

## KORAH'S REBELLION

*“A lie told often enough becomes truth.”*

~ Vladimir Lenin

God's people love God very much and do not want to be found in rebellion against God or any system He has ordained. This is one reason why it's been possible for so many of God's people to be confused about, and abused by, the misuse of authority by men operating within a false pyramid structure of church government that was foisted upon us by Satan's clever machinations. Many of God's people are being misled about church government through repetitious misapplication of God's Holy Scriptures, and by having repeated emphasis of certain passages which are quoted out of context, while omitting the mention of other clear passages that don't fit their ideology. **The “lie” has been told often enough, so that it now seems true to a large number of people.** Men play their part, but we know that Satan is the one who is really behind orchestrating great deceptions (Rev.12:9).

Many people have been repeatedly taught that not submitting to their church's “headquarters” or its leadership can be likened to Korah's rebellion. Is that true? If so, could a Laodicean ever repent, without being “in rebellion” for going contrary to his or her Laodicean leadership, who had not yet repented? I wonder if that is the same “logic” that Satan used to deceive and ultimately lead 1/3 of the angels against God's way (Rev.12:4).

What does God's Word actually teach about Korah's rebellion? Was it really rebellion against Moses, and symbolically rebelling against the “government of God” through men, as so many have been told so often? The account is detailed in Numbers 16.

In verse 1 we see that Korah was a son of Levi. Neither he nor his company were born into the priestly line through Aaron. Moses called them “*sons of Levi*” (verse 8). Therefore, it was against God's Statutes for them to perform priestly duties, or to seek the office of the priesthood.

*Num.16:9-10*

*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?**”*

Not content with their God-ordained Levitical responsibilities, they were attempting to gain the priesthood as well – something God had clearly forbidden. Moses told them that in this grasping for power they were actually gathering **against God** (verse 11), **not against the Lord's anointed**. They were rejecting God's clear instructions, replacing them with their own covetous desires (verse 30).

Being determined to become priests, they had procured their own censers. Moses then told them to each gather their censers and put incense in them (verse 17) – 250 censers in all, plus Aaron's censer. God's Statutes clearly commanded that only the priests, the sons of Aaron, were to offer the Holy incense (verse 40). (This was previously commanded in Num.3:10.) Therefore this was a test to see if God was going to allow just anyone to act as His priest, or if it would be only those whom He chose. After God had caused the earth to split open and swallow up Korah and his men, then He caused fire to come down and burn up the remaining 250 presumptuous rebels. Afterward, God caused each of their censers to be hammered into a covering to overlay the altar as a SIGN 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" (Num.16:31-40).

A careful reading of this passage very clearly proves that Korah and His company were not in trouble with God for rebellion against Moses' leadership, or for refusing to submit to the edicts of a human minister of God. God's Word says they were in trouble for presumptuously trying to take the sanctified office or responsibilities of the priesthood to themselves! That is the plain truth.

**For any church leader today to proclaim that the punishment of Korah and his company was caused by rebellion against Moses or against the "government of God" through human instruments is clearly false. It is simply made up, since the Bible says otherwise!** Why have so many men repeatedly tried to twist these scriptures to fit their church government doctrine? Why employ such fear tactics?

We cannot judge people or understand all the reasons why they do what they do, but the oft repeated mischaracterization of what "Korah's rebellion" was about, certainly seems to be a doctrine designed to instill more control, power, exalting of self and organization, and possibly an attempt to get more tithes. It has become part of a few core Biblical passages that have been distorted to keep the people in fear and submission. It is therefore, in this author's opinion, one of the most egregious fear tactics and misuses of scripture that has been used successfully against God's people in modern times.

On the somewhat positive side, it may also have been taught out of ignorance by some well-meaning men who themselves did not want to "rebel" against what they were told to preach by their "superiors." This is what happens when men preach what they're told to preach – without ever reading the passages carefully enough to prove if what they are teaching is actually true. This is what happens when there is a false understanding of

“church government” being repeatedly pushed upon God’s people. **It causes people to willingly enslave themselves.** Vladimir Lenin understood all too well, what would be the result of carefully crafted and repeated mischaracterization of truth.