

Numbers 16

King James Version (KJV)

16 Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men: (This was Korah's rebellion against Moses. Korah was Moses' cousin)

(God chooses who He will. Korah's rebellion against Moses was an insurrection against God's authority)

²And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: (Family heads, leaders within tribes)

³And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? (Moses didn't lift himself up, God lifted him up)

Exodus-19:5-6 (That promise had an "if" condition. They certainly didn't meet the condition. They just got thrown out of the Promised Land for one generation. These guys are anything but holy)

⁴And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face: (Moses realized that Korah and his followers had just rebelled against God. He knew that there would be judgment)

⁵And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him. (God chooses; men don't)

⁶This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company; (Korah and his men were not authorized to go into the sanctuary and offer incense. God will punish them) (Korah was a Levite – a cousin to Moses. He thought that he should be High Priest)

⁷And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD to morrow: and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi. (Only the priests that were consecrated by God had the authority to do this)

⁸ And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi: (Moses is separating the Levites from the Reubenites, who had also joined Korah's rebellion)

⁹ Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them? (Moses was trying to talk some sense into them before it was too late)

¹⁰ And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also? (Korah is power grabbing. God won't tolerate it)

¹¹ For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him? (Aaron was the chosen High Priest. God chose him)

¹² And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up: (These are Reubenites, who are also rebelling. They want Korah to take over the priesthood, and they want to take over the government. That is why they sided with Korah)

(Reuben was first born, but lost his double portion because he had sex with his father's concubine, Bilhah. The Reubenites descendants always thought they should have led the government after Jacob died; because Reuben was the first born of Jacob)

¹³ Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us? (Spoken in sarcasm about Egypt)

¹⁴ Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up. (Their own disbelief in God's orders is why they are still in the wilderness. They refused to go in when God told them to. Now they blame Moses for their own doubts)

¹⁵ And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them. (Moses took nothing from them; no payment of any kind. Moses was an honest man who did what God asked him to do)

¹⁶ And Moses said unto Korah, Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, to morrow: (Let God Judge. Moses is done trying to talk some sense into Korah)

¹⁷ And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer. (Burning incense to God was a special duty; only reserved for the priests)

¹⁸ And they took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood in the door of the tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron. (Korah and his followers are way out of line on this)

¹⁹ And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation. (He is turning all of Israel unto his side against Moses)

²⁰ And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

²¹ Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. (God is going to kill all the Israelites)

²² And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation? (Moses is asking God to spare the innocents in the people, and only punish the guilty)

²³ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

²⁴ Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. (God agrees)

²⁵ And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. (The two Reubenites who are working with Korah against Moses)

²⁶ And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of their's, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.

²⁷ So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the

door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. (The families should have listened to Moses. They didn't)

²⁸ And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind. (Moses is just obeying God. He didn't choose to lead Israel. God chose him)

²⁹ If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

³⁰ But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. (quick = alive) (pit – usually translated as hell or the grave; Hell is the grave for souls. The soul dies when someone goes to hell they cease to exist)

³¹ And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

³² And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. (God wiped them out in one fell swoop)

See Revelation-12:16 (This will happen again in the end days, when antichrist is here on earth)

³³ They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation. (Just as Moses foretold them)

Chapter-26:11 (Some of Korah's relatives must have sided with Moses, because they are numbered in that chapter. Not all his relatives died as he did)

³⁴ And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also. (It was a traumatic thing to witness)

³⁵ And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense. (These were the fake priests that Korah had appointed. They all died for following Korah)

³⁶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

³⁷ Speak unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, that he take up the censers out of the burning, and scatter thou the fire yonder; for they are hallowed. (God's fire had melted them, so they were holy)

³⁸ The censers of these sinners against their own souls, let them make them broad plates for a covering of the altar: for they offered them before the LORD, therefore they are hallowed: and they shall be a sign unto the children of Israel. (This is the altar of burnt offerings) (This would be a warning to anyone else who would try to do what Korah did)

³⁹ And Eleazar the priest took the brasen censers, wherewith they that were burnt had offered; and they were made broad plates for a covering of the altar:

⁴⁰ To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses. (Not all of Korah's descendants were destroyed; only those that followed Korah. Later some Korathites would be musicians in the temple)

⁴¹ But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD. (They are siding against Moses; after seeing all that they saw the day before. They must have thought that Moses did that to Korah)

⁴² And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

⁴³ And Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation.

⁴⁴ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

⁴⁵ Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces. (God still wants to kill them all. HE has had it with them)

⁴⁶ And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun. (Moses is again trying to intercede for the sins of the people)

⁴⁷ And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people.

⁴⁸ And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed. (God accepted Aaron's offering and stopped the plague)

⁴⁹ Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah.

⁵⁰ And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the plague was stayed. (Will the people finally learn that God is in charge? Probably not)