

Timeline of Truth: God Removes Complainers from the Congregation (Numbers 16-17)

I. Israel at Mount Sinai (1-10:10)

II. Israel in the Wilderness (10:11-36:13)

1. The Israelites Move (10:11-36)
2. Israel Complains (11:1-35)
3. Aaron and Miriam Complain (12:1-16)
4. The Spies and their Reports (13:1-33)

5. The Nation is Punished (14:1-45)
6. Laws Concerning Offerings in the Land of Israel (15:1-31)
7. A Man Works on the Sabbath and Tassels on Garments (15:32-41)

<p>Numbers 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 <i>men</i>; 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, "<i>You take</i> too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation <i>is</i> holy, every one of them, and the LORD <i>is</i> among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"</p>	<p>1. Respected Leaders _____ Against Moses and Aaron</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. These were 250 of the best men of Israel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders – lit. “princes” • Representatives – lit “called from the assembly • Men of renown – lit. “men with a name” b. The content of their complaint. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses’ leadership
<p>⁴ So when Moses heard <i>it</i>, he fell on his face; ⁵ and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will show who <i>is</i> His and <i>who is</i> holy, and will cause <i>him</i> 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 <i>that</i> the man whom the LORD chooses <i>is</i> the holy one. <i>You take</i> too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi!"</p>	<p>2. Moses Allows God to _____ Him</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Moses proposes a test to determine who the Lord has chosen. b. Moses does not back down
<p>⁸ Then Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi: ⁹ "<i>Is it</i> 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 <i>to Himself</i>, 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 <i>are</i> gathered together against the LORD. And what <i>is</i> Aaron that you complain against him?"</p>	<p>3. Moses Challenges the Rebel’s _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Moses reminds the sons of Levi that God has already given them an (exalted) position. b. Moses admonishes then to not desire a position they were not given. c. Moses reminds them that they are rebelling against God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron did not pick his position, God gave it to him.
<p>¹² And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said, "We will not come up! ¹³ "<i>Is it</i> 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!"</p>	<p>4. Dathan and Abiram _____ Moses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. They continue to challenge Moses’ position b. They challenge the “results” of Moses’ leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice they mock God’s words to Israel – “land flowing with milk and honey”
<p>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."</p>	<p>5. Moses _____ to God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses pleads based on his innocence
<p>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 "Let each 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 <i>with</i> his censer." ¹⁸ So every man took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and stood at the door of</p>	<p>6. Moses _____ Aaron and the Rebels to Bring their Censers</p>

<p>the tabernacle of meeting with Moses and Aaron.</p>	
<p>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."</p>	<p>7. God Threatens to _____ All of the Congregation</p>
<p>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.' "</p>	<p>8. Moses and Aaron _____ for the Congregation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They argue based on personal responsibility God separates the families of Korah, Dathan and Abiram from the congregation.
<p>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.</p>	<p>9. The Congregation is _____</p>
<p>²⁸ And Moses said: "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for <i>I have not done them</i> 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, <i>then</i> 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."</p>	<p>10. Moses Explains _____ the Challenge Will Work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If they die normally, then God has not chosen Moses If God causes them to be swallowed by the ground, then God chose Moses
<p>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 <i>their</i> 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 assembly. ³⁴ Then all Israel who <i>were</i> around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up <i>also!</i>" ³⁵ And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.</p>	<p>11. God _____ Moses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God causes the ground to open God consumes the rest of the rebels with fire
<p>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 <i>to be</i> a memorial to the children of Israel that no outsider, who <i>is</i> 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.</p>	<p>12. God Commands the Censers be Kept as a _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The censers were made into a covering for the altar These were made to be a reminder to Israel who God had chosen to be His priests.
<p>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</p>	<p>13. (The Next Day...) Israel Complains _____</p>

<p>the glory of the LORD appeared. ⁴³ Then Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of meeting.</p>	
<p>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 <i>on it</i>, 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 <i>it</i> 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.</p>	<p>14. God is _____ with the Congregation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God threatens to destroy them Moses has Aaron make atonement for them The plague was stopped 14,700 died in the plague
<p>Numbers 17:1 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. ³ "And you shall write Aaron's name on the rod of Levi. For there shall be one rod for the head of <i>each</i> father's house. ⁴ "Then you shall place them in the tabernacle of meeting before the Testimony, where I meet with you. ⁵ "And it shall be <i>that</i> the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom; thus I will rid Myself of the complaints of the children of Israel, which they make against you."</p>	<p>15. God _____ the Question of Who He Has Chosen Once and for All.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God commands rods be brought to the tabernacle – one for each tribe. The rod of the man God has chosen would bloom
<p>⁶ So Moses spoke to the children of Israel, and each of their leaders gave him a rod apiece, for each leader according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods; and the rod of Aaron <i>was</i> among their rods. ⁷ And Moses placed the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness. ⁸ Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds. ⁹ Then Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD to all the children of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his rod.</p>	<p>16. Aaron's Rod _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God showed the whole congregation who He had chosen The leaders all were aware of the results
<p>¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, "Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die." ¹¹ Thus did Moses; just as the LORD had commanded him, so he did. ¹² So the children of Israel spoke to Moses, saying, "Surely we die, we perish, we all perish! ¹³ "Whoever even comes near the tabernacle of the LORD must die. Shall we all utterly die?"</p>	<p>17. Aaron's Rod is Saved as a _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This was to end the complaints of the rebels, so that they would not die from it. The congregations is afraid for their lives.

Jude 1:4-23 ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ....¹⁰ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of **Korah**. ...¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁸ how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.