

REBELLIONS AGAINST MOSES AND AARON
(Numbers 16-17)

Parts:	Korah	2nd man	Moses	Narrator
	Dathan	3rd man	The Lord	
	Abiram	(4th man)	1st man	
	Aaron	Eleazar	(Elder)	

Narrator 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; and they rose up before Moses with...two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation.... The gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them,

Korah You take too much upon yourselves,

Dathan for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them.

Abiram Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of the Lord?

Narrator So when Moses heard it, he fell on his face; and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying,

Moses Tomorrow morning the Lord will show who is His and who is holy, and will cause him to come near to Him; that one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him. Do this; Take censers, Korah and all your company; put fire in them and put incense in them before the Lord tomorrow, and it shall be that the man whom the Lord chooses shall be the holy one. You take too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi!

Narrator Then Moses said to Korah,

Moses Hear now, you sons of Levi: Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the Lord...? And

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- are you seeking the priesthood also? Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the Lord....
- Narrator And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram...but they said,
- Dathan We will not come up!
- Abiram Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you should keep acting like a prince over us?
- Dathan Moreover you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men?
- Abiram We will not come up!
- Narrator Then Moses was very angry, and said to the Lord,
- Moses Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them.
- Narrator And Moses said to Korah,
- Moses Tomorrow, you and all your company be present before the Lord--you and they, as well as Aaron. Each of you take his censer and put incense in it...two hundred and fifty censers....
- Narrator 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....Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the congregation. And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,
- The Lord Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.
- Narrator Then they fell on their faces and said,
- Aaron O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh,

- Moses shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?
- Narrator So the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,
- The Lord Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.'
- Narrator Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. And he spoke to the congregation, saying,
- Moses Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins.
- Narrator So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children. Then Moses said:
- Moses 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. 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. 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.
- Narrator Then it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; and the earth closed over them....
- (Korah, Dathan, and Abiram may cry out as they sink down into the pit.)*
- Narrator Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said,
- 1st man Lest the earth swallow us up also!

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- Narrator And a fire came out from the Lord and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense. Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:
- The Lord Tell Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, to pick up the censers out of the blaze, for they are holy, and scatter the fire some distance away. The censers of these men who sinned against their own souls, let them be made into hammered plates as a covering for the altar....
- Narrator So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers...and they were hammered out as a covering on the altar, to be a memorial to the children of Israel that no outsider, who is not a descendant of Aaron, should come near to offer incense before the Lord....
- On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying,
- 2nd man You have killed the people of the Lord.
- Narrator Now it happened....that they turned toward the tabernacle of meeting; and suddenly the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared.... And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,
- The Lord Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.
- Narrator And they fell on their faces. So Moses said to Aaron,
- Moses Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the Lord. The plague has begun.
- Narrator Then Aaron took it as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped. Now those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident. So Aaron

returned to Moses at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, for the plague had stopped.

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

The Lord Speak to the children of Israel, and get from them a rod from each father's house, all their leaders...--twelve rods. Write each man's name on his rod. And you shall write Aaron's name on the rod of Levi.... Then you shall place them in the tabernacle of meeting before the testimony, where I meet with you. And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom; thus I will rid Myself of the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against you.

Narrator So Moses spoke to the children of Israel, and each of their leaders gave him a rod apiece.... And Moses placed the rods before the Lord in the tabernacle of witness. Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds. Then Moses brought out all the rods from before the Lord to all the children of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his rod. And the Lord said to Moses,

The Lord Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their murmurings away from me lest they die.

Narrator Thus did Moses; just as the Lord had commanded him, so he did. And the children of Israel spoke to Moses, saying,

1st man Surely we die,

2nd man we perish,

3rd man we all perish!

1st man Whoever even comes near the tabernacle of the Lord must die.

3rd man Shall we all utterly die?