

# Numbers 16

Chapter 16 of 36 · 50 Verses · Authorized King James Version

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## **Korah's Rebellion**

<sup>1</sup> 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:

<sup>2</sup> 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:

<sup>3</sup> 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?

<sup>4</sup> And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company;

<sup>7</sup> 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.

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

<sup>9</sup> 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?

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

**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** 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.

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

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

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

**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?

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### **The Earth Swallows the Rebels**

**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 their's, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.

**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.

**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 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 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.

**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.

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

**36** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

**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** 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** 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.

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### **The People Grumble and a Plague Strikes**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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## HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

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### **Altar** — מִזְבֵּחַ (Mizbeach)

Altar, place of sacrifice

The Hebrew **mizbeach** (מִזְבֵּחַ) means altar—from the root 'to slaughter.' Altars were places where sacrifices were offered to God, pointing forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

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### **Atonement** — כִּפָּר (Kaphar)

To cover, make atonement

The Hebrew **kaphar** (כִּפָּר) means to cover or make atonement—the basis for Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). The blood of sacrifices covered sin: 'it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul' (Leviticus 17:11).

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### **Glory** — כְּבוֹד (Kavod)

Glory, weight, honor

The Hebrew **kavod** (כְּבוֹד) literally means 'weight' or 'heaviness,' metaphorically denoting glory, honor, or majesty. God's glory (Shekinah) filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34) and temple (1 Kings 8:11).

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### **God** — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

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**Holy** — קָדוֹשׁ (Qadosh)

Holy, set apart

The Hebrew **qadosh** (קָדוֹשׁ) means holy or set apart—separated from common use for God's purposes. God is 'the Holy One of Israel,' utterly distinct from creation in moral perfection.

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**Lord** — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

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**Priest** — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

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**Sanctify** — קָדַשׁ (Qadash)

To set apart, make holy

The Hebrew **qadash** (קָדַשׁ) means to set apart or consecrate—separating something for God's sacred purposes. God sanctified the seventh day (Genesis 2:3) and calls His people to 'be holy; for I am holy' (Leviticus 11:44).

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**Sin** — חַטָּאת (Chatta'ah)

Sin, missing the mark

The Hebrew **chatta'ah** (חַטָּאת) means sin—missing the mark of God's standard. It encompasses rebellion, transgression, and falling short of divine holiness.

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**Spirit** — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

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**Word** — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

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**CROSS REFERENCES**

**Numbers 16:1**    **Parallel theme:** Numbers 27:3; Exodus 6:18; 6:21; Deuteronomy 11:6; Jude 1:11

**Numbers 16:2**    **References Moses:** Numbers 26:9. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 23:10

**Numbers 16:3**

**Holy:** Numbers 16:7; Exodus 19:6; Psalms 106:16. **References Lord:** Numbers 14:14

**Numbers 16:4**    **References Moses:** Numbers 14:5; 20:6

**Numbers 16:5**    **Holy:** Numbers 16:3; Leviticus 10:3; Psalms 65:4; Acts 1:2; 13:2. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 17:5; Acts 22:14; Revelation 1:6. **References Lord:** Acts 1:24; 2 Timothy 2:19

**Numbers 16:6**    **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 10:1

**Numbers 16:7**    **Holy:** Numbers 16:3

**Numbers 16:9**

**References God:** Isaiah 7:13. **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 10:8. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 3:6; 16:13; 1 Samuel 18:23; Nehemiah 12:44. **Temple:** Numbers 1:53

**Numbers 16:11**    **References Lord:** Numbers 16:3; Exodus 17:2; 1 Corinthians 3:5

**Numbers 16:13**    **Parallel theme:** Numbers 11:5; Exodus 2:14; 16:3; Acts 7:35

**Numbers 16:14**    **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 20:24

**Numbers 16:15**    **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 7:2

**Numbers 16:16**    **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 12:3; 12:7

**Numbers 16:19**    **Glory:** Numbers 14:10; 16:42; Exodus 16:7; Leviticus 9:23

**Numbers 16:21**    **Parallel theme:** Numbers 16:45; Exodus 32:10; 33:5; Psalms 73:19; Revelation 18:4

**Numbers 16:22**    **Spirit:** Numbers 27:16; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Isaiah 57:16; Zechariah 12:1; Hebrews 12:9. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:5; 16:45; Genesis 18:32; Job 12:10; Romans 5:18

**Numbers 16:26**    **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 13:17; Isaiah 52:11; Acts 8:20; 13:51; 2 Corinthians 6:17. **Sin:** 1 Timothy 5:22; Revelation 18:4

**Numbers 16:28**    **Parallel theme:** Exodus 3:12; 7:9; Ezekiel 13:17; John 5:30; 5:36; 6:38; 11:42. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 23:16; Zechariah 2:9; 4:9

**Numbers 16:29**    **References Lord:** 1 Kings 22:28. **Parallel theme:** Lamentations 4:22

**Numbers 16:30**    **Parallel theme:** Numbers 16:33; Job 31:3; Psalms 55:15

**Numbers 16:31**    **Parallel theme:** Numbers 27:3; Deuteronomy 11:6

**Numbers 16:32** **Parallel theme:** Numbers 26:11; 1 Chronicles 6:22; Psalms 106:17; Isaiah 5:14; Revelation 12:16

**Numbers 16:35**

**References Lord:** Numbers 16:17; Leviticus 10:2. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 16:2; 26:10; Psalms 106:18

**Numbers 16:38**

**Sin:** Proverbs 20:2; Habakkuk 2:10. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 26:10; 2 Peter 2:6. **References Lord:** Numbers 17:10; 1 Kings 2:23; Ezekiel 14:8

**Numbers 16:40** **Parallel theme:** Numbers 3:10

**Numbers 16:41** **References Moses:** Numbers 14:2

**Numbers 16:42** **Glory:** Numbers 16:19; 20:6; Leviticus 9:23

**Numbers 16:45** **Parallel theme:** Numbers 16:24

**Numbers 16:46**

**Parallel theme:** Numbers 8:19; Psalms 106:29. **Judgment:** Numbers 11:33; 18:5; Leviticus 10:6; 1 Chronicles 27:24. **Sacrifice:** Psalms 141:2

**Numbers 16:48** **Parallel theme:** 2 Samuel 24:25

**Numbers 16:49** **Parallel theme:** Numbers 25:9

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