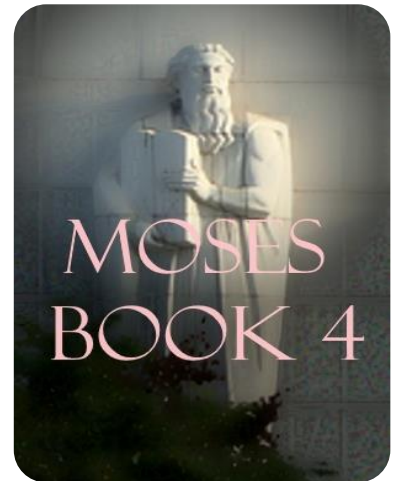


# NUMBERS 16 vs 1

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In the preface to this Book of Moses we read: The titles of the five books of Moses, which we use in our Bibles, are all borrowed from the Greek translation of the Seventy, the most ancient version of the Old Testament what we know of. But the title of this book we only turn into English; in all the rest we retain the Greek word, for which difference I know no reason, but that the Latin translators have done the same. Otherwise this book might as well have been called: **Arithmoi**. Where we get our word: **arithmetic**. The Greek title = the numbering; as it shows the promise of God to Abraham that his children would be as the stars of heaven. In this book are two numberings: one at Mount Sinai in Arabia – chapter 1; and the other on the plains of Moab 39 years later. -- Matthew Henry.



## The Rebellion of Korah

**<sup>1</sup> 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:**

**<sup>2</sup> and they rose up before Moses, with some of the children of Israel, 250 leaders of the gathering, chosen in the assembly, men of renown:**

**<sup>3</sup> and they assembled together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, You have gone too far, for all the gathering are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: so why do you exalt yourselves above the gathering of the LORD?**

**<sup>4</sup> And when Moses heard this, he fell on his face:**

**<sup>5</sup> and he spoke to Korah and to all his assembly, saying, Tomorrow the LORD will show who is His, and who is holy; and will bring him near to Himself: even him whom He has chosen He will bring near to Himself.**

**<sup>6</sup> Do this: Take censers for yourselves, Korah, and all your assembly;**

**<sup>7</sup> and put fire in them, and incense upon them in the presence of the LORD tomorrow: and the man whom the LORD chooses, he will be holy. For you have gone too far, you sons of Levi.**

**<sup>8</sup> Then Moses said to Korah, Now listen, you sons of Levi:**

**<sup>9</sup> Does it seem a small thing, that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the gathering of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tent of the LORD, and to stand before the gathering to minister to them?**

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**10 And that He brought you near Him, and all your brothers, the sons of Levi with you: and do you seek the priesthood also?**

**11 Therefore you and all your assembly are gathered together against the LORD: but as for Aaron, what has he done that you grumble against him?**

**12 And Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: but they said, We will not come up:**

**13 Is it insignificant that you brought us up from a land flowing with milk and honey, to die in the wilderness, except you make yourself also ruler over us?**

**14 Indeed, you have not brought us to a land that flows with milk and honey, nor given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you gouge out the eyes of these men? We will not come up / these punk rebels were very sure they could discern what was going on.**

**15 Then Moses became very angry, and said to the LORD, Do not respect their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, nor have I harmed one of them.**

**16 So Moses said to Korah, Tomorrow you and all your assembly are to appear before the LORD, you, they, and Aaron:**

**17 each of you will take his censer and put incense on it, and present his censer before the LORD -- 250 censers; you and Aaron are each to present your censer also.**

**18 So they each took their own censer, and put fire in them, and put incense on it, and stood at the entrance of the tent of meeting with Moses and Aaron.**

**19 Then Korah assembled all the gathering against them at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And the glory of the LORD appeared to all the gathering.**

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

**21 Separate yourselves from among this gathering, that I may consume them instantly.**

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

**23 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,**

**24 Speak to the gathering, say to them, Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.**

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

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**<sup>26</sup> And he spoke to the gathering, saying, Depart now, from the tents of these wicked men. Do not touch anything of theirs, lest you be swept away in all their sin.**

**<sup>27</sup> So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the doorway of their tents, along with their wives, and their sons, and their little children.**

**<sup>28</sup> Then Moses said, By this you will know that the LORD sent me to do all these deeds; for this never entered my mind.**

**<sup>29</sup> If these men die an ordinary death of all men, or if they suffer what all men suffer; then the LORD has not sent me.**

**<sup>30</sup> But if the LORD makes a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth, and swallows them with all that belonged to them, so that they descend into the pit; then you will know that these men have provoked the LORD.**

**<sup>31</sup> And it happened, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground that was under them split open:**

**<sup>32</sup> And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, and their households, and all the men who belonged to Korah, and all their possessions.**

**<sup>33</sup> So they, and all that belonged to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed over them: and they perished from among the gathering.**

**<sup>34</sup> And all Israel who were around them fled at their outcry: for they said, The earth may swallow us also.**

**<sup>35</sup> And fire also came from the LORD, and consumed the 250 men who presented incense.**

**<sup>36</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,**

**<sup>37</sup> Tell Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, to remove the censers from the burnt debris, for they are hallowed, and scatter the burning coals.**

**<sup>38</sup> And the censers of these men who sinned at the cost of their own souls, let them be made into hammered sheets as a covering of the altar: for they presented them before the LORD, so they are hallowed: and they will be a sign to the children of Israel.**

**<sup>39</sup> And Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers, which the men who were burnt had presented; and they were made broad plates for a covering of the altar:**

**<sup>40</sup> just as the LORD said to him through Moses,**

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as a reminder to the children of Israel, that no one, who is not of the lineage of Aaron, should come near to burn incense to the LORD; that he not be as Korah and his assembly.

<sup>41</sup> But on the next day, all the gathering of the children of Israel protested against Moses and against Aaron, saying, You have killed the people of the LORD.

<sup>42</sup> And it happened, when the gathering assembled against Moses and Aaron, that they turned and looked toward the tent of meeting: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

<sup>43</sup> Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the tent of meeting.

<sup>44</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

<sup>45</sup> Get away from among this gathering, that I may consume them instantly. And they fell on their faces.

<sup>46</sup> And Moses said to Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire in it from off the altar, and put incense on it, and go quickly to the gathering, and make atonement for them: for anger has come from the LORD; the plague has begun.

<sup>47</sup> So Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the gathering; for, behold, the plague had begun among the people: so he put incense, and made atonement for the people.

<sup>48</sup> **And he stood between the dead and the living;** and the plague was stopped.

<sup>49</sup> But those who died in the plague were **14,700**, beside those who died because of Korah.

<sup>50</sup> Then Aaron returned to Moses to the door of the tent of meeting: for the plague was stopped.

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