

Korah, Dathan and Abiram

Quote:

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”

Philippians 2:3, 4

Bible Marking (Mark in the margin adjacent to the verses indicated)

Numbers 16:1 - **“Korah”** - Means “bald” or “smooth” (proved a smooth talker). A prominent descendant of Kohath, one of the sons of Levi. First cousin to Moses and Aaron (**Exod. 6:18-21; 1 Chron. 6:2-3**). Very wealthy, and a most eloquent public speaker (Josephus). He envied Moses and Aaron because of the positions they held (Psalm 106:16), and planned to wrest the power from them.

“Izhar” - means “oil” or anointed”.

“Kohath” - This family had the honour of serving in the transport of the tabernacle (**Num 4:4-20**).

“Dathan” - Means - “Their Law”. He proved disobedient to this law.

“Abiram” - the original name of Abraham (Abram) before God changed it. He certainly was not a follower of Abraham (mns - “Lofty father”).

“Eliab” - Means “Ail (or God) is father”. Their actions showed they were not the children of God.

“On the son of Peleth” - “On” means “power, ability or strength”, while “Peleth” means “flee, swiftness or escape”. He had the strength of character to see the folly of this revolt and flee from it, because we hear nothing more from him in this incident.

“sons of Reuben” - It would appear that the sons of Reuben camped close by the Kohathites. This is a possible explanation as to why these two groups joined forces.

Numbers 16 - The Suppression of Korah's Rebellion

vv1-3 - The Standard Of Revolt Raised Against Moses

vv4-11 - The Challenge Of The Levites

vv12-15 - Dathan and Abiram Reject Moses' Appeal

vv16-19 - The Contest With Korah

vv20-22 - Yahweh's Endorsement Of Moses And

Aaron

vv23-35 - Divine Judgment

vv36-40 - The Memorial of the Altar

vv41-45 - Further Murmuring And Revolt

vv46-50 - The Efficacy Of Aaron's Intercession

Numbers 17 - Endorsement of Aaron's Status as High Priest

vv1-5 - The Murmurers Are Challenged

vv6-9 - Aaron's Rod Produces Almonds

vv10-13 - Vindication Of Aaron's Appointment

The Sons of Korah - Num 26:11 (Mark above Numbers 16)

The descendants of Korah became very prominent in Israel. "Samuel the prophet, and Heman the singer" were descendants of Korah (1 Chron. 6:33-37). The descendants of Heman were honoured by King David by being appointed as singers for the Temple worship (1 Chron. 15:17; 16:41-42; 25:1-5), so that we find that some of the Psalms are dedicated to 'the sons of Korah' (Psa. 42,44,45,46, etc.). Other descendants of Korah were made gate-keepers (1 Chron. 9:19; 26:19) and bakers for the Sanctuary, preparing the shewbread and sacrificial cakes (1 Chron. 9:31-32). Therefore, although Korah himself was held in dishonour, his sons became faithful servants of Yahweh over many generations. Perhaps the reason they stood apart was the faithful influence of Phinehas who was ruler over them (1 Chron 9:19-20).

Aaron's Rod That Budded (Mark above Numbers 17)

Aaron's Rod spoke not only of divine selection, but also of resurrection (shown by the budding dead rod) as proof of divine selection (Rom 1:4). This was to be a "token to the rebels" (Num 17:10). It showed Aaron to be Yahweh's chosen High Priest. Nearly 15,000 people had died through the revolt of Korah. As a result, death was very much drawn to the attention of the Israelites. God was showing the people that death could be overcome through the appointed High Priest whom He would send. As the budding almond rod pointed forward to the resurrection of Christ, our High Priest, so the action of Moses in laying it up in the Most Holy Place pointed forward to the Lord's