

Ephesians Series

Lesson #248

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Problem of Rebellion

Ephesians 5:21



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Eph. 5:18, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled by means of the Spirit,”**

πληρόω plēroō
2 plur pres
pass impera
to fill; fulfill

ἐν πνεύματι,
en pneumati,
dative,
means, “by
means of
the Spirit”

Col 3:16, “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you along with all wisdom, **with the results that you are teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” [RD]**

Results:

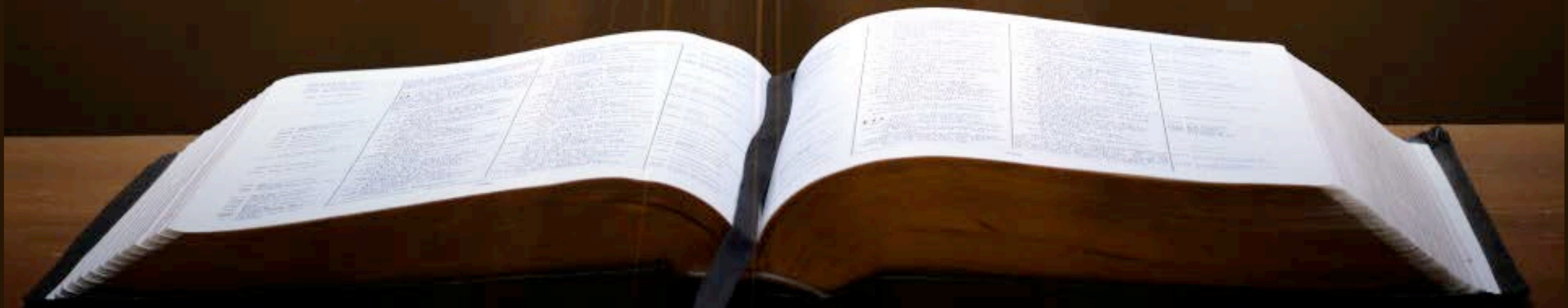
Eph. 5:19, “with the result that you are speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph. 5:20, “with the result that you are giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph. 5:21, “with the result that you are submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

What the Bible Teaches About

Fear of the Lord



1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Prov. 1:7, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Prov. 1:27, “When your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

Prov. 1:28, “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.

Prov. 1:29, “Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,”

Eph. 5:22, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

Eph. 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,”

Eph. 6:1, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”

Eph. 6:4, “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

Eph. 6:5, “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;”

Divine Institutions

Before Sin

- 1. Individual Responsibility to God**
- 2. Marriage**
- 3. Family**

After the Flood

- 4. Human Government**
- 5. Tribal Diversity**

Blessing

- 6. Israel, Worldwide Blessing**

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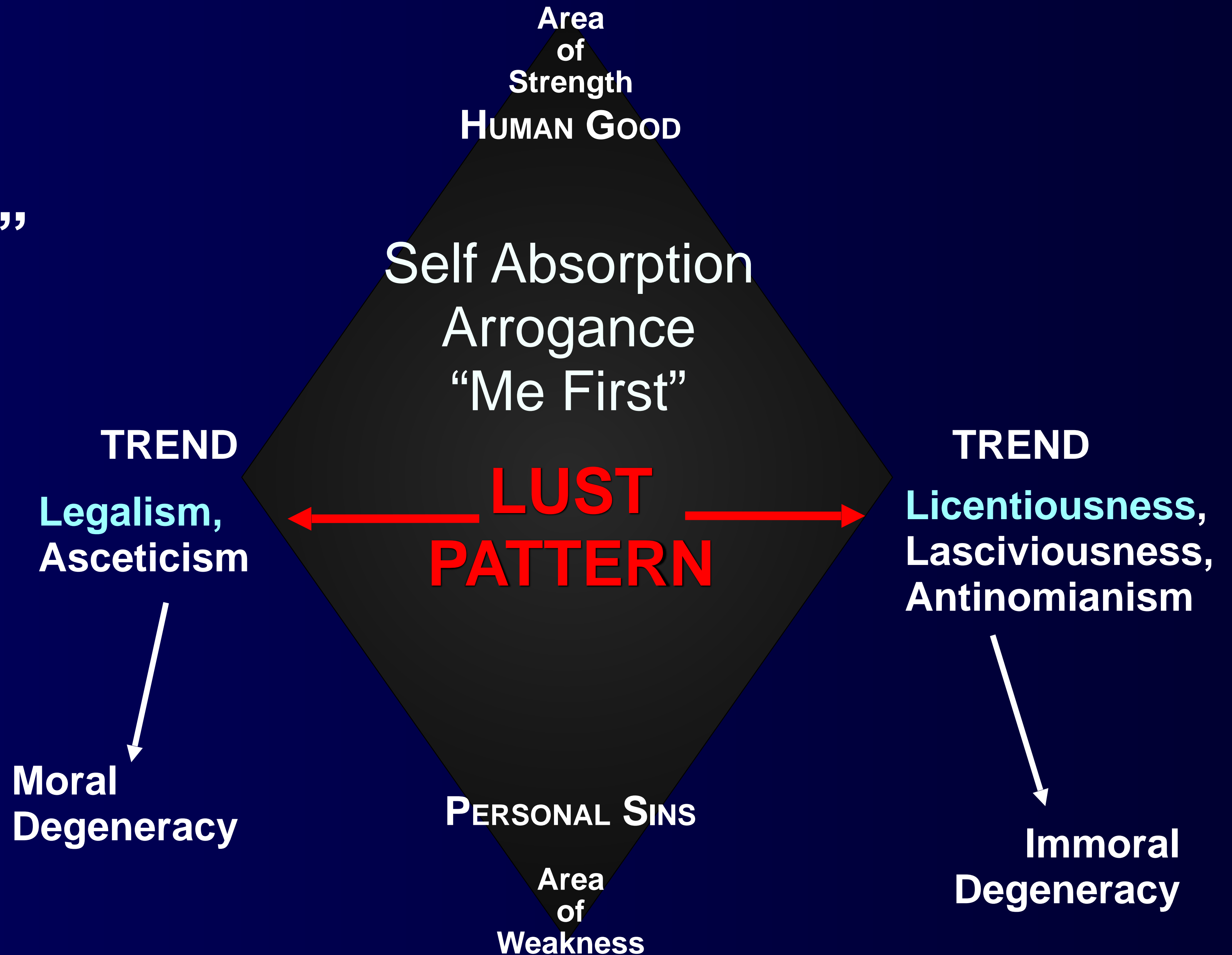
**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Spheres of Authority



The problem:

THE SIN NATURE “the flesh”



The problem: Sin nature lust for approval, recognition, power, authority.

Matt. 20:20, “Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

Matt. 20:21, “And He said to her, ‘What do you wish?’ She said to Him, ‘Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.’ ” [NKJV]

Matt. 20:25 “But Jesus called them to Himself and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.’ ” [NKJV]

**κατεξουσιάζω *katexousiazō*
3 plur pres act indic
to rule over in the sense
of misusing authority, or
to tyrannize**

**κατακυριεύω *katakyrieuō*,
rule over, subjugate,
conquer, be master of,
lord it over**

Matt. 20:26, “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

Matt. 20:27, “And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—

δοῦλος *doulos* slave; servant

Matt. 20:28, “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” [NKJV]

διακονέω *diakoneō*, serve, support

Php. 2:7, “Instead He emptied Himself by taking on the form of a slave (servant), by taking on the likeness of men. (And when He had come as a man, human in His external form [true humanity]), [RD]

Php. 2:8, “And by (or when?) being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” [RD]

Conclusion:

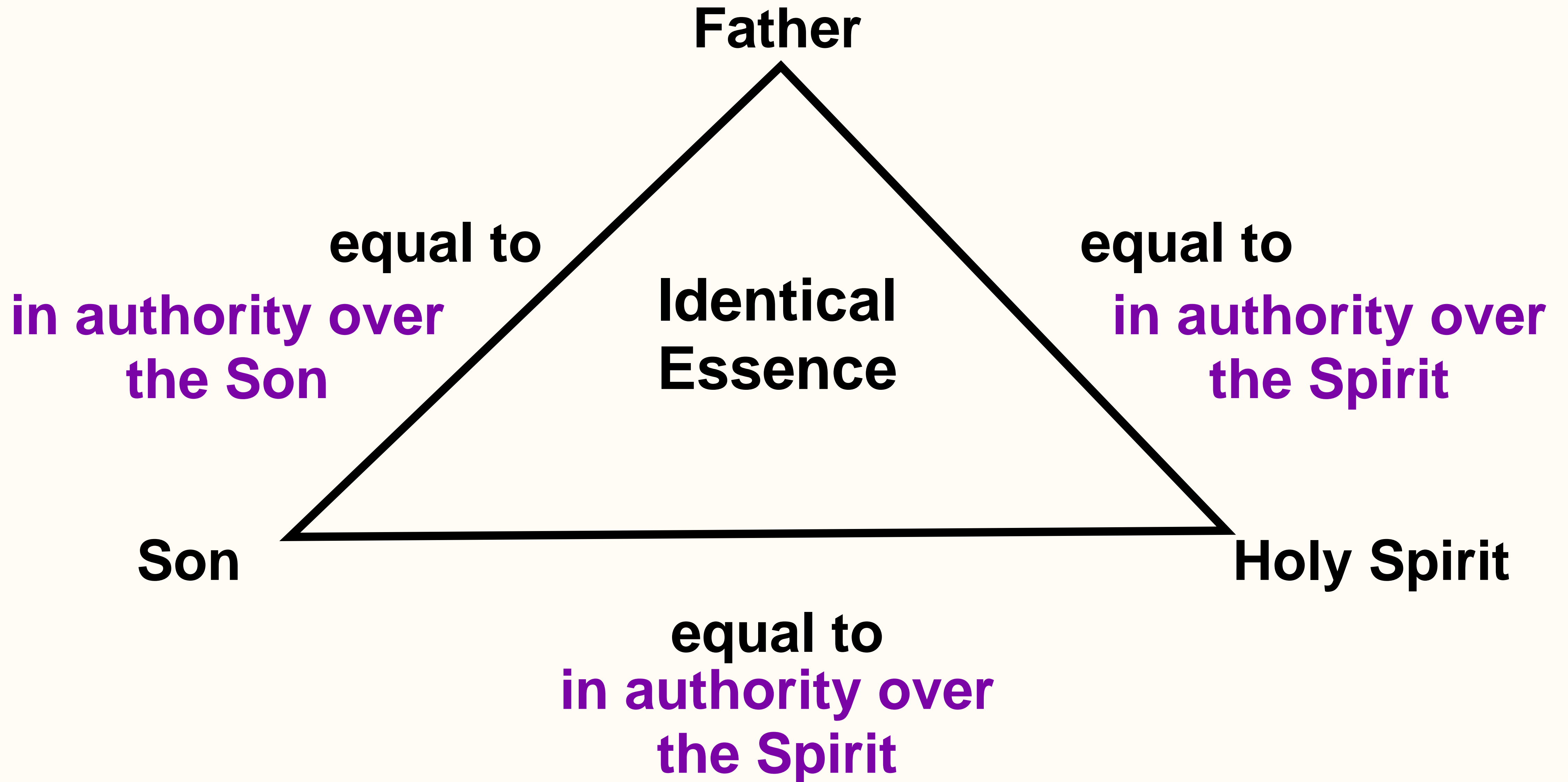
- 1. God institutes spheres of authority within the creation.**
- 2. Because of sin, legitimate authorities frequently misuse and abuse that authority, they exercise their authority in an illegitimate manner.**
- 3. Does this mean that those who are under those authorities have the right to disobey those authorities?**

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

**Authority is Eternal
Trinity**



Authority in the Triune Relationships



John 8:28, “Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.’ ”

Authority Over the Holy Spirit

John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

John 15:26, “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

John 16:7, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

Why Does the Bible Place Such an Emphasis on:

**Authority
Leadership**

**Obedience
Disobedience
Rebellion?**

The first disobedience: the fall of *Helel ben Shachar*

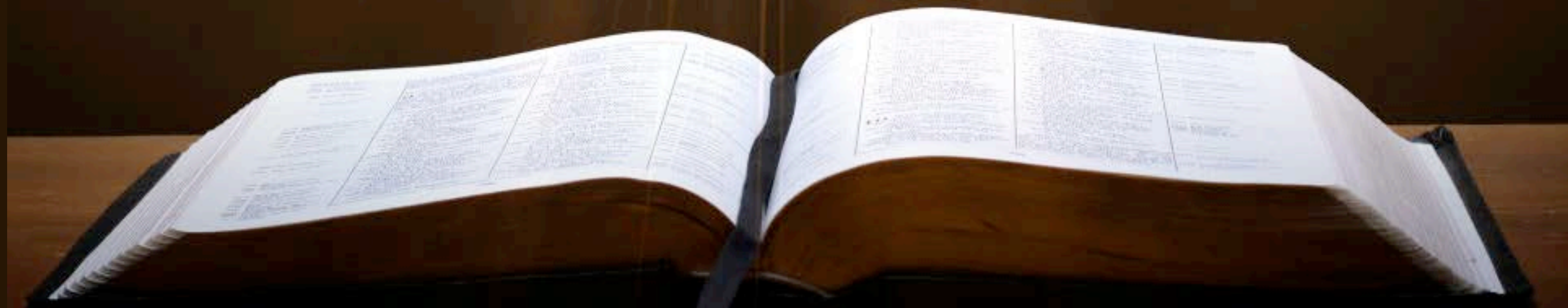
Isa. 14:12, “How you are fallen from heaven, O *Helel, ben Shachar* [‘shining one, son of the dawn’]! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!

Isa. 14:13, “For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;

Isa. 14:14, “ ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ”

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

**God's View of Rebellion
Against Legitimate
Authority**



1 Sam. 15:23, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

1 Sam. 15:23, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

מֶרִי *meri*

**comm masc sing abs
rebellion,
contentiousness**

1 Sam. 15:23, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

Rebellion:

equated to:

witchcraft: fortune telling,

divination: (the functions of)

demonism: seeking guidance from demons rather than God

stubbornness: defiance

iniquity: rebellion against God

idolatry: worship of demons, Deut. 32:17

מֵרִי *meri*

**comm masc sing abs
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Creator-Creature Distinction

1st level
CREATOR
(*Yahweh*)

INFINITE SOVEREIGN *YAHWEH*

2nd level
creature
(man)

- finite
limited
man

Rebellion against *legitimate* authority then is asserting that we, the finite creature, know more about what is best than God.

When it comes to the spheres of authority God has established, rebellion against them is ultimately a rejection of God who established those authorities.

1 Sam. 24:3, “So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)

1 Sam. 24:4, “Then the men of David said to him, ‘This is the day of which the Lord said to you, “Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.”’ And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.”

1 Sam. 24:5, “Now it happened afterward that David’s heart troubled him because he had cut Saul’s robe.”

1 Sam. 24:6, “And he said to his men, ‘The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.’ ” [NKJV]

1 Sam. 26:9, “But David said to Abishai, ‘Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’S anointed, and be guiltless?’ ”

1 Sam. 26:11, “The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go.”

Php. 2:8, “And by (or when?) being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” [RD]

**ταπεινῶ *tapeinoō*
aor act indic 3 sing
“to humble, to see oneself in
proper relation to reality, to
place under authority”**

**γίνομαι *ginomai*
participle aorist middle
deponent nominative
masculine singular**

**“he humbled himself *by
becoming obedient up to
death, even the death on the
cross*”**

Rebellions we have seen:

- 1. *Helel Ben Shachar* (Satan, Lucifer). Isa. 14:12–14;
Ezek. 28:12–18**
- 2. The rebellion of Adam and Eve in the Garden. Gen. 3:1–7**

2. Rebellions in Genesis

- a. Rebellion before the Flood resulted in the annihilation of all but 8 rescued, several billion died. Genesis 6–9**
- b. Rebellion at the Tower of Babel; languages were imposed on the human race. Genesis 11**

3. Rebellions of Israel following the exit from Egypt

Deut. 9:7, “Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

Deut. 9:8, “Also in Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry enough with you to have destroyed you.”

Deut. 9:23, “Likewise, when the LORD sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, ‘Go up and possess the land which I have given you,’ then you rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God, and you did not believe Him nor obey His voice.

Deut. 9:24, “You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.”

Num. 14:22, “because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice,”

Hebrew terms

מָרָה (*mārâ*) be rebellious against, to rebel, to be contentious

לָוַן (*lûn*) murmur against, rebel (against)

a. At the Red Sea

Ex. 14:11, “Then they said to Moses, ‘**Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?**’

Ex. 14:12, “ ‘Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, “Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.’

Ex. 14:13, “And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.’ ”

b. At Marah

Ex. 15:23, “Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.

Ex. 15:24, “And the people complained against Moses, saying, ‘What shall we drink?’

Ex. 15:25, “So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them

Ex. 15:26, “and said, ‘If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.’ ”

c. At Elim

Ex. 16:1, “And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

Ex. 16:2, “Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.” [NKJV]

לָנִין (*lân*) murmur against, rebel (against)

Ex. 16:20, “Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.”

Ex. 16:27, “Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.

Ex. 16:28, “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?’ ”

d. At Rephidim, complained about no water

Ex. 17:1, “Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink.

Ex. 17:2, “Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water, that we may drink.’ So Moses said to them, ‘Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?’

Ex. 17:3, “And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, ‘Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?’ ” [NKJV]

Ex. 17:6, “ ‘Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.’ And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Ex. 17:7, “So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’ ”

e. At Mt. Sinai, Exodus 32:1–10

Ex. 32:1, “Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, ‘Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ ”

Ex. 32:5, “So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.’ ”

Ex. 32:6, “Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”

Ex. 32:26, “then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, ‘Whoever is on the LORD’S side—come to me!’ And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.

Ex. 32:27, “And he said to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.” ’

Ex. 32:28, “So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.”

Deut. 9:7, “Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

Deut. 9:8, “Also in Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry enough with you to have destroyed you.”

Rebellion, contending against a legitimate authority, is viewed by God as an extremely serious sin.