

KORAH – LESSON 27(ABC)

QUESTION

EXPLAIN THE FEATURES OF A KORAH OPERATING SYSTEM USING THE UNDERLYING VERSES AND OTHER SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES.

Num 16:1-50
CHAPTER 16

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;

2 and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown.

3 They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?"

4 So when Moses heard it, he fell on his face;

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 cause him to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him.

6 "Do this: Take censers, Korah and all your company;

7 "put fire in them and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow, and it shall be that the man whom the LORD chooses is the holy one. You take too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi!"

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

9 "Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them;

10 "and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also?

11 "Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD. And what is Aaron that you murmur against him?"

12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said, "We will not come up!"

13 "Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you should keep acting like a prince over us?"

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

15 Then Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD, "Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them."

16 And Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company be present before the LORD-- you and they, as well as Aaron."

17 "Each of you take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD, two hundred and fifty censers; both you and Aaron, each with his censer."

18 So every man took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and stood at the door of the tabernacle of meeting with Moses and Aaron.

19 And Korah gathered all the congregation against them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.

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

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

22 Then they fell on their faces, and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?"

23 So the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

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

25 Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.

26 And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins."

27 So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children.

28 Then Moses said: "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will.

29 "If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me.

30 "But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD."

31 Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them,

32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.

33 So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the congregation.

34 Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up also!"

35 And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.

36 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

37 "Tell Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, to pick up the censers out of the blaze, for they are holy, and scatter the fire some distance away.

38 "The censers of these men who sinned against their own souls, let them be made into hammered plates as a covering for the altar. Because they presented them before the LORD, therefore they are holy; and they shall be a sign to the children of Israel."

39 So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers, which those who were burned up had presented, and they were hammered out as a covering on the altar,

40 to be a memorial to the children of Israel that no outsider, who is not a descendant of Aaron, should come near to offer incense before the LORD, that he might not become like Korah and his companions, just as the LORD had said to him through Moses.

41 On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the LORD."

42 Now it happened, when the congregation had gathered against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tabernacle of meeting; and suddenly the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

43 Then Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of meeting.

44 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

45 "Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them

in a moment." And they fell on their faces.

46 So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the LORD. The plague has begun."

47 Then Aaron took it as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people.

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

49 Now those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident.

50 So Aaron returned to Moses at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, for the plague had stopped.

(NKJ)

ANSWERS – KORAH (LESSON 27 – ABC)

FEATURES IF A KORAH OPERATING SYSTEM

ACTIVATED BY DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

A Korah operating system surfaces after the delegation of authority(see Numbers 11:16).

IT INTERRUPTS THE VOICE OF GOD

At the end of Numbers 15, God is speaking.

Num 15:41

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God."(NKJ)

In Numbers 17 God continues to speak – instructing Moses after the interruption in chapter 16.

Num 17:1-2

1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and get from them a rod from each father's house, all their leaders according to their fathers' houses-- twelve rods. Write each man's name on his rod.(NKJ)

FREEZES THE MOVE OF GOD.

Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi

Korah means ice. This operating system freezes the move of God. The conspiracy delayed the progression of the nation.

"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 men;

This system does not equip – it “took men”. The impression created is that of mental invasion, thought insertion and coercion - an overriding of one's free will.

"A SPIRIT OF CONSPIRACY"

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;

2 and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown.

Conspiracy is the plotting of two or more persons to do a wrongful act. This system uses people of secular power and carnal strength to gain momentum. People of this group are often not able to take instructions from spiritual leaders.

MUSTERS SUPPORT THROUGH FALSE ACCUSATIONS.

You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?"

13... that you should keep acting like a prince over us?

Moses, the set man, was falsely accused of setting himself above the congregation.

This system confuses holiness with function. All were holy, but all did not have the same function. Moses' function as the set man, was to deliver God's instructions to a rebellious generation alien to the purposes of God. His instructive ministry was falsely presented as self-exaltation in order to gain support for the conspiracy.

IT JEOPARDIZES HOLINESS

Num 16:4-7

4 So when Moses heard it, he fell on his face;
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 cause him to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him.
6 "Do this: Take censers, Korah and all your company;
7 "put fire in them and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow, and it shall be that the man whom the LORD chooses is the holy one. You take too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi!"
(NKJ)

When there is conspiracy against the set man, the group involved in the conspiracy ceases to be holy. The earth swallowed the unholy as testimony to this fact.

Yes, all were holy, but all did not have the same function. Being famous did not entitle one to set man function.

When the congregation undermines set man function and perceive its office as a function that can be performed by people because of fame rather than the call of God, they cease to be holy.

DEMONSTRATES AMBITION FOR LEADERSHIP

9 "Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them;

10 "and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also?

Korah was dissatisfied with "menial" tabernacle service. This was actually an aspiration to be high priest, an office that was divinely instituted. Korah coveted something that could never be his. The spirit of conspiracy moves men to covet something that could never be theirs. It claims co-equality with the leader.

CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE LORD

11 "Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD. And what is Aaron that you murmur against him?"

A conspiracy against the set man is a conspiracy against the Lord.

John 13:20

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."
(NKJ)

CAMOUFLAGES INTENT AGAINST THE SET MAN

11 "Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD. And what is Aaron that you murmur against him?"

The set man's assistant is included to create the impression that the conspiracy is not against the set man.

CALLOUS DISOBEDIENCE TO THE VOICE OF THE SET MAN

12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said, "We will not come up!"

USES VISION TO DISCREDIT THE SET MAN

13 "Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you should keep acting like a prince over us?

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

Vision takes time.

The Korah operating system claims unfulfilled vision to discredit the set man.

OUTWARD FORM OF WORSHIP

17 "Each of you take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD, two hundred and fifty censers; both you and Aaron, each with his censer."

18 So every man took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and stood at the door of the tabernacle of meeting with Moses and Aaron.

Korah and associates had censers with incense. They had the outward form of worship that would deceive any casual child of God.

CHURCH WITHIN A CHURCH

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

25 Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.

26 And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins."

27 So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children.

Num 16:24

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

(KJV)

The Lord admonished the congregation to separate from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.

The conspiracy exposed 2 tabernacles:

TABERNACLE OF THE CONGREGATION

TABERNACLE OF KORAH, DATHAN AND ABIRAM

The conspiracy against the set man is characterized by building of a separate tabernacle. This is a church within a local church.

IT SPLITS THE CHURCH.

VISION FROM ONE'S OWN WILL

28 Then Moses said: "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will.

Moses declared that his vision was not his own will. Korah's vision on the other hand stemmed from his own will.

DIRECT REJECTION OF GOD

30 "But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD."

Conspiracy against the set man is a rejection of the Lord.

SWALLOWED BY THE EARTH

that the ground split apart under them,

32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.

33 So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the congregation.

Earth represents the world system. Those involved in the conspiracy slide back into the world.

SIN AGAINST ONE'S OWN SOUL

The censers of these men who sinned against their own souls

The spirit of conspiracy causes men to sin against their own mind, emotions and will. When one allows mental invasion and thought

insertion, it is a sin against one's own soul.

2 Cor 10:4-5

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
(NKJ)

VIOLATION OF CALLING

39 So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers, which those who were burned up had presented, and they were hammered out as a covering on the altar,
40 to be a memorial to the children of Israel that no outsider, who is not a descendant of Aaron, should come near to offer incense before the LORD, that he might not become like Korah and his companions, just as the LORD had said to him through Moses.

The bronze censers of Korah were hammered out as a covering for the altar to be a memorial to the children of Israel of the dangers of crossing the boundaries of one's call.

MISUNDERSTOOD BY CONGREGATION

41 On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the LORD."

The ignorant congregation blamed Moses for God's judgement upon Korah.

MINISTRY BEYOND THE GRAVE

49 Now those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident.

The spirit of conspiracy destroys the ignorant even after it has left. It has a profound ministry beyond the grave. The number it destroys when it is

dead is greater than the number it destroys during its life.
In the Old covenant conspiracy was met with swift judgement.
In the New, where sin abounds, grace abounds.
There are some churches that are a result of conspiracy.
Worldliness swallows such churches, unless there is genuine repentance.

WHEN CONSPIRACY IS DETECTED IT MUST BE DEALT WITH
PUBLICLY AS IN THE ABOVE CASE.