

## **Envy – The Destroyer of Many**

### **Scripture Reading: Numbers 16 & 17**

Korah belonged to the tribe of Levi just like Moses and Aaron were. God appointed Aaron to be the high priest. Aaron, his children and Moses were the only ones who could go into the holy place of the tent of meeting. Korah was very anxious to have this honor. Therefore Korah was envious against Aaron and murmured against him.

The envy that was hidden in the heart of Korah was revealed. He conspired with his friends Dathan and Abiram against Moses and Aaron. After a few days, two hundred and fifty popular leaders, all members of the Assembly, joined with them. They went to Moses and Aaron and said, "We have had enough of your presumption; you are no better than anyone else; everyone in Israel has been chosen of the Lord, and he is with all of us. What right do you have to put yourselves forward, claiming that we must obey you, and acting as though you were greater than anyone else among all these people of the Lord?"

Then Moses said to Korah and to those who were with him, "In the morning the Lord will show you who are his, and who is holy, and whom he has chosen as his priest". The next day all stood at the entrance of the door of the tent of meeting. Korah, Dathan, Abiram and all the 250 leaders came with their censers and lit them and placed the incense on them, and stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle with Moses and Aaron. Many were gathered there to see what would take place. God came down through the clouds and spoke to Moses and Aaron.

God commanded everyone to depart from Korah and all who were with him. The people immediately trembled and departed from that group. Then the man of God Moses began to speak and said, "By this you shall know that Jehovah has sent me to do all these things that I have done—for I have not done them on my own. If these men die a natural death or from some ordinary accident or disease, then Jehovah has not sent me; But if the Lord does a miracle and the ground opens up and swallows them and everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you will know that these men have despised the Lord."

He had hardly finished speaking the words when the ground suddenly split open beneath them, and a great split swallowed them up, along with their tents and families and the friends who were standing with them, and everything they owned. All of the people of Israel fled at their screams, fearing that the earth would swallow them too. Then fire came from God and burned up the 250 men who were offering incense.

Do not be envious of others. Pray that God should cleanse your heart from all envy and give you a heart that will bless others.

### **Questions:**

- 1) Why was Korah envious?
- 2) What happened because of Korah's envy?
- 3) What will you choose, to bless others or to envy others?