

Numbers 16 – Korah Rebellion

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Num 16:1-3	1
Num 16:41-50 Commentary	2
Standalone Aleph Tav.....	3
Num 26:10 HSB5	3

Introduction

There is a lot going on in this chapter, but the genesis of this article was to write about what happens at the end where it describes the plague of YHVH going out amongst the people and Moses, apparently on his own initiative, intervenes and stops the plague. This was interesting because I questioned whether Moses had the authority to do this or not.

Num 16:1-3

Narrative

Num 16:41: The people make a charge against Moses of killing those involved in the Korah Rebellion

Commentary

I don't think you can understand the mindset of Korah and his conspirators unless you consider the context of which happened a couple of chapters earlier. In Numbers 13 & 14, the Israelites spied out the land before entering it and the spies came back with the Evil Report. This report was evil because it blasphemed YHVH in that it diminished his name i.e. his power and authority to be with them when they take the land. As a result they were judged by YHVH and were given a death sentence. That judgment was pleaded out by Moses to become a sentence of life in prison with no chance of parole. They would be held captive in the wilderness and their "carcasses be wasted in the wilderness" while their children watch and wait for the 40 years to end.

If you can accept that the context of the Korah rebellion needs to be put into context of the judgment given to them as a result of the Evil Report (Num 13 & 14),

and why I would argue that the

In the timeline of Israel, the Evil Report is a huge event¹, a major data point on her history.

¹ See partially completed Exegesis-Timeline.doc; an timeline aide explaining what Y'shua accomplished on the cross.

See also the outline of <http://www.myhebrewbible.com/FavoriteVerses>. ToDo: use the outline of this as a source of creating an outline.

Evil Report is a pattern that is repeated by the House of Israel getting the Bill of Divorce.

???? **Thesis:** the Evil Report is a pattern that is repeated by the House of Israel getting the Bill of Divorce.

Num 16:41-50 Commentary

Narrative

Num 16:41: The people make a charge against Moses of killing those involved in the Korah Rebellion

Num 16:42: The people act like a mob and gather against and the glory of YHVH appeared

Num 16:45: YHVH instructs Moses and Aaron to separate themselves from the mob so that they may be consumed ^{H3615 kalah} in a moment ^{H7281 rega}.

Num 16:46-50: Moses, apparently on his own initiative, instructs Aaron to go out amongst the rabble and make an atonement for them, and thus saving them (except for the 14,700) who died from YHVH's plague.

Commentary

Is Moses acting without authority, and contrary to what YHVH wished which was to "consume them in a moment"? At the end of this conflict is YHVH pleased with Moshe's actions? The scriptures do not explicitly say that one way or another. Using a parent metaphor, is YHVH reacting like an angry father against his children who are being completely disrespectful of the mother being played by Moses. And through the actions of Moses, acting like that of a merciful mother towards her children, stop the punishment at least in part? This seems to me to be a reasonable metaphor.

For me, the more interesting commentary I would point out is one coming from the perspective of law. Specifically the charge that the mob make against Moses for murdering their fellow Israelites. What this incident allows is an opportunity to demonstratively show the contrary. (Except for the 14,700) his (and Aaron's) actions in fact save them from the judgment of YHVH. A clear shadow picture of Y'shua.

Fear of God: Some people suggest that the fear of God should be thought of as to revere God. Our ancestors in the desert, as a result of the Korah rebellion, got a major dose of raw FEAR of God.

Standalone Aleph Tav

In Parasha # [40.1](#) (Korach Numbers 16) there are no less than 5 standalone Aleph Tav's that relate to this verse

- [Num 16:28](#)
- [Num 16:31](#)
- [Num 16:35](#)
- [Num 16:38](#)
- [Num 16:39](#)

Num 26:10 HSB5

...devoured what-time-the-fire **Aleph Tav** fifty and two hundred men

Num 26:10 KJV And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, what time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men: and they became a sign ^{H5251 nes}.

Pi-ha, her mouth פִּיהָ -et' אֶת־ ha 'A retz And the earth הָאָרֶץ vat tif-Tach opened וַתִּפְתָּח
Ko-rach together with Korah קֹרַח ve 'Et with וְאֶת־ o-Tam' אתם vat tiv-La' and swallowed them up וַתִּבְלַע
ha 'Esh, what time the fire הָאֵשׁ ba 'a-Chol devoured בָּאֵחָל ha 'e-Dah; when that company הַעֵדָה be-Mot died בָּמוֹת
vai-yih-Yu became וַיְהִי־ Ish, men' אִישׁ u-ma-Ta-yim two hundred וּמֵאֲתַיִם cha-mish-Shim and fifty חֲמִשִּׁים et' אֵת
le-Nes. and they became a sign לְנֵס

Num 21:6-9 KJV

⁶ And YHVH sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. ⁷ Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against YHVH, and against thee; pray unto YHVH, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And YHVH said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. ⁹ And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.