

Title: No Divisions
Text: Numbers 16: 1-11
Date: October 21, 2009
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Numbers 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*: 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: 3: And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron,

I. KORAD WAS LEADER IN DIVIDING THE PEOPLE. WHY?

In Egypt, the head of the family served as priest by slaying the Passover lamb and applying it to the doorpost. When God made the covenant on Sinai with Israel, God changed who would be king and high priest.

First, the LORD God made Moses the head over the civil government of Israel—in essence, God made Moses their king. Then God made Aaron, Moses brother, the High Priest. Thirdly, God chose Aarons immediate sons, Eleazar and Ithamar to serve as priests under Aaron. And God made the tribe of Levi to serve as priests under Aaron.

Two things did not sit right with Korah.

In verse 1 we see that Korah was the son Izhar, the son of Kohath, a Levite. Korah was a priest. He was of the house of Kohath.

Numbers 3: 29: The families of the sons of Kohath shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle southward.
30: And the chief of the house of the father of the families of the Kohathites *shall be* Elizaphan the son of Uzziel.

Elizaphan was of the house of Kohath just like Korah. But Elizaphan descended from the last and youngest of the families of the Kohathites. Korah was from an older son of Kohath. But he passed over by the LORD as being chief of the house of Kohath and this younger cousin was given the position. Then something else offended Korah.

Numbers 3: 31: And their charge *shall be* the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof. 32: And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest *shall be* chief over the chief of the Levites, *and have* the oversight of them that keep the charge of the sanctuary.

Secondly, Aaron's son, Eleazar, was chief over all the Levites. Korah began to see himself as nobody in congregation. But he did not want to be nobody.

Now look who joined with Korah. And why?

Numbers 16: Korah gathered...Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben,

Reuben was their father. He was the firstborn son of Jacob. God gave prominence to Judah, a type of Christ Jesus, the tribe Christ came from.

Genesis 49: 8: Judah, thou *art he* whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand *shall be* in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. 9: Judah *is* a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? 10: The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*. 11: Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: 12: His eyes *shall be* red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

Numbers 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:

These may have been men of other tribes whose firstborn sons were not called to the priesthood. These were famous men, men of renown. But none of that matters with God.

Everything God did in choosing whom he would, to the office he gave them, was to glorify his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Just as God made a change of king and high priest over Israel, when the Lord creates a new heart within a sinner, he makes his everlasting covenant in our hearts, and God makes Christ King and High Priest to each believer.

God chose his Son, Christ Jesus, the only King over spiritual Israel. The government of God's Israel is on the shoulder of Christ our King. All power in heaven and earth is his. Christ

Christ Jesus is the High Priest.

Hebrews 9: 12: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

He is the Priest forever after the order of Melchisedec:

King and Priest, King of righteousness and peace, Priest of the most high God, having neither beginning of days nor end of days.

Christ our King Priest alone makes every elect child of God, kings and priests unto our God.

Revelations 5: 9: And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10: And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Like God sent Moses, and Aaron, and Elizaphan, Christ Jesus our King Priest gives whom he will to be his under-shepherds.

Jeremiah 3:15: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Ephesians 4: 8: Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men....11: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

His messengers, like Moses and Aaron, are his ambassadors. They merely set forth what the King has declared to be so.

Those whom the Lord Jesus sends to be his under-shepherds are one. They are not seeking to divide brethren but to bring them together in one, even in Christ whom we preach.

I Corinthians 3: 5: Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

But Korah and these others were working from a carnal heart. He saw with carnal eyes. He had a carnal desire. So here is Korah's complaint.

Numbers 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?*

The LORD had given Korah and the other Levites the right to offer sacrifices in the outer court. To Korah it appeared that Moses, his brother and his kinsman, were guilty of nepotism—of exalting themselves above the congregation of the LORD.

II. MOSES RESPONSE

Numbers 16: 4 And when Moses heard *it*, he fell upon his face:

Satan uses haughtiness to excite the flesh, but what a word, Moses fell upon his face. Moses resigned himself and the whole matter into the hands of God.

Korah and these men made their boast of being holy. Moses shows us what true holiness is: resignation to the care of God and intercession to God for those who oppose themselves. The LORD gave Moses a word to answer this host of men.

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

You can be sure, the LORD always makes manifest them that are his. Our best is to wait on the LORD's time—he said, "Even tomorrow." The LORD shows his longsuffering in this: these men are given time to repent until the next morning. This next word was probably hated by Korah, but it was the charge of a faithful servant of the LORD, in care for their souls.

Numbers 16: 8: *...ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi. 8: And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi: 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 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?*

They sought to usurp authority which belongs to the LORD alone.

Who is Aaron? Who is the door keeper in God's house? Who is a the song leader? Or the deacon? Or the one who sweeps the floor? It is God, Christ Jesus our King, who sets us in his body. Hebrews 3:2: says God appointed Moses. Speaking of the priesthood, Hebrews 5:4: And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as *was* Aaron.

I Corinthians 12: 12: For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ....18: But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him....25 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another...29: *Are* all apostles? *are* all prophets? *are* all teachers? *are* all workers of miracles?...31: But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way....13: 1: Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal...13: And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

To attempt to take a position God has not given us, is to set aside the distinctive authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, just as the pretensions of Korah was the setting aside of the distinctive place of Moses and Aaron in that day. God uses those believers who he makes content to serve wherever he puts them in house. These men were angry because God chose whom he would and gave them to our great King and High Priest, his Son Christ Jesus, making us sons of God and priests unto him and God passed by the rest.

The LORD God destroyed these men and many more. But not before he separated his own from among them.

I Peter 5: 1: The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3: Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4: And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 5: Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder.5: Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10: But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

May his grace cause you flee to Christ, to cast our care on him

