His resurrection as our authority in the God-given ministry.

OL4: A person who represents God rightly must submit to authority (Matt. 8:8-9), realize that in himself he has no authority (28:18; 2 Cor. 10:8; 13:10), and be a person in resurrection, living in the resurrection life of Christ

God commanded the twelve leaders to take twelve rods according to the twelve tribes of Israel, and put them in the Tent of Meeting before the Ark. Then He said, “**And the rod of the man whom I choose shall bud**” (Num. 17:5). A rod is a piece of wood. It is a branch that has been stripped of its leaves and roots. It once was living but now has become dead. It once derived its sap from the tree, being able to blossom and bear fruit, but now has become dead. All twelve rods were leafless, rootless, dry, and dead. Whichever one budded was the one that was chosen by God. Here we see that resurrection is the basis of God’s selection. It is also the basis of authority.

Whenever we trust in the Lord, we see authority. Whenever we express the natural life, we become the same as everyone else, and there is no authority in us whatsoever. Only that which issues from resurrection results in authority. Authority is based on resurrection, not on ourselves. No ordinary rod can be placed before God. Only a rod of resurrection can be placed before Him. Furthermore, resurrection is found in the budding rod. It is not a general resurrection but a full resurrection. It is not just a faint expression of the resurrection life but a life that has budded, blossomed, and brought forth fruit. This is resurrection life in maturity. Only one matured in resurrection life can act as God's deputy authority. The more resurrection life is expressed through us, the more authority we will have.

We should not think that Paul was so spiritual that he was altogether different from us. Even he had to learn to take the Lord's restriction. For example, Paul wanted to go to Rome, but he did not expect to go there in bonds. Furthermore, he told the believers at Rome that he expected to go to Spain by way of them (Rom. 15:24). Paul never went to Spain, and he arrived in Rome in bonds. Those bonds were the Lord's measure, His limitation.... God led him there as a prisoner.... God is sovereign, and whatever happened to Paul was under God's sovereignty. This means that Paul's bonds and imprisonment were God's sovereign restriction. Paul was willing to be subject to God's measuring. He neither transgressed this restriction nor rebelled against it. In the church service we need to realize that God has only measured out so much to us, and we should not overstretch ourselves. We need to know our limitation, our jurisdiction, and not go beyond it into others' territory. Like Paul, we should move and act according to our rule, that is, according to how much God has measured to us.

Application to the serving ones

The basis of the deputy authority is resurrection. Aaron's deputy authority was not due to Aaron's natural birth or ability, but to the resurrection.

There are leaders and sub-leaders in various services. The basis of His appointment of deputy authorities is resurrection. Please function actively for the building of the Body of Christ under the guidance of the leader. Never be rebellious by saying, "I am better than this leader, so I should be the leader."

Also, if you are arranged as a leader, you should never be proud. If you are proud, you will become a follower of Satan. The principle of the resurrection is that no longer me anymore but Christ, so you should pray a lot. You should pray for the serving members, pray to reach service goals, and pray that the service does not involve natural ones or ambitions. Those who trust in God in resurrection take on the deputy authority and give life to the service group.

When you demonstrate leadership in service, you must represent God rightly. Allow what God allows and be strict when God doesn't allow. You should give sovereignty to the flow of the Holy Spirit and work and arrange for the Holy Spirit to flow more. Because you are the deputy authority, you must submit to God, the authority, and represent rightly.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, save me from proud and rebellion in various services. No longer me, but live Christ. May I experience the resurrected Christ, have the deputy authority, and serve for the building. Also let me learn to represent God rightly in service. Amen!"

The Mystery of human life(2)Our attitude: "Behold"

A. John1:29B: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

B. Matt.3:16B: and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him. —The Lamb takes sin away from man, and the dove brings God as life to man. The Lamb is for redemption, to redeem fallen man back to God, and the dove is for life-giving, for anointing, to anoint man with what God is, to bring God into man and man into God, and for uniting the believers in God. Both the Lamb and the dove are needed for man to participate in God. (John 1:29, FN1)。

C. John 1:51B: You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man. —Christ as the Son of Man, with His humanity, is the ladder set up on the earth and leading to heaven, keeping heaven open to earth and joining earth to heaven for the house of God, Bethel. (FN2)

D. John 1:46B: Come and see.

E. John 1:34: And I have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.

F. Matt.28:7B: He has been raised from the dead, ... Behold, I have told you.

G. Matt.28:20B: And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.

H. Rev.1:7A: Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him.

The miserable situation of Human being:『Strife』

A. Strife, ..., concerning evil moods. (Gal.5:20,FN2)

B. 1 Tim 6:4: He is blinded with pride, understanding nothing, but is diseased with questionings and contentions of words, out of which come envy, strife, slanders, evil suspicions,

C. 2 Tim 2:14: Remind them of these things, solemnly charging them before God not to have contentions of words, which is useful for nothing, to the ruin of those who hear.

D. James 4:1B: Where do wars and fightings among you come from? Are they not from this, from your pleasures that war in your members?

E. Eph. 2:14: For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity, ... 16 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,