

1. Who rose up before Moses? (v1-2)
2. How many leaders of the congregation were with them? (v2)
3. What was their complaint against Moses? (v3)
4. What did Moses do when he heard it? (v4)
5. Who would show who was holy? (v5)
6. What were they to burn in their censors? (v6-7)
7. What work were the son's of Levi doing? (v9)
8. What were they seeking? (v10)
9. What did Dathan and Abiram say when Moses called them up? (v12)
10. Where did they gather to burn incense? (v18)
11. Who did Korah gather at the door of the tabernacle? (v19)
12. What appeared to all the congregation? (v19)

13. What did Moses tell the congregation? (v26)

14. How would the people know that Korah, Dathan, and Abiram had rejected the Lord? (v30)

15. What happened to them? (v31-33)

16. What happened to the 250 men that were with them? (v35)

17. How did the people complain against Moses? (v41)

18. What did the Lord tell Moses? (v44-45)

19. How was Aaron to make atonement for the people? (v46-47)

20. Where did Aaron stand? (v48)

21. How many died in the plague? (v49)

**Obedience-Knowing God's Promises, Rewards and
Punishment**
Numbers 16:1-50

Definitions:

1. Congregation - Vs.2
2. Men of Reknown - Vs.2
3. Censors - Vs.6

Questions/Fill in the Blank:

1. _____ the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with
_____ and _____, the sons of Eliab, the son of
Peleth, sons of Reuben, took action and rose up against _____ and
_____. Vs.1
2. Also some _____ leaders of the congregation. Vs.2
3. When Moses heard Korah's complaint, he fell on his face, and told Korah, "Tomorrow
morning the Lord will show who is _____. Vs.4
4. Moses told Korah and his company to take their _____ and put
fire in them, and lay incense upon them. Vs.6-7
5. Who did the Lord choose? _____.
6. Korah and his company were from what tribe? _____. Vs.7
7. Dathan, Abiram and the sons of Eliab complained about what? _____
_____. Vs.12-13

8. There were two hundred and fifty firepans at the doorway of the _____
of _____ with Moses and Aaron. Vs. 17-18
9. And the _____ of the Lord appeared to all the congregation. Vs.19
10. Then the Lord told Moses and Aaron to separate themselves from among the
congregation so that he may _____ them instantly. Vs.20-21
11. Did the Lord consume them instantly? _____.
12. Instead Moses told the congregation not to touch anything that belonged to
_____, _____ and _____. Vs.24-27
13. What happened to the three men and their families? _____.
14. What happened to the 250 men who offered incense? _____
_____. Vs.35
15. Eleazar, son of Aaron, took the bronze censers, which were hammered out to a
_____, as a reminder that no layman should come near to burn
incense before the Lord. Vs.39-40
16. The next day all the congregation grumbled against Moses and Aaron so the Lord
caused a _____ among the people. Vs. 47
17. Why did the people grumble against Moses and Aaron? _____
_____. Vs.41
18. Those who died by the plaque were _____. Vs.49

People from the Old Testament

OVPHTIVIFDAHCNDXLAZLARTLDDFN IW
 JMZA AVL YDFAMCPYSGUXIFHQWGA KPHZ
 OHINZAKDEYCXBAYMSRADATRBWECRKL
 SVVNRBRJONAHFPZXTJCNLOYWJSNZLA
 ELOAKOKOWQTYRWA IKTQNJLZHVTWLET
 POEHFCKJNJHREWRLRLWOGJQGYHQDRF
 HRYNAHGDCWASWQMROLNCABELVEGQEO
 THTFYAMSTXRDNMZCZAWVXAHHARTWBO
 PUXZWBYQYAPDMWXTMOUFPPKNOAHEC
 GIDEONAVEHSPOVPHCMKWVJXYOVDQKR
 NRCWIRENMHLIIISAFPEIEJOSHUA OFAU
 ZBRRUMLOLTBATNKJEE LSHAIMEREJHE
 QVWSHISAUUOPQWRDOIPJHVEUQJFLQS
 JISYBENKARJLBKAWSHFBRMKT KZC IQA
 DMTNSOVPSDANIELHFFZHKBAUVUIIUU
 ZKMOVIC EEPBAGSAGFLUYCAXEPEVXIE
 NCJSEIBVHWUZPTSTNOACORSFLBIQPE
 NBMMDSTEMYBHMQMVLAKCTORACHELG V
 DMUAYEWN RVGD AEUXEQZTRWCALEBBXU
 PSFSLQRZBUFOHNZQUXVWFTVURWJHLE
 XNAWKBEBSGLGAONKMJACOB CENPDLCB
 BIRMETZXGXCIRCQCAZNQXXXAFWGVPS
 XMWAHAIMEHENBHTSSMADAZFIIDMZHC
 XAETMCARVVHKALNOWFPWIQDHMNUYMG
 BJKFBIZURXUHMILFAIWINICXGZCHN
 ONHNF BKLWCTIDASOV MUXKIVELRTGFT
 BEYNJISAACYDGUQMHQCKCTAQSJKJ MZ
 JBOBAGZMXHLNRJOOGHAISIDOOMGZZN
 OMLNLSAYQKJDDKANNVQWANVMRARAAN
 KHMTPHWPSTBJULELIJAHHA KRNUMWSD

Aaron	Esau	Jonathan	Samuel
Abel	Esther	Joseph	Sarah
Abraham	Eve	Joshua	Saul
Adam	Gideon	Leah	Solomon
Benjamin	Hannah	Lot	
Cain	Isaac	Moses	
Caleb	Ishmael	Nehemiah	
Daniel	Isiah	Noah	
David	Jacob	Rachel	
Elijah	Jeremiah	Rebekah	
Elisha	Job	Ruth	
Enoch	Jonah	Samson	

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Lesson 3

The Rebellion of Korah

Numbers 16-17

The people of Israel had now wandered for many years in the wilderness. They remembered that God had told Moses they would wander forty years.

MD 3-1 Korah and his followers come before Moses

During their wanderings, many in the camp began to rebel and to talk angrily against Moses and Aaron. "Why should we have to listen to old Moses and Aaron? They've made a mess of everything! Why should Moses be our leader anyway? Who do he and Aaron think they are?"

Korah, a prince in Israel who was well known and well liked by the people, was the leader of this rebellion. He thought he was as great a leader as Moses and Aaron. As time passed, Korah grew more and more jealous of Moses and Aaron as he allowed wrong and critical thoughts to fill his mind. Korah belonged to the tribe of Levi, just as Moses and Aaron did. "I'm a Levite just like Aaron," Korah said, "I'm just as good as he. Why is he our leader? I can be as good a leader as he."

When the Tabernacle, Israel's place of worship, was built, God had chosen the tribe of Levi to care for it. And God appointed Aaron to be the High Priest and Aaron's sons to be priests in the Tabernacle. Only Moses, Aaron the High Priest, and the other priests were allowed to enter the Holy Place of the Tabernacle.

Two other men of Israel, Dathan and Abiram, were also jealous, resentful, and critical of Aaron; they told Korah, "You know, we could be just as great a leader as Moses or Aaron is." The three men, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, continued talking against Moses and Aaron and stirring up resentment among the people of Israel. They found 250 other princes of Israel, well known and well liked by the people, who felt the same way as they did, and all of them together stirred up a rebellion against Moses' leadership.

Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and the 250 princes went to Moses and Aaron and said, "We have had enough of your proud and insolent dictatorship; you are not better than anyone else; everyone in Israel has been chosen of the Lord. We are all God's people, He is with all of us, and we are just as important as you are! What right do you have to make yourselves leaders of this congregation, claiming that we must obey you and acting as though you were greater than anyone else among all these people of the Lord!"

These men tried to make it appear that Moses and Aaron had "taken over" or forced their position of leadership that they occupied in the camp and were interfering with the rights of the people! In truth, God had given Moses and Aaron their positions of leadership, and speaking against them like this showed rebellion against God's appointed leadership.

MD 1-3 (Use again) Moses falls to the ground

When Moses heard their words of rebellion, he fell face downward on the ground. He had not tried to be great, but he knew God had chosen him to be the leader. He knew, too, that God had chosen Aaron to be the High Priest. These people were arguing that they did not want Aaron as High Priest—since all the people of Israel were holy. Moses knew that they were not speaking against

him and Aaron, but against God and His appointed plan of leadership. As usual Moses did not fight for himself in any way, but he knew that the Lord would have to decide the whole matter. So Moses took the problem to the Lord in prayer by asking God to take care of the matter; he believed that God was well able to take care of the whole situation.

MD 3-1 (Use again) Moses replies to Korah

Moses told Korah and those who were with him, "Tomorrow the Lord will show you whom He has chosen and who is holy. Bring censers with fire and incense before the Lord, and He will make us know unmistakably who are His and whom He has chosen. You are the insolent ones, you sons of Levi!" Then he added a rebuke to these rebels for not appreciating the honor that God had bestowed upon them: "Don't you realize that it is no small thing that the Lord has chosen you to care for His Tabernacle and to minister to the congregation? Is it nothing to you that He has given only this task to you Levites? He has let you be near to Him, but now you are demanding the priesthood, also, and that is what you are really after! You resent Aaron's being the High Priest; you want to be the High Priest!" Moses also reminded them that they should have no hard feelings against Aaron, for the same God Who had selected them for the service of the Tabernacle had selected Aaron to be the High Priest.

Then Moses sent messengers to bring the other two conspirators, Dathan and Abiram, to the Tabernacle to also appear before the Lord, but they refused to come. Instead, they sent back this impudent message, mimicking Moses: "Is it a small thing that you made us leave the good land of Egypt to kill us here in this terrible wilderness, and that now you want to make yourself our king and rule over us? What's more, you haven't brought us into the wonderful Land of Promise, nor have you given us fields and vineyards. NO, we will not come."

Moses was very angry: to think that they spoke of Egypt, the land of their bondage, as "good" and said that Moses made them leave Egypt! Moses knew that the time of their testing and judgment had come. God's whole plan of leadership was now in question. If the rebels had their way, all God's plan for Israel would be lost.

As usual, Moses talked to the Lord about it. Then he reminded Korah again, "You, your company, and Aaron, bring your censers before the Lord tomorrow."

That night the whole camp was filled with excited rumors. In hundreds of tents, bitter, angry words were spoken. Friends of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram went everywhere, urging everybody to meet at the Tabernacle in the morning to see the end of Moses and his tyranny! Again God gave the rebels time to judge themselves—for they had all that night till early the next morning. But they did not correct their problem; they just strengthened themselves in their rebellion.

MD 3-2 The people appear before the Tabernacle with censers

The next morning they came: Korah, his company, and the congregation of Israel assembled at the door of the Tabernacle. But Dathan and Abiram were not there, for

in their insolent rebellion they would not even come to appear before the Lord. There, at the gate of the Tabernacle, the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people, and the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Get away from these people so that I may instantly destroy them!"

But Moses and Aaron fell on their faces and prayed, "O God, do not punish all the congregation for the sin of one man."

And the Lord said to Moses, "Then, tell the people to get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram."

MD 3-3 Moses goes to the tents of Dathan, Abiram, and Korah

Moses, followed closely by the leaders of Israel, went through the crowd until he came to the tents of Dathan and Abiram, who stood defiantly with their wives and children at the door of their tents. Korah went to join his wife and children, and they stood by their tent door. "Stand back, stand back!" Moses called to the throng of onlookers. "Get away from the tents of these wicked men, and don't touch anything that belongs to them, lest you be destroyed because of all their sins." So the people moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

Then Moses said, "This is how you will know that the Lord has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my own idea; God shall prove whether I have ruled by God's command or whether I have chosen myself as the ruler. If these men die a natural death from some ordinary accident or disease, then the Lord has not sent me. But, if the Lord causes the ground to open up and swallow them and everything that belongs to them and they go down alive into the pit, then you will know that these men have insulted the Lord and that God has not chosen them as leaders of Israel."

MD 3-4 The earth swallows the rebels

Moses had hardly finished speaking when there was a terrible roar, and the ground under the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram began suddenly to split wide open; the earth immediately opened and swallowed the rebels up, along with their tents, their possessions, and their families. All those who gathered with Moses saw it happen before their very eyes. So the three men and their families went down alive into the pit with everything they owned, and the earth closed together over them, and they perished.

Shrieks of panic filled the air as the people of Israel fled, fearing that the earth would also swallow them up.

Then fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men who had brought their censers with incense. The Lord told Moses to have the 250 brass censers flattened to cover the altar, for "they are holy, dedicated to the Lord." The people would later see the brass covering on the altar and remember that only Aaron and his descendants were chosen to offer incense before the Lord. So this question of only the priests having the right to offer incense was decided in a way never to be forgotten.

One would think that after this terrible experience the people would be careful how they spoke against Moses

and Aaron; but on the morrow most of the people sympathized with Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and with the 250 princes who had died; therefore the people murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the Lord's people."

As the people complained against Moses and Aaron, people began to fall down right and left all through the crowd. Moses cried out to Aaron, "There is anger gone out from the Lord—the plague has already begun!" And indeed it had. Nearly 15,000 people died in the plague. But Aaron "stood between the living and the dead," making an atonement offering for them, and the plague stopped.

The great rebellion was finally over. God had judged the people of Israel because they sympathized with evildoers. We need to learn to never sympathize with wrongdoers when they are punished for their wrongdoing; God doesn't like "misplaced sympathy." A total of 15,000 people had died in the plague that day, besides those who had died when the earth opened and the 250 that were consumed by fire. What terrible punishments God had to give before the people learned the lesson!

MD 3-5 Aaron's rod buds

God told Moses that He would settle the question of Aaron as God's chosen High Priest once and for all. Let us see how He did it. God instructed Moses to tell a leader from each tribe of Israel to come to the Tabernacle, bringing his rod with him. The twelve men came with their rods, and Moses was instructed to write the name of each leader on each rod.

"On the rod for the tribe of Levi, write Aaron's name," God commanded. "Put these rods in the inner room of the Tabernacle where I meet with you, in front of the Ark. I will use these rods to show clearly the man I have chosen; for blossoms will grow on the rod of the man whom I shall choose. Then at last this murmuring and complaining against you will stop!"

So the rods were left overnight in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle. The men returned to their tents. The next morning, when Moses went into the Tabernacle, he found that Aaron's rod, from the tribe of Levi, had budded and was also blossoming with flowers and even had ripe almonds on it. This was indeed a miracle of God! The other rods remained the same dead sticks as before! There was no doubt now that God had clearly showed that Aaron was God's appointed High Priest, and Moses was God's appointed leadership. God settled it by this sign: bringing life out of the dead stick, making the dead rod to have life to bud, to blossom, and to bring forth fruit.

So also the question as to whom God has appointed to be our great High Priest is settled by the same sign—*making the dead come to life*. The resurrection of Jesus Christ proved that Jesus is who He claimed to be, the Son of God.

God commanded Moses to keep Aaron's rod that budded, blossomed, and had almonds on it in the Ark of the Tabernacle, so the people would never forget that He had chosen Aaron and his sons to be His priests. God wanted them and us to learn the important lesson that it is God who sets up His leadership and that we are to respect His appointed leadership. □