



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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rest of his life. He tried to excuse his way out of the job.

While it is true that many in the work of God get to the point where they are trying to build a kingdom or a name for themselves, in most cases it is not true. They are simply servants. The reaction of Moses is one that shows his heart. Notice *Numbers 16:4* **And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face...** Moses falls on his face before God. How

III- Instructions, Reminder and Rebuke:

Moses tells them to get ready because God would show His will tomorrow. They were to prepare to make an offering to God of fire.

Numbers 16:5 **And 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. 6 This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company; 7 And 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.**

Remember also that the sons of Levi, of which Korah was one, were given very special tasks of service in the tabernacle. Moses reminds Korah of this in *Numbers 16:8* **And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi: 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? 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? 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?**

Moses asks that Dathan and Abiram come up and meet but they refuse to do so. *Numbers 16:12* **And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up.** This makes Moses very wroth and he in fact they accuse him of stealing and Moses pleads his case before God. (Numbers 16:13-15)

IV- Moses Stands in Gap:

The men, all 250 of them, gather the next day with a censer of fire and incense. The God of the universe is angry with these who are fighting against His leaders and tells Moses and Aaron to separate from the congregation of Israel so He can kill them. *Numbers 16:19* **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.**

Moses intercedes on their behalf recorded in *Numbers 16:20* **And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 21 Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume**



Coordinates:

Numbers 16:1-17:13

Sights to See:

- 1- God places men in leadership to suit His plan and purpose.
- 2- Most men would not choose the calling of God on their lives.
- 3- When God calls we must be faithful to answer the call even knowing the high cost of leadership.
- 4- God is never pleased when those on whom His hand is placed for leadership are reject and murmured against.
- 5- Many times those who are the cause of murmuring and dissatisfaction see things from a different perspective. We must learn to see from God's perspective not ours.
- 6- Leaders are called to stand in the gap between God and the ones they attempt to lead.



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them in a moment. 22 And they [Moses and Aaron] 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 then is told to speak to the congregation to separate from the ones who are leading the insurrection. *Numbers 16:23 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. 25 And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. 26 And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.*

After the people separate from these men, they come and stand in their tent door. Moses cries to the people that if these men die from old age or from natural causes then Moses was not sent by God. He then says if the earth swallows them up then the people will know he was.

Numbers 16:30 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.

Now this was a bold statement. Moses was saying that it is coming to a head. There must have been silence hanging over the entire camp waiting to see what would happen.

V- The Earth Swallows the Rebels

The wait was not long. *Numbers 16:31 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. 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.*

This caused the children of Israel to flee in fear back from the crevasse that opened up. God was not done yet however. Notice the next judgment that fell. *Numbers 16:35 And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.*

The brasen censers that the 250 men had carried the fire in were used as a reminder to the children of Israel of this event. Notice what Aaron's son Eleazar the priest was told to do. *Numbers 16:39 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.*

These men paid a great price for rebelling against the leadership that God had raised up. By the way it not only cost these men but their wives and children as well.

VI- A New Day a New Complaint:

Now, certainly the children of Israel would be forever changed, one would think. They had seen the men die by the act of God. Or was that what they saw. Notice the next day.

Numbers 16:41 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. (my emphasis) Their perspective was that Moses had killed the people of the Lord. We is this not an interesting perspective. The leadership is blamed for what God did. Moses, remember, had been the one that kept God from killing them all. What would happen because of the complaint this time?



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Moses again is told by God to separate from the people so He could destroy them. I believe this is at least three times that God was going to severely judge them all collective with death. Moses again stands in the gap. Notice the narrative in Scriptures. *Numbers 16:42 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.*

Moses tells Aaron to run into the congregation with fire and incense to make atonement for them. *Numbers 16:47 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. 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.* Another 14,700 people died the next day after not repenting, remember repenting means we turn from our evil ways.

VII- Reaffirming Aaron as Priest:

The next even that we need to see before we leave this Way Point is found in Numbers 17. Remember that Aaron as well as Moses was the subject of the ridicule and rebellion. God is going to affirm the leadership of Aaron and the Levitical priesthood in a very supernatural dramatic way.

Numbers 17:1-13 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod. 3 And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers. They were to take a total of 12 rods. These were staffs or branches that represented the twelve tribes with names written on them. They were to be placed in the tabernacle of the Lord. *Numbers 16:5 And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.*

The purpose was that God would show whom He had chosen that they would quit murmuring against Moses. When they murmured against Moses they were in fact murmuring against God.

Numbers 16:8 And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. Aaron rod budded, bloomed and had almonds on it, overnight.

The rod of Aaron was to be placed as a reminder to the people to stop murmuring against the leadership of God. *Numbers 16:10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.* We are told in *Hebrews 9:3-4 ...after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; 4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant.*

This was a continual reminder to not murmur against the God's hand on the leadership.