

# POWER STRUGGLE

Lesson 7 Numbers Chapters 16-17



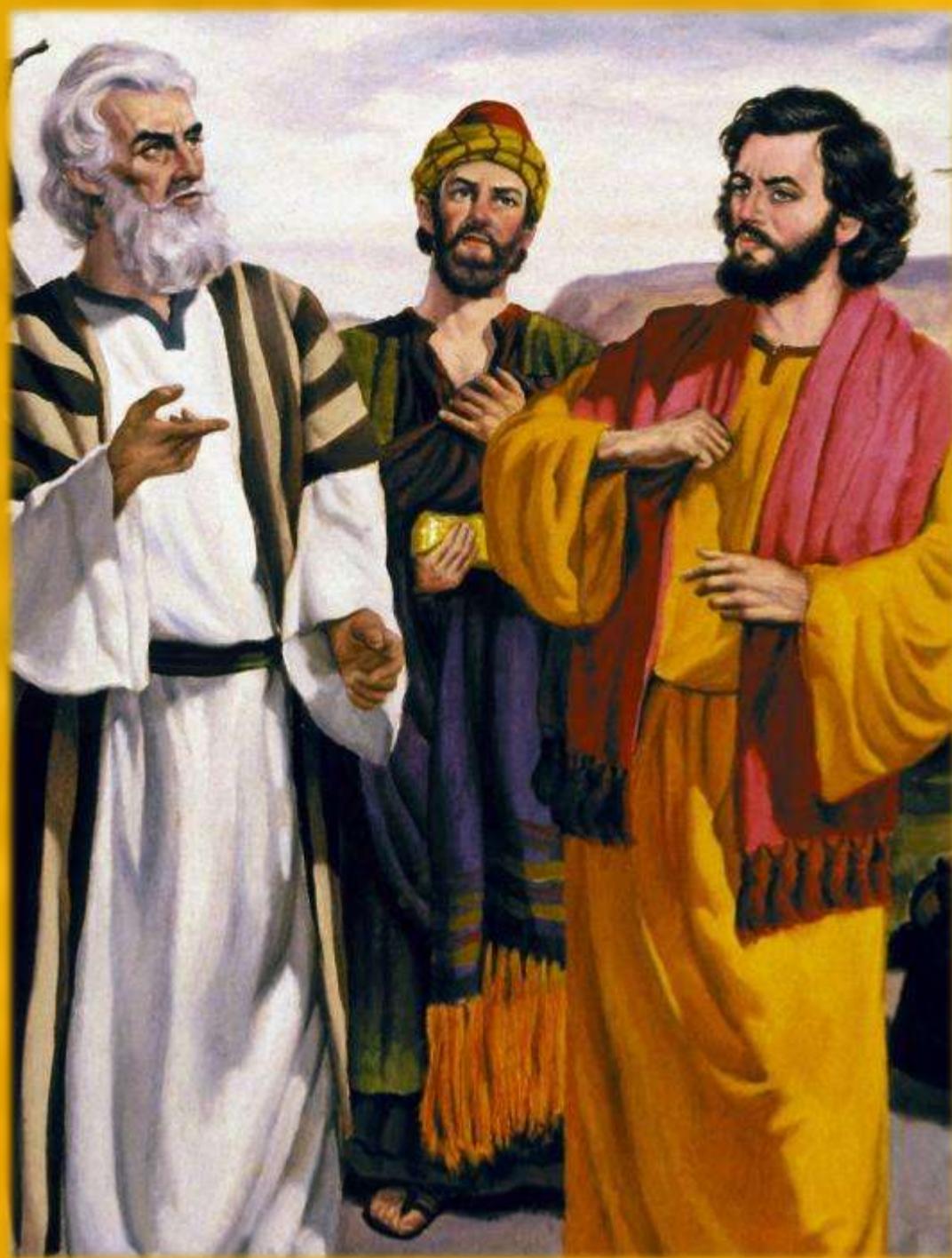
# THE LEADERS OF THE REBELLION



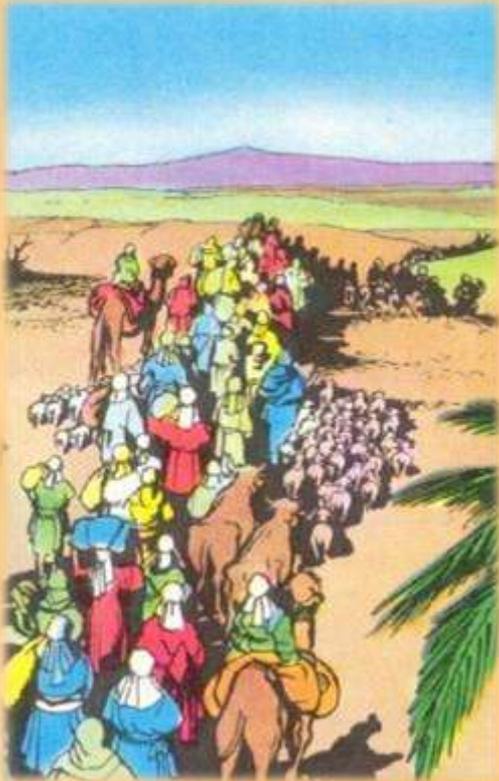
	KORAH	DATHAN	ABIRAM	ON
<b>WHO WERE THEY?</b>	Levite from Kohath's family, Moses' cousin. A capable and influential man. He was the instigator of the rebellion.	They were sons of Eliab, princes of the tribe of Reuben. They lived near Korah's tent.		Pelet's son, he was a prince of the tribe of Reuben.
	All they were part of the group that climbed the mountain to see the God of Israel (Exodus, 24: 9-11)			
<b>WHAT DID THEY WANT TO OBTAIN WITH THEIR REBELLION?</b>	Despite his position serving the sanctuary, he wanted the priesthood, taking Aaron's position.	As descendants of Jacob's firstborn, they wanted the political leadership of Israel. They thought they were more qualified for that than Moses.		

## PREPARATION

**“For a time this work was carried on secretly. As soon, however, as the movement had gained sufficient strength to warrant an open rupture, Korah appeared at the head of the faction, and publicly accused Moses and Aaron of usurping authority which Korah and his associates were equally entitled to share”.**



# WHICH ARGUMENTS DID THEY USE TO CONVINC THE PEOPLE?



- ‡ They took advantage of the state of mind of the people, who was disappointed because of the sentence of dying in the desert. They tried to revive the old doubt, jealousy and hate.
- ‡ The charge that the murmurings of the people had brought upon them the wrath of God was declared to be a mistake.
- ‡ They said that the congregation was not at fault, since they desired nothing more than their rights.

# WHICH ARGUMENTS DID THEY USE TO CONVINC THE PEOPLE?

- ‡ According to them, “Moses was an overbearing ruler; that he had reproved the people as sinners, when they were a holy people and the Lord was among them.
- ‡ They decided that all their disasters were chargeable to Moses, and that their exclusion from Canaan was in consequence of the mismanagement of Moses and Aaron.
- ‡ Korah told them that if he would be their leader, and would encourage them by dwelling upon their good deeds, instead of reproofing their sins, they would have a very peaceful, prosperous journey; instead of wandering to and fro in the wilderness, they would proceed directly to the Promised Land.



# HOW DID THE REBELLION EVOLVE?

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They first whispered their discontent to one another and then to leading men of Israel. Their insinuations were so readily received that they ventured still further, and at last they really believed themselves to be actuated by zeal for God.



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To those who are in the wrong, and deserving of reproof, there is nothing more pleasing than to receive sympathy and praise.

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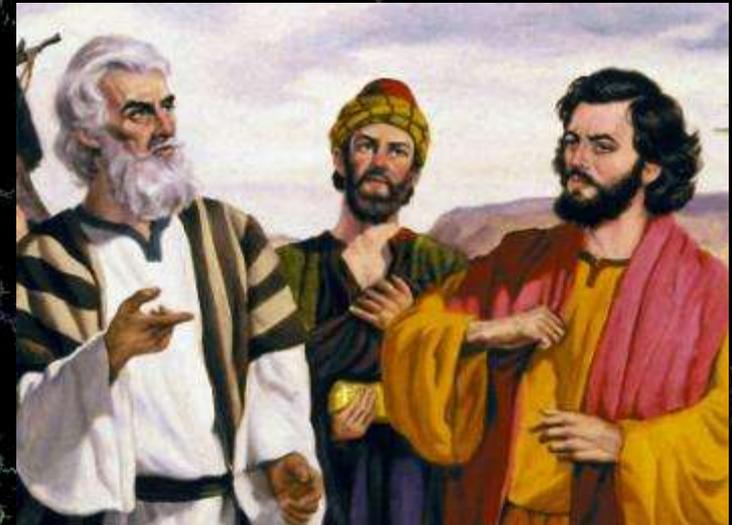
There was greater union and harmony among the discordant elements of the congregation than had ever before existed.

# HOW DID THE REBELLION EVOLVE?

They deceived themselves and one another into thinking that Moses and Aaron had themselves assumed the positions they held.

At that moment, Korah believed that God had opened the matter to him, and had authorized him to make a change in the government before it should be too late.

Once the people were supporting them, they challenged publicly Moses and Aaron.

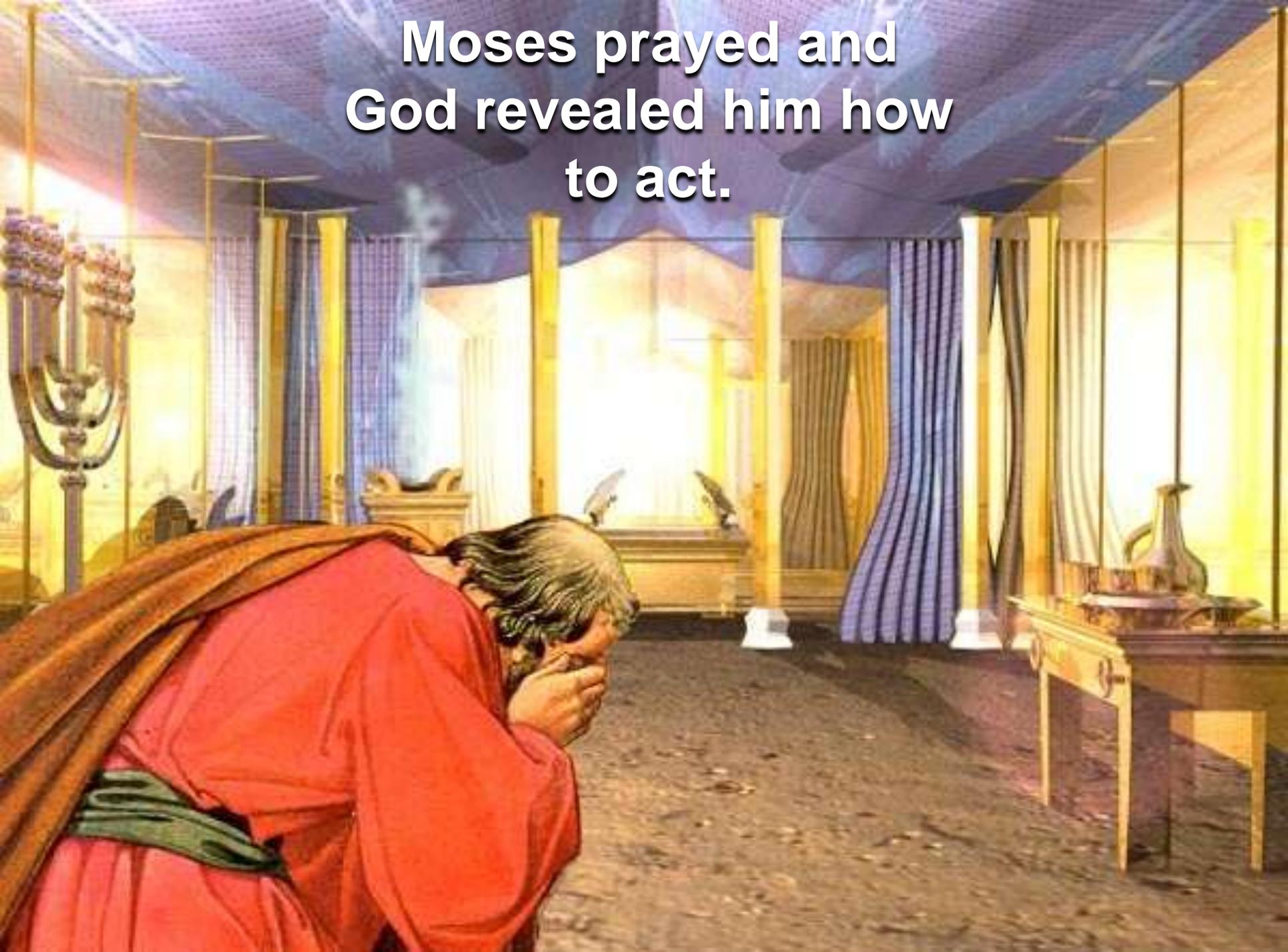


# OPEN REBELLION

**“They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord’s assembly?”**



**Moses prayed and  
God revealed him how  
to act.**



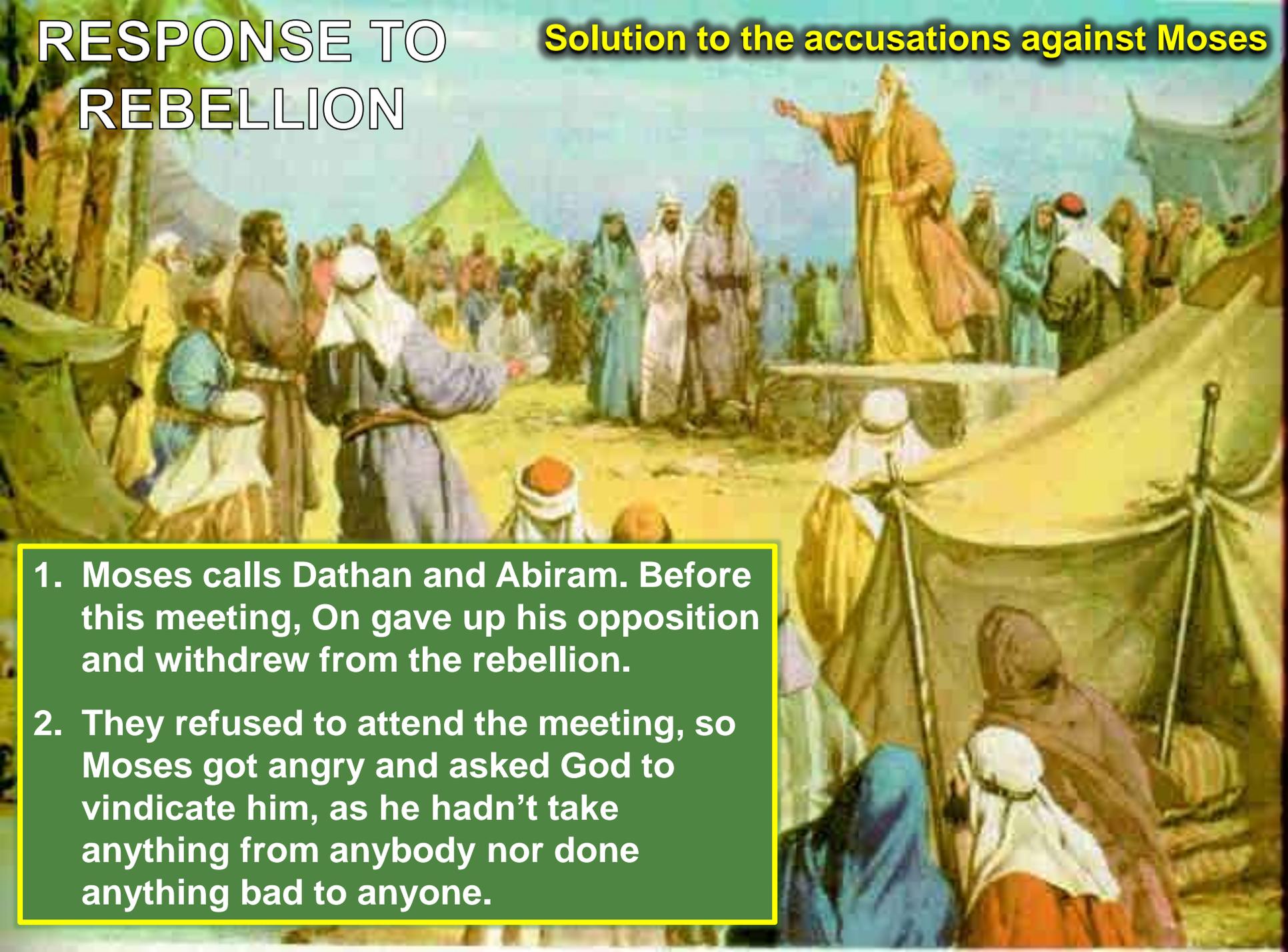
# RESPONSE TO REBELLION

**Solution to the accusations against Aaron  
and the priesthood**

1. Korah is asked to get the 250 Levites of his group together with censers to offer incense before God (He, the 250 Levites and Aaron)
2. Moses reproaches them for desiring the priesthood. They should have been satisfied with the privilege of serving in the sanctuary.

# RESPONSE TO REBELLION

**Solution to the accusations against Moses**



1. Moses calls Dathan and Abiram. Before this meeting, On gave up his opposition and withdrew from the rebellion.
2. They refused to attend the meeting, so Moses got angry and asked God to vindicate him, as he hadn't take anything from anybody nor done anything bad to anyone.

# DIVINE MERCY

**God gave them some time to meditate on their rebellion and to regret it before He carried out His judgement.**



**“Moses said to Korah, “You and all your followers are to appear before the Lord tomorrow””**

# THE REBELS REAFFIRM THEIR POSITION

The next day, Korah gathered the 250 to offer incense and call the people before the door of the Sanctuary.



**“"Separate yourselves from this assembly so that I can put an end to them at once." Then Moses and Aaron fell face down”**

(Numbers, 16: 21-22)

**In view of their obstinacy, God decided to destroy them immediately. Moses and Aaron interceded for the people.**

# VINDICATION OF MOSES AS THE LEADER OF ISRAEL

**Moses headed for Dathan and Abiram's tents, with the 70 elders.**

**Korah went to their tent to support them.**

**They came out their tents with their families to confront Moses.**

**Korah's sons didn't support the rebellion. Later on, they were the main singers in the Temple (many psalms are addressed to them)**



# VINDICATION OF MOSES AS THE LEADER OF ISRAEL



**Moses asks the assembly to get away from Korah, Dathan and Abram's tents, for not to be destroyed with them.**

**Their sentence is announced: they would die in a supernatural way, being consumed by the earth. If they hadn't died that way, Moses wouldn't have been chosen by God.**

**When Moses stops talking, God carried out the sentence and vindicated Moses as the divinely appointed leader of Israel.**



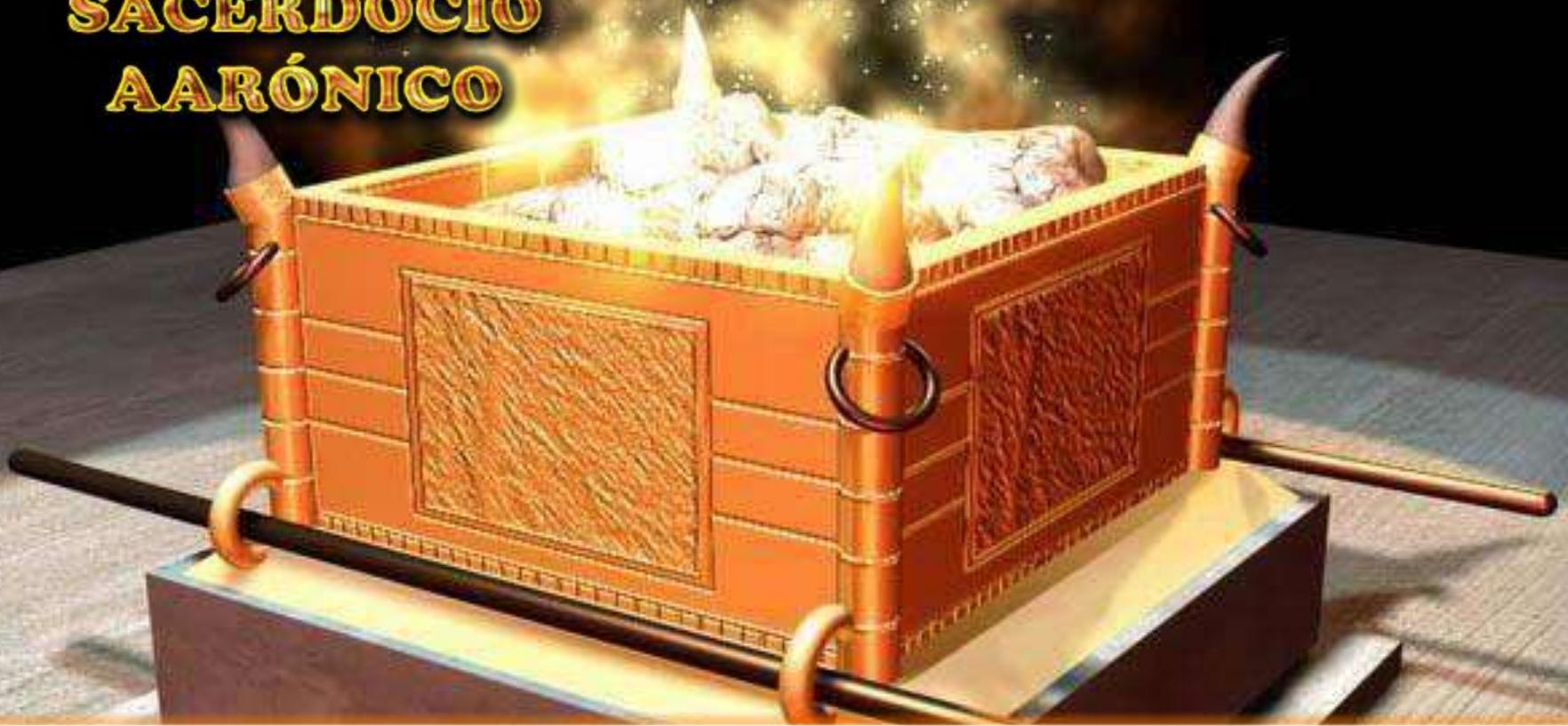
# VINDICATION OF AARON AND THE PRIESTHOOD

**“But the judgments were not ended. Fire flashing from the cloud consumed the two hundred and fifty princes who had offered incense. These men, not being the first in rebellion, were not destroyed with the chief conspirators. They were permitted to see their end, and to have an opportunity for repentance; but their sympathies were with the rebels, and they shared their fate”.**

E.G.W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, chap. 35, page 401)



# VINDICACIÓN DE AARÓN Y EL SACERDOCIO AARÓNICO



**Eliza collected the 250 bronze censers and they were laminated to cover the altar.**

**That should be a reminder for the people, so they wouldn't doubt Moses and Aaron had been divinely entrusted with leading them, and they wouldn't rebel against God again.**

# REBELLION AGAIN

**“They returned to their tents that night terrified, but not repentant”.**

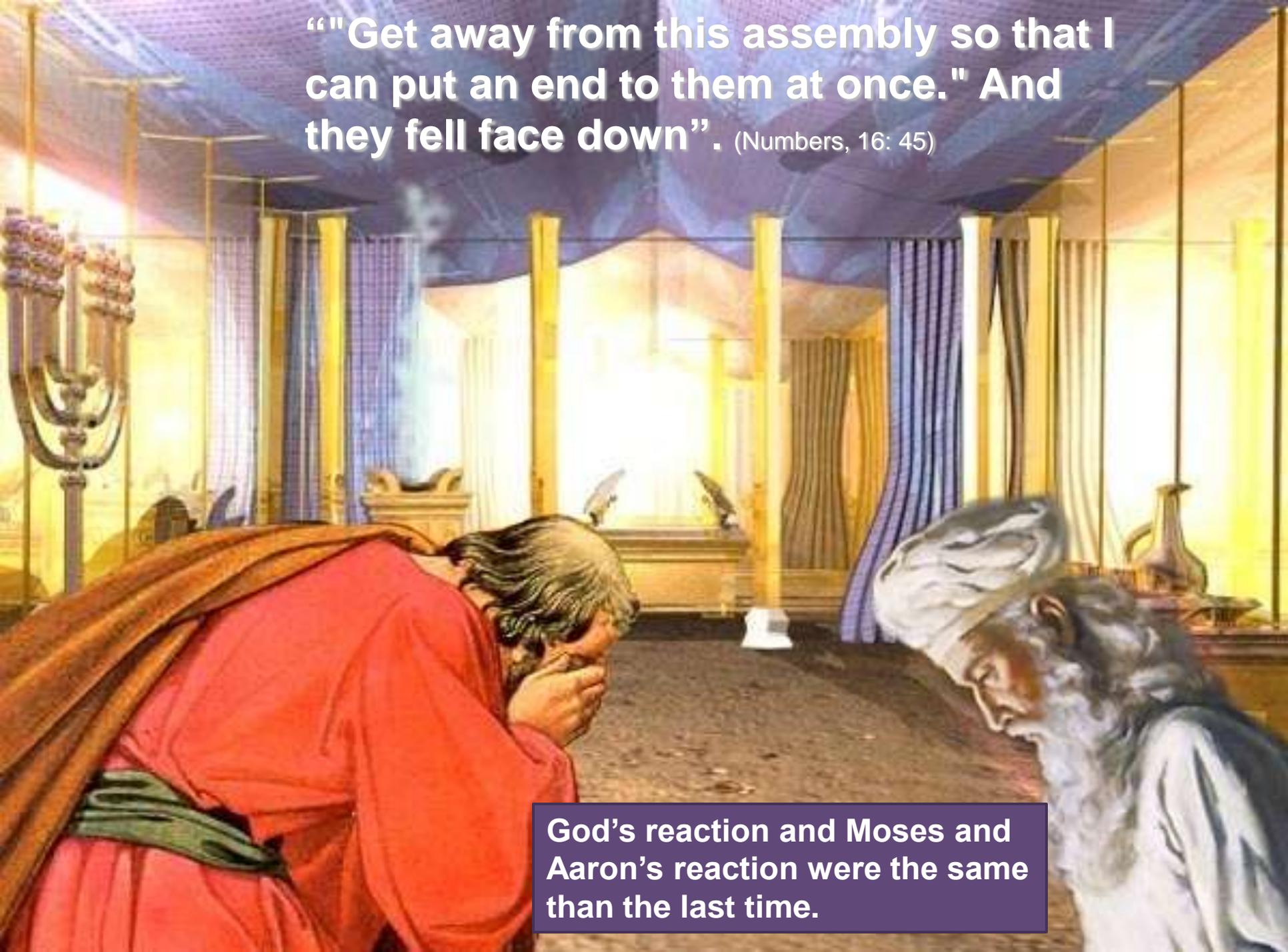
(PP, pg. 401)

**“The next day the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. "You have killed the Lord's people", they said”.**

(Numbers, 16: 41)

**The Israelites didn't want to submit to God's direction, so they tried to explain what happened and they charged Moses and Aaron with killing Korah, Dathan and Abiram.**

**“Get away from this assembly so that I can put an end to them at once.” And they fell face down”.** (Numbers, 16: 45)



**God's reaction and Moses and Aaron's reaction were the same than the last time.**



**“But the minister of wrath had gone forth; the plague was doing its work of death. By his brother's direction, Aaron took a censer and hastened into the midst of the congregation to "make an atonement for them." "And he stood between the dead and the living." As the smoke of the incense ascended, the prayers of Moses in the tabernacle went up to God; and the plague was stayed; but not until fourteen thousand of Israel lay dead, an evidence of the guilt of murmuring and rebellion”.**

**“Do not the same evils still exist that lay at the foundation of Korah's ruin? Pride and ambition are widespread; and when these are cherished, they open the door to envy, and a striving for supremacy; the soul is alienated from God, and unconsciously drawn into the ranks of Satan. Like Korah and his companions, many, even of the professed followers of Christ, are thinking, planning, and working so eagerly for self-exaltation that in order to gain the sympathy and support of the people they are ready to pervert the truth, falsifying and misrepresenting the Lord's servants, and even charging them with the base and selfish motives that inspire their own hearts. By persistently reiterating falsehood, and that against all evidence, they at last come to believe it to be truth. While endeavouring to destroy the confidence of the people in the men of God's appointment, they really believe that they are engaged in a good work, verily doing God service”.**

# GOD SETTLES THE QUESTION OF PRIESTHOOD



In order to settle the question of priesthood, God ordered that each prince of the 12 tribes had to bring his rod and had to engrave it with his name.

The rod of the tribe of Levi, engraved with Aaron's name, was added.

Moses placed the rods before the Ark of the Testimony and they stayed there all night long.

A la mañana siguiente, sacó las varas y cada príncipe tomó la suya.

The next morning, he took out the rods and each prince took his rod. Aaron's rod "had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds"

(Numbers, 17: 8)

That rod remained before the Testimony as a reminder of Aaron's divine priesthood.





**“God works by the manifestation of His Spirit to reprove and convict the sinner; and if the Spirit's work is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul. The last resource of divine mercy has been employed. The transgressor has cut himself off from God, and sin has no remedy to cure itself. There is no reserved power by which God can work to convict and convert the sinner. "Let him alone" (Hosea 4: 17), is the divine command. Then "there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." (Hebrews. 10: 26, 27.)”**

# **ADAPT *it!***

Teaching Approach

Effective for  
**SMALL GROUPS**

- ASSOCIATE truth** – Why should I study this lesson?
- DISCOVER truth** – What does the Bible say about this truth?
- APPLY truth** – How can this truth affect my life today?
- PLAN using the truth** – How can I use this truth today?
- TRANSFER truth to life** – What changes do I need in my life?



**We invite you to download and study  
each one of the 13 lessons about the book  
of Numbers**

**[Slideshare.net/chucho1943](https://www.slideshare.net/chucho1943)**