

NUMBERS 16 2025 THE JEALOUSY & REBELLION OF KORAH AGAINST MOSES AND AARON!

10/25/25 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - <https://www.ptwente.com> ptwente@gmail.com 714 425-9221

The Biblical Setting:

- In the preceding chapters, we saw the people complaining. Now we have the jealousy and rebellion of Moses' cousin, Korah.

Num 16:1,3 Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men; [3] They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

- Korah, like many rebels and divisive persons, completely misread the state of the "flock" - because he was not a true shepherd. (Jude 1:11) *Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.*

Num 16:15-22 "Then Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD, "Do not respect their offering. Moses restates his challenge.

- **Then Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD:** After the words of Dathan and Abiram, Moses was angry - *very angry*. He knew he has done nothing to deserve such an accusation, and he did the right thing - he left the situation to God.
- **Moses was a man of political power.** It was certainly within his capability to have Korah and his followers, including Dathan and Abiram, arrested and/or executed. Instead, he left the situation to God.
- **People may not agree that a man like Moses should be angry** with men like Dathan and Abiram. They think a gentle, easy love is the proper response. Such thinking is understandable, but wrong. Shepherds are gentle with wayward sheep who might injure themselves, but they are **passionate against wolves** who would injure the flock.

I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them." [16] And Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company be present before the LORD—you and they, as well as Aaron.

- **I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them:** This shows that Moses was a man of integrity and service to the people. Moses could rest in his clean conscience before God.

[17] Let each take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD, two hundred and fifty censers; both you and Aaron, each with his censer." [18] So every man took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and stood at the door of the tabernacle of meeting with Moses and Aaron. [19] And Korah gathered all the congregation against them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. **Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.** [20] And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

God affirms Moses' leadership over the nation of Israel. God announces judgment on the rebels.

- **Let each take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD:** Herein is the challenge. God would approve or disapprove of these 250 men gathered with censers of incense before the door of the tabernacle.
- **God used the censers with fire and incense in this test for a good reason.** A *censer* is a metal pot used to burn incense, and they were used in the priestly worship of God. Since Korah and his companions **questioned Moses and Aaron's right to lead the nation and conduct the priesthood**, each group would come to the LORD as worshipping priests - and **God would show which group He accepted.**
- **Moses made the rebels take the position they desired - the position of priest.** Often the best judgment on the divisive and rebellious is to let them lead.
- **From man's standpoint, the odds were not good.** It was Moses and Aaron standing alone against **all the congregation**. Yet God would make this choice, and not popular opinion.

[21] "Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment."

- **Separate yourselves:** It is as if God said, "Moses and Aaron, will you please move away? I'm going to destroy all these rebels in an instant, and I don't want you to get hurt."
- **That I may consume them in a moment:** God decided to make His choice immediately evident. Sometimes this is not the case when God deals with modern Korah's and their followers.

[22] Then they fell on their faces, and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh,

The intercession of Moses and Aaron for Korah and the rebels.

- ***Then they fell on their faces:*** This was **amazing love from Moses and Aaron**. Undoubtedly, one of God's reasons for allowing such a painful event in the life of Moses was that God wanted to see this kind love drawn out of Moses.
- ***Again, the importance of prayer is emphasized.*** It seems as if there were no prayer, then the rebellious congregation would be destroyed. We should think that Moses' prayer was essential.

shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?"

- ***Shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation:*** Moses and Aaron saw right through it. Though many were involved (at least more than 250), **one man was at the center of it all** - Korah. His sin, his drawing of a group after himself, was the cause of all this mess.

Num 16:28-29 And Moses said: "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. [29] If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me [30] But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD."

Num 26:10-11 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up together with Korah when that company died, when the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men; and they became a sign. [11] Nevertheless the children of Korah did not die.

SUMMARY:

- Jealousy, primarily in Moses' cousin, Korah, was at the root of the rebellion.
- There is no root of bitterness that needs such careful watching as jealousy!
- We see a wonderful response by Moses in turning this over to the LORD to let Him decide
- How the LORD responded! Note the important intercession of Moses and Aaron! - v. 22

Pray Today For: We thank the *LORD* for a continuing great worldwide harvest! For continuing protection and security of all believers! For a great revival in the Church! For many to come to Jesus! Supreme Court justices: Chief Justice ***John G. Roberts, Jr.***, and Associate Justices ***Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett M. Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett, and Ketanji Brown Jackson;*** President & V.P.: ***Donald & Melania Trump; J.D & Usha Vance.*** The Cabinet and all advisors.

[19b] Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation. [42] Now it happened, when the congregation had gathered against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tabernacle of meeting; and suddenly the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

OH THE GLORY OF HIS PRESENCE! - Steven Fry, Terry Almon (3:58/4:01)

*Oh, the glory of Your presence We Your temple give You reverence
So rise to Your rest And be blessed by our praise As we glory in Your embrace
(as Your presence) As Your presence now fills this place (sing it saints of God)
Oh, the glory of Your presence (come on down as we sing it to Him tonight)
We Your temple we give You reverence (so arise to Your rest)
So arise to Your rest And be blessed by our praise As we glory in Your embrace (yes, Lord)
As Your presence now fills this place (so arise to Your rest) So arise to Your rest
and be blessed by our praise As we glory in Your embrace As Your presence
now fills this place! Hallelujah! Give Him glory all ye people!*