

Numbers 16 - Wilderness Wanderings: The Rebellion of Korah

II. Failure of the first generation (Num 11:1—25:18)

(3) Failure in the wilderness in and around Kadesh Barnea (Num 15:1—20:13)

(B) Korah's rebellion (Num 16:1-50)

The Priesthood

Although we have no detailed account of the children of Israel during these wasted years in the wilderness, there are isolated incidents recorded. In Num 16-19, we have four incidents which all concern the priesthood:

- Num 16 - The Rebellion of Korah
- Num 17 - Aaron's Rod that Budded
- Num 18 - Confirmation of the Priesthood
- Num 19 - The Offering of the Red Heifer

Numbers 16

(B) Korah's rebellion (Num 16:1-50)

1 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*,

1 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 *action*,

1 Now Izhar's son Korah, the grandson of Kohath, a descendant of Levi, along with Eliab's sons Dathan and Abiram, and Peleth's son On, a descendant of Reuben, took charge

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:

2 and they stood before Moses, together with some of the sons of Israel, 250 leaders of the congregation chosen in the assembly, men of renown.

2 and they rose up before Moses, together with some of the sons of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, chosen in the assembly, men of renown.

2 of a rebellion against Moses, along with 250 community leaders, Israelis who were famous men and representatives from the assembly.

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:

- The "gainsaying (saying against) of Korah" is mentioned in Jude 11 as one of the marks of false teachers in the last days (today we see a united rebellion against the authority of Moses and the priesthood of Aaron—God's way of salvation by blood)
- Korah was evidently a cousin of Moses (Ex 6:21), which makes the rebellion even more serious

3 They assembled together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You have gone far enough! For all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is in their midst; so why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

3 They assembled together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You have gone far enough, for all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is in their midst; so why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

3 They gathered together against Moses and Aaron and told them, "You have appropriated too much for yourselves from the entire congregation, since all of them are holy, and the LORD is among them, too. Why do you exalt yourselves over the LORD's assembly?"

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?

- False accusation: Moses didn't want the job!

- Korah, a Levite, and Dathan and Abiram, of the tribe of Reuben, led, and recruited 250 top leaders of Israel as collaborators

- The tribal affiliations of the two main conspirators indicate that this rebellion was against both the religious and political leadership of Moses

4 When Moses heard *this*, he fell on his face;

4 When Moses heard *this*, he fell on his face;

4 When Moses heard this, he fell on his face.

4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:

5 and he spoke to Korah and all his group, saying, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will make known who is His, and who is holy, and will bring *that one* near to Himself; indeed, the one whom He will choose, He will bring near to Himself.

5 and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will show who is His, and who is holy, and will bring *him* near to Himself; even the one whom He will choose, He will bring near to Himself.

5 Then he addressed Korah and his entire company, "In the morning, may the LORD reveal who belongs to him and who is holy. May he cause that person to approach him. May he

cause to approach him the one whom he has chosen.

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.

- Conversely, they are taking too much upon themselves! This murmuring is actually against God

- God backs up His appointees ("Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm" (Ps 105:15; 1 Chr 15:22)

- Serious problems require serious responses: "Watch out!"

6 Do this: take censers for yourselves, Korah and your whole group,

6 Do this: take censers for yourselves, Korah and all your company,

6 Korah, you and your entire company are to bring censers

6 This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company;

7 and put fire in them, and place incense upon them in the presence of the LORD tomorrow; and the man whom the LORD chooses *shall be* the one who is holy. You have gone far enough, you sons of Levi!"

7 and put fire in them, and lay incense upon them in the presence of the LORD tomorrow; and the man whom the LORD chooses *shall be* the one who is holy. You have gone far enough, you sons of Levi!"

7 and put fire and incense in them in the LORD's presence tomorrow. It will be that the man whom the LORD chooses will be holy. You're taking too much for yourselves, you descendants of Levi."

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.

8 Then Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi:

8 Then Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi,

8 Moses also told Korah, "Listen now, you descendants of Levi!

8 And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi:

- These malcontents had been incited by the artful representations of Korah (Judges 1:11), with whom the position of their camp on the south side afforded them easy access

9 Is it too small *an honor* for you that the God of Israel has singled you out from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to perform the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister to them;

9 is it not enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the *rest of* 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 to them;

9 Is it such an insignificant thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the Israelis to draw you to himself, appointing you to do the work of the tent of the LORD and to stand before the community to minister to them?

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 that He has brought you near, *Korah*, and all your brothers, sons of Levi, with you? But are you seeking the priesthood as well?

10 and that He has brought you near, *Korah*, and all your brothers, sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking for the priesthood also?

10 He brought you near, along with all of your relatives, the descendants of Levi. Are you also seeking the priesthood?

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 Therefore you and your whole group are the ones gathered together against the LORD; but as for Aaron, who is he, that you grumble against him?"

11 Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD; but as for Aaron, who is he that you grumble against him?"

11 Therefore you and your group have conspired against the LORD and Aaron. What is it that causes you to complain against him?"

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?

12 Then Moses sent a summons to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab; but they said, "We will not come up.

12 Then Moses sent a summons to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab; but they said, "We will not come up.

12 So Moses sent for Eliab's sons Dathan and Abiram, but they responded, "We're not coming.

12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up:

13 Is it not enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to have us die in the wilderness, but you would also appoint yourself as master over us?

13 Is it not enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to have us die in the wilderness, but you would also lord it over us?

13 Is it such an insignificant thing that you brought us out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness? Now you're trying to make yourself be a prince and rule over us, aren't you?

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?

14 Indeed, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor have you given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Would you gouge out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!"

14 Indeed, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor have you given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Would you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!"

14 You still haven't brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor have you given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Do you really think that you can make these men look the other way? We won't go up."

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.

- False charge: they are where their choices had brought them: if they had followed Moses' leadership at Kadesh Barnea they would be in the land that flowed with milk and honey!

15 Then Moses became very angry and said to the LORD, "Pay no attention to their offering! I have not taken a single donkey from them, nor have I done harm to any of them."

15 Then Moses became very angry and said to the LORD, "Do not regard their offering! I have not taken a single donkey from them, nor have I done harm to any of them."

15 Moses was very angry, so he told the LORD, "Please don't accept their offering. I haven't taken even one donkey from them nor have I hurt even one of them."

15 And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

16 Moses said to Korah, "You and all your group be present before the LORD tomorrow, you and they along with Aaron.

16 Moses said to Korah, "You and all your company be present before the LORD tomorrow, both you and they along with Aaron.

16 Then Moses told Korah, "You and your entire company are to present yourselves in the LORD's presence tomorrow—you, they, and Aaron.

16 And Moses said unto Korah, Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, to morrow:

17 And each of you take his censer and put incense on it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD, 250 censers; also you and Aaron *shall* each *bring* his censer."

17 Each of you take his firepan and put incense on it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD, two hundred and fifty firepans; also you and Aaron *shall* each *bring* his firepan."

17 Each man is to take a censer, put incense on it, and bring it into the LORD's presence, each man with his censer, for a total of 250 censers. You and Aaron are each to bring his own censer."

17 And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.

18 So they took, each one his *own* censer, and put fire on it, and placed incense on it; and they stood at the entrance of the tent of meeting, with Moses and Aaron.

18 So they each took his *own* censer and put fire on it, and laid incense on it; and they stood at the doorway of the tent of meeting, with Moses and Aaron.

18 So each man took his censer, put fire coals inside of it, placed incense in it, and then stood at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, accompanied by Moses and Aaron.

18 And they took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood in the door of the tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron.

19 So Korah assembled all the congregation against them at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.

19 Thus Korah assembled all the congregation against them at the doorway of the tent of meeting. And the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.

19 When Korah had assembled the entire community in opposition to Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, the glory of the LORD appeared to the entire community.

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.

20 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

20 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

20 Then the LORD told Moses and Aaron,

20 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

21 "Separate yourselves from among this congregation, so that I may consume them instantly."

21 "Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them instantly."

21 "Separate yourselves from among this community, and I'll destroy them in a moment."

21 Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.

22 But they fell on their faces and said, "God, the God of the spirits of humanity, when one person sins, will You be angry with the entire congregation?"

22 But they fell on their faces and said, "O God, God of the spirits of all flesh, when one man sins, will You be angry with the entire congregation?"

22 Then they fell on their faces and said, "God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, will you be angry at the entire congregation on account of one man's sin?"

22 And they 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?

23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

23 Then the LORD instructed Moses,

23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

24 "Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get away from *the areas* around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.'"

24 "Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get back from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.'"

24 "Tell the community to move away from where Korah, Dathan, and Abiram are living."

24 Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

25 Then Moses arose and went to Dathan and Abiram, with the elders of Israel following him,

25 Then Moses arose and went to Dathan and Abiram, with the elders of Israel following him,

25 So Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.

25 And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him.

26 and he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Get away now from the tents of these wicked men, and do not touch anything that belongs to them, or you will be swept away in all their sin!"

26 and he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing that belongs to them, or you will be swept away in all their sin."

26 Then he told the community, "Move away from the camps of these wicked men and don't touch anything that belongs to them. That way you won't be destroyed along with all their sins."

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.

27 So they moved away from *the areas* around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out *and* stood at the entrances of their tents, along with their wives, their sons, and their little ones.

27 So they got back from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out *and* stood at the doorway of their tents, along with their wives and their sons and their little ones.

27 So they all moved away from the entire area where Korah, Dathan, and Abiram were living.

Now Korah, Dathan, and Abiram stood at the entrance to their tents with their wives, sons, and little children.

27 So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.

- In 26:11 we learn that Korah's family was not destroyed. This explains why we have psalms titled "For the sons of Korah" in our Bible (Ps 84-85; 87-88)

- Apparently Korah's descendants were content to be humble ministers and not priests, for they wrote in Ps 84:10, "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness"

28 Then Moses said, "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these deeds; for it is not my doing.

28 Moses said, "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these deeds; for this is not my doing.

28 Then Moses said, "This is how you'll know that the LORD has sent me to do all these awesome works—they're not coming merely from me.

28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

29 If these men die the death of all mankind, or if they suffer the fate of all mankind, *then* the LORD has not sent me.

29 If these men die the death of all men or if they suffer the fate of all men, *then* the LORD has not sent me.

29 If these people die a death similar to all other human beings, or if they are punished with a punishment common to other men, then the LORD didn't send me.

29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

30 But if the LORD brings about an entirely new thing and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them with everything that is theirs, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will know that these men have been disrespectful to the LORD."

30 But if the LORD brings about an entirely new thing and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that is theirs, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have spurned the LORD."

30 But if the LORD creates something new, so that the ground opens its mouth and swallows them and everything that belongs to them and they all descend directly to Sheol while still alive, then you'll know that these men have spurned the LORD."

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.

- They were sowing division; God would divide them

31 And as he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them split open;

31 As he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them split open;

31 Just as he finished saying all these things, the ground under them split open.

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 its mouth and swallowed them, their households, and all the people who belonged to Korah with all *their* possessions.

32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, and their households, and all the men who belonged to Korah with *their* possessions.

32 The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, all their households, everyone who was affiliated with Korah, and all of their property.

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 So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.

33 So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.

33 So they and all that belonged to them descended alive to Sheol. Then the earth closed over them. That's how they were annihilated from the assembly.

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.

- Gal 6:7: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

- God judges the very same way in which the man sins

— That was true of Jacob; it was true of David; it was true of Paul, the apostle; and it will be true of you and me

34 Then all Israel who *were* around them fled at their outcry, for they said, "The earth might swallow us!"

34 All Israel who *were* around them fled at their outcry, for they said, "The earth may swallow us up!"

34 Then all of the Israelis who were around them ran away when they heard them crying, "...so the ground won't swallow us up, too."

34 And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also.

35 Fire also came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense.

35 Fire also came forth from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering the incense.

35 After this, fire came from the LORD and incinerated the 250 men who offered the incense.

35 And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

- Read 2 Peter 2:10-22 for God's estimate of those who "despise authority" and rebel against God's truth

- At this point the Hebrew Bible begins a new chapter

— Jewish scribes considered the rest of Num 16 and all of 17 a unit, on the theme of Aaron's sole right as priest

36 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

36 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

36 Then the LORD instructed Moses,

36 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

37 "Tell Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, that he shall pick up the censers from the midst of the burned area, because they are holy; and you are to scatter the burning coals further away.

37 "Say to Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, that he shall take up the censers out of the midst of the blaze, for they are holy; and you scatter the burning coals abroad.

37 "Tell Aaron's son Eleazar the priest to take out the censers out of the flames and scatter the coals far away, since they are holy.

37 Speak unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, that he take up the censers out of the burning, and scatter thou the fire yonder; for they are hallowed.

38 As for the censers of these men who have sinned at the cost of their own lives, have them made into hammered sheets as plating for the altar, since they did present them before the LORD and they are holy; and they shall serve as a sign to the sons of Israel."

38 As for the censers of these men who have sinned at the cost of their lives, let them be made into hammered sheets for a plating of the altar, since they did present them before the LORD and they are holy; and they shall be for a sign to the sons of Israel."

38 As for the censers of those rebels who died, fasten them into beaten plates to line the altar. Since they brought them into the LORD's presence, they're holy. They are to become a reminder to the Israelis."

38 The censers of these sinners against their own souls, let them make them broad plates for a covering of the altar: for they offered them before the LORD, therefore they are hallowed: and they shall be a sign unto the children of Israel.

39 So the priest Eleazar took the bronze censers which the men who were burned had offered, and they hammered them out as plating for the altar,

39 So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers which the men who were burned had offered, and they hammered them out as a plating for the altar,

39 So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers that had been burned and beat them into metal plates for the altar,

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 as a reminder to the sons of Israel so that no layman, *anyone* who was not of the descendants of Aaron, would approach to burn incense before the LORD; then he would not become like Korah and his group—just as the LORD had spoken to him through Moses.

40 as a reminder to the sons of Israel that no layman who is not of the descendants of Aaron should come near to burn incense before the LORD; so that he will not become like Korah and his company—just as the LORD had spoken to him through Moses.

40 to serve as a memorial to the Israelis, a reminder that no unauthorized person, who isn't a descendant of Aaron, is to attempt to burn incense in the LORD's presence, so that he may not become like Korah and his group, just as the LORD had spoken by the authority of Moses.

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.

- The incense censers would become holy again to the Lord by being hammered into sheets which would overlay the altar

- In this way they would serve as a continual reminder (a sign) of what had happened that day

- The people must never forget that only a descendant of Aaron could stand before the Lord in the holy office of priest

41 But on the next day all the congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You are the ones who have caused the death of the LORD'S people!"

41 But on the next day all the congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You are the ones who have caused the death of the LORD's people."

41 Nevertheless, the very next day, the whole congregation of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, "You've killed the LORD's people!"

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.

- The sixth murmuring. The very next day the entire congregation rebelled again!

- They are blaming Moses and Aaron for murdering the rebels!

42 It came about, however, when the congregation had assembled against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tent of meeting, and behold, the cloud covered it and the glory of the LORD appeared.

42 It came about, however, when the congregation had assembled against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tent of meeting, and behold, the cloud covered it and

the glory of the LORD appeared.

42 When the community gathered together against Moses and Aaron, they turned toward the Tent of Meeting. All of a sudden, a cloud covered it and the glory of the LORD appeared.

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 Then Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting,

43 Then Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting,

43 Then Moses and Aaron entered the Tent of Meeting.

43 And Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation.

44 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

44 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

44 The LORD told Moses,

44 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

45 "Get away from among this congregation so that I may consume them instantly." Then they fell on their faces.

45 "Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them instantly." Then they fell on their faces.

45 "Leave this community, so I can annihilate them in a moment." But they fell upon their faces.

45 Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.

46 And Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put fire in it from the altar, and place incense *on it*; then bring it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the LORD, the plague has begun!"

46 Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put in it fire from the altar, and lay incense *on it*; then bring it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone forth from the LORD, the plague has begun!"

46 Then Moses told Aaron. "Take the censer, put fire on it from the altar, and burn some incense. Then walk quickly to the congregation and atone for them, because wrath has already come out from the LORD—the plague has begun."

46 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them:

for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun.

- Incense was symbolic of prayer (Ex 30:8; Ps 141:2; Luke 1:10; Rev 5:8; 8:3-4)

- Had Moses been of a bitter spirit, he would have allowed the plague to destroy the people
— Instead, he commanded his brother Aaron to go into the midst of the plague with his censer to stop the judgment

47 Then Aaron took *it* just as Moses had spoken, and he ran into the midst of the assembly; and behold, the plague had begun among the people. So he put *on* the incense and made atonement for the people.

47 Then Aaron took *it* as Moses had spoken, and ran into the midst of the assembly, for behold, the plague had begun among the people. So he put *on* the incense and made atonement for the people.

47 So Aaron took the censer, just as Moses had spoken, and ran out to the center of the assembly, where a plague had begun among the people. He set the incense on fire and atoned for the people.

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 took his stand between the dead and the living, so that the plague was brought to a halt.

48 He took his stand between the dead and the living, so that the plague was checked.

48 He stood between the dead and the living and restrained the plague.

48 And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.

49 But those who died by the plague were 14,700 *in number*, besides those who died on account of Korah.

49 But those who died by the plague were 14,700, besides those who died on account of Korah.

49 Those who died due to the plague numbered 14,700, not counting those who died due to the matter with Korah.

49 Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah.

- Look who is standing between the dead and living: the one accused

- The very One whom humanity crucified saves us

50 Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the tent of meeting, for the plague had been brought to a halt.

50 Then Aaron returned to Moses at the doorway of the tent of meeting, for the plague had been checked.

50 Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting after the slaughter had been restrained.

50 And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the plague was stayed.