

**Hope for Sinners Who Trust the Lord, Warning for Rebels Who Don't**  
Numbers 15-16

**I. Hope for Sinners Who Trust the Lord (Numbers 15:1-29)**

- A. Hope that God is faithful to his promises (15:1-21)
  - 1. In light of the last chapter, things are looking bleak (Num. 14:42-45)
  - 2. But note the hope of the sacrifices and the “when you come into the land” comments (15:2, 18).
  
- B. Hope that God is a forgiving God (15:22-29)
  - 1. **Unintentionally** – Distinct from “high handed” (cf. Num. 15:30)
  - 2. **“Atonement” and “shall be forgiven.”** - So, there is hope for sinners who are trusting the Lord.

**II. Warnings for Rebels (Numbers 15:30-41)**

- A. High-handed Sin (15:30-36)
  - 1. Despising the Word of the Lord (rather than trusting) leads to high handed sin.
  - 2. An example of one committing a high handed sin (15:32-36)
  - 3. Warning for us – “Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God” (Heb. 3:12).
  
- B. Remember God’s Commandments and Be Holy (Num. 15:37-41)
  - 1. Here they are warned and challenged to prevent high-handed sin by remembering God’s commands and holiness.
  - 2. The tassels remind them– Don’t follow your own heart and eyes.

**III. The Rebellious Levite and Company (Numbers 16)**

- A. Who are the Levites? What is their job?
  
- B. Korah – the Rebellious Levite (16:1-11)
  
- C. Dathan and Abiram’s Rebellion (16:12-15)
  
- D. The Showdown between Korah and the True Priests (16:16-24)
  
- E. Judgment Falls on the Rebels (16:25-35)
  
- F. A Memorial to Say, “Don’t try this at home” (16:36-40)
  
- G. Rebellion of the Congregation & Intercession (16:41-50)
  - 1. We see a true priest doing what a priest does – interceding, making atonement.
  - 2. So, what happens if we approach God our own way, thinking we can be our own priest?

**IV. How This Points to Jesus**

- A. Jesus stands between the living and the dead (Num. 16:48; 1 Cor. 15:54-57)
- B. Do not reject the one the Lord has anointed – Jesus (Num 16:2, 11; Psalm 2).