

Numbers 16

PREVIEW: In Numbers 16, the Lord deals with an uprising spearheaded by Korah, and immediately after that, a plague strikes the children of God for their complaining.

Rebellion Against Moses and Aaron - Read Numbers 16:1-40

1. At some unidentified time and place during the wilderness wandering, a rebellion started against Moses and Aaron. How many were involved in this rebellion? Who were they (see vv. 1-2)?
2. These rebels weren't just common men from the congregation of the children of Israel; they were leaders of the congregation, men of renown. *Renown* means that these men were widely honored and acclaimed, famous men within the congregation. What was the premise of these men's rebellion (v. 3)?
3. The rebels accused Moses and Aaron of exalting themselves above the assembly (the rest of the people) (see v. 3). *Exalting* means to raise in rank, character, or status; to elevate. How does Moses' reaction to their accusation indicate just the opposite (see v. 4)?

4. Moses' response to the rebels' accusation was to fall on his face, to prostrate himself, to bow down, to humble himself (see also Numbers 14:6, 20:6). What happens when godly people willingly and genuinely humble themselves? (See Psalm 75:7, Proverbs 29:23, Matthew 23:12, and James 4:10.)

5. Although the rebels perceived themselves to be holy and anointed for leadership positions within the congregation (see v. 3), what did Moses say the Lord Himself would do the next morning (see v. 5)?

6. Moses instructed Korah and all his rebellious company to take censers, vessels for burning incense, and bring them before the Lord. What was the Lord's role when all these men gathered before Him with burning censers (see vv. 6-7)?

7. Moses spoke to Korah (see vv. 8-11), giving him perspective on his call and commission to serve the Lord as a Kohathite, carrying the tabernacle's furniture and vessels. Moses asked Korah, "Is it a small thing to you...?," meaning that his role as a Kohathite was important and prestigious and shouldn't have been taken lightly but rather reverently appreciated. What role was Korah seeking in his rebellious complaint against Aaron (see vv. 10-11)?

8. Although Korah and his rebellious cohorts thought they were gathered against Moses and Aaron, who did Moses say they were truly gathered against (see v. 11)?

9. When Moses attempted to address Dathan and Abiram, what was their response (see vv. 12-14)?

10. What did Dathan and Abiram accuse Moses of acting like and blame him for not doing (see vv. 13-14)?

11. Moses was angered by Dathan and Abiram's rebellion and false accusations against him, but he didn't argue with them. Instead, with whom did he discuss what angered him (see v. 15)?

12. Moses reminded Korah to appear with his company of 250, censers in hand, before the Lord (see vv. 16-19). They all took their censers and stood before the door of the tabernacle with Moses and Aaron (see v. 18). Then the glory of the Lord appeared before them all. Without discussion or debate, the Lord's decision and judgment was made. What was His judgment (see vv. 20-21)?



13. How did Moses and Aaron respond to the Lord's judgment (see v. 22)?

14. What did Moses and Aaron beseech and implore God for (see v. 22)?

15. The Lord gave Moses a stern and solemn warning; Moses then arose and communicated the warning to the congregation. What was that warning (see vv. 23, 26)?

16. How did the congregation respond to the warning (see v. 27)?

17. Moses addressed the congregation, including all the rebels, telling them, "By this you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works..." What two scenarios did Moses present that indicate whom the Lord sent (see vv. 28-30)?

18. In Moses' scenarios for determining who the Lord sent, he told the congregation that they would understand the true nature of these men's rebellion if they went down alive into the pit. What was the true nature of these men's rebellion (see v. 30)?

19. What became of the entire households of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (see vv. 31-34)?

20. What became of the 250 men who also rebelled against Moses and Aaron (see v. 35)?

21. The 250 censers were holy. What did the Lord instruct Moses to tell Aaron's son to do with them (see vv. 36-38)? Why (see v. 40)?

Complaints of the People - Read Numbers 16:41-50

22. The next day, after seeing the destruction of Korah, Dathan, Abiram and the 250 men of renown, the entire congregation complained against Moses and Aaron. What was their complaint (see v. 41)?

23. What happened while the entire congregation was complaining against Moses and Aaron (see v. 42)?

