



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## NUMBERS 16:1-14

### KORAH'S REBELLION— November 14, 2021

#### INTRODUCTION:

**NUMBERS 15:1-41** The LORD instructs Moses to give additional regulations: rules about sacrifices: what they were to offer and how to offer the sacrifices unto God when they come into the Promised Land. These rules and laws showed that they could not live any kind of way, but they had to live as God's people in the Promised Land. This goes for the Israelite as well as the foreigner living among them. One law for all. If a mistake or error had been made, Moses is to tell them what to do to receive atonement. 'But if someone sins defiantly, that person is guilty of blasphemy against God. They cannot live among the people, and that goes for the Israelite as well as the foreigner among them. And if they worked on the Sabbath, it was a very serious crime because this would be defiantly sinning against God, and that's something they were supposed to know (Exodus 31:15; 35:2-3), and punishment would be death. Moses was to tell the people of Israel to make tassels for the hems of their clothes (this is a permanent regulation from generation to generation)... attach the tassels to the hems of their clothes with a blue cord. The purpose of the tassels were to remind them to obey all God's laws instead of following their own desires. And be holy unto God, for He is the LORD their God who brought them up out of Egypt to be their God, for God says, "*I am the LORD your God!*"

#### LESSON: I. KORAH REBELS AGAINST MOSES NUMBERS 16:1-3

**16:1** 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:— Before Moses could give the additional regulations to the children of Israel, rebellion was sparked in the camp. This man's whole lineage was given. One day Korah, the son of Izhar, grandson of Kohath, and a descendant of Levi, conspired with three Reubenites, Dathan and Abiam (the sons of Eliab), and On (the son of Peleth). This reminds me of the siege upon the U. S. Capitol. Power in the wrong hands breeds stupidity.

At the end of Chapter 14 the LORD had spoken to Moses and Aaron concerning the people's wickedness and complaints. They would be condemned to wander and die in the wilderness for 40yrs because they refused to trust the LORD. The number was related with the number of days the spies spent in Canaan (40 days: a year for each day) to bring back a bad report. Those from 20yrs and up who murmured and complained shall not go into the Promised Land, except for Caleb and Joshua (who would enter). And God would give the Promised Land to the children of whose parents had died in the wilderness, but they will suffer those 40yrs because of the parents' sins. The 10 spies who brought back a bad report would die by the plague sent by the LORD. Moses told the people what the LORD had said, and the people mourned. But the very next day, they were ready to go up into Canaan, for they knew they had sinned against the LORD, but Moses told them that the LORD would not go with them. They tried to go anyway and were defeated by the Amalekites and Canaanites who were waiting for them in the hills.

That window had closed. All of what had just happened, I guess Korah was thinking, all or nothing. This should have been "*a stay with God's plan moment*" for Korah. This should have been a moment to take a look at "*passed mistake*" not "*power driven moments*."





# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

**16:2 And 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:—** Korah and the three Reubenites along with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty who were leaders of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of distinction made up this group that rose up and incited a rebellion against Moses. This was a coup (a takeover). Remember they said they wanted another captain in Numbers 14:4 *"...choose another leader and go back to Egypt."*

**16:3 And 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?—** This is the same mistake that Miriam and Aaron made when they came against Moses. Just because the Lord was living among them, they perceived that all of the congregation were holy, in which they thought they had the right to challenge God’s servant. At one time they didn’t even want to talk to God at Mt Sinai. They told Moses to talk to Him. Now they think they are strong enough to take Moses and Aaron’s spot that they want to relieve some of their load. A takeover is all about power. And they want it!

## II. MOSES CONFRONTS THE REBELS NUMBERS 16:4-11

**16:4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:—** All Moses could do when he heard this was to fall on his face because he knew what was about to happen to them—He knew God would fight this battle, like He’s done before.

**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.** Moses told Korah and all his company with him (250) that they would find out tomorrow before the Lord: who are His and who is holy, for God will cause that one to come near to Him, even the one he’s already chosen. If the people didn’t know that they were on the wrong side, they will see firsthand who the Lord chooses, for that one will come near unto Him. Since Korah had decided what God needed, he will see personally.

**16:6 This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company;—** Moses instructed Korah and all those with him; his company to take their censers.

**16:7 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.** They are instructed to put fire within their censers, and put incense in them in the presence of the Lord on tomorrow. This will show the one who is consecrated and who’s holy, for this would be the one the Lord has chosen. Moses says to them *"Sons of Levi you have presumed too much upon yourselves"* meaning you’ve gone too far. Korah and his company should have remembered what happened to Nadab and Abihu when they offered up (strange) fire unto the Lord which He had not commanded, and He killed them. They should have remembered about Miriam when she became leprous by the LORD after speaking against Moses, and even the 10 spies who gave a bad report about Canaan were zapped by the plague sent by the LORD. That was just a few, but there were many more. However, I think they thought they were in the clear.

**16:8 And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi:—** Moses tells Korah, *"Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi..."* This meant to listen carefully because the words Moses uses are to really get





# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

his attention; to really cause him to think.

**16:9 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 says, "Does it seem a small thing that the God of Israel has separated you out of all the congregation of Israel to bring you close to Himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the Lord and stand before the congregation to minister unto them?"

**16:10 And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?—** Moses is reiterating that the work as a Levite in the tabernacle gives them access to the very important service to the Lord. And Korah holds a special responsibility as he shares in the responsibility with the other members of the Levi tribe. But Moses is really asking "Are you seeking the priesthood also?" We have to be careful in wanting what others have. It's the spirit of covetousness, envy, and greediness. We can't serve God by stepping on another trying to get their job. We are to wait on God.

**16:11 For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?—** Korah is really blind to the fact that when he goes against God's man trying to get to God, for this cause he and his company have gathered against the LORD, instead of Aaron. Moses is really asking "What is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?"

### III. THE REBELS ACCUSE MOSES NUMBERS 16:12-14

**16:12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up:—** So, the two Reubenite men, Dathan and Abiram that were with Korah refused to come up as instructed and they give dialogue.

**16:13 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?—** It seems they are using Moses' words, as they come against him, "*Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land that flows with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?*" It seems like they thought the land (Egypt) that God had brought them out of; were in bondage of was flowing with milk and honey. How could they think this? Oh yeah, the desert has tricked them! Yeah, they're right about themselves dying in the wilderness, but Moses is not going to do it. However, they're wrong about who made Moses in charge and he's not a prince. They asked, "*Is it a small thing...?*" Well, their stance is very shaky! Their accusations were not relevant nor true.

**16:14 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.** And what's more they wouldn't go into the Land flowing with milk and honey when God wanted them to. They will not receive the inheritance of fields and vineyards. Another question: Do you think you can keep blinding the eyes of these men?" They're the only ones who have blinded their own eyes with their lies and greediness. And they repeat themselves (v.12) a second time: "We will not come up." At least they are very adamant about it.





# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

Korah a Levite conspired with three Reubenites: Dathan, Abiam, and On. Korah and the three Reubenites along with certain of the children of Israel, who were leaders of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of distinction making up a total of two hundred and fifty in the group that rose up and incited a rebellion against Moses. This was a coup (a takeover). Remember they said they wanted another captain; a leader who would lead them back to Egypt (Numbers 14:4). There were others who came up against Moses and it didn't end well. Just because the Lord was living among them, they perceived all of the congregation was holy and wanted to challenge God's servant. At one time they didn't even want to talk to God at Mt Sinai. They told Moses to talk to Him. Now, they think they are strong enough to take Moses and Aaron's spot; they want to relieve some of their load. A takeover is all about power. And they want it! (16:1-3).

All Moses could do when he heard this was to fall on his face because he knew what was about to happen to them—He knew God would fight this battle, like He's done before. Moses told Korah and all his company with him that they would find out tomorrow before the Lord who are His and who is holy, for the LORD will cause that one to come near to Him. Since Korah had decided what God needed, he will see personally. Moses instructed Korah and all those with him; his company to take their censers, put fire within and put incense in them in the presence of the Lord on tomorrow. This will show the one who is consecrated and who's holy, for this would be the one the Lord has chosen. Moses says to them *"Sons of Levi you have presumed too much upon yourselves"* meaning gone too far. Korah and his company should have remembered what happened to Nadab and Abihu, Miriam and Aaron and even the 10 spies. Moses tells Korah, *"Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi, does it seem a small thing that the God of Israel has separated you out of all the congregation of Israel to bring you close to Himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the Lord and stand before the congregation to minister unto them?"* Moses is reiterating that the work as a Levite in the tabernacle gives them access to the very important service to the Lord. And Korah holds a special responsibility as he shares in the responsibility with the other members of the Levi tribe. And so, Moses asked Did it seem a small thing? But Moses is really asking *"Are you seeking the priesthood also?"* We have to be careful in wanting what others have. It's the spirit of covetousness, envy, and greediness. We can't serve God by stepping on another trying to get their job. We are to wait on God. Korah is really blind to the fact that when he goes against God's man trying to get to God, for this cause he and his company have gathered against the LORD, instead of Aaron. Moses asks, *"What is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?"* (16:4-11).

So, the two Reubenite men Dathan and Abiram who were with Korah refused to come up as instructed by Moses and began to give dialogue. It seems they are using Moses' words, as they come against him, *"Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land that flows with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us? And what's more they tell him that "you haven't brought us into the Land flowing with milk and honey, or given us our inheritance of fields and vineyards. "Do you think you can keep blinding our eyes? We will not come up"* (16:12-14).

