

Episode 6: Changes at the Top

1. **Carried over from Last Episode: The Rebellion of Korah** (Num. 16:1–50)
   1. *Korah*’*s accusation* (Num. 16:1–3, 13–14): Korah and a group of rebellious Israelites accuse Moses of the following:
      1. he is a dictator;
      2. he has brought the Israelites into the wilderness to kill them;
      3. he has been unable to bring them into the Promised Land.
   2. *Moses*’ *answer* (Num. 16:4–12, 15–30)
      1. To the rebels (Num. 16:4–12, 15–22): Moses tells the rebels to show up the next day at the Tabernacle entrance with their incense burners. Then the Lord will show them who is holy and set apart for him.
      2. To the rest of the people (Num. 16:23–30): Moses warns the people to stay clear of the troublemakers if they want to continue living.
   3. *The Lord*’s *anger* (Num. 16:31–50)
      1. *Towards the Korahites* (Num. 16:31–40): The very ground where they are standing opens up and swallows them alive! Fire blazes from the Lord and burns up Korah’s followers who are offering incense.
      2. To the rest of the people (Num. 16:41–50)
         1. The rebellion (Num. 16:41–42): The next morning people confront Moses and Aaron, saying, “You two have killed the Lord’s people!”
         2. The response (Num. 16:43–46): The Lord sends a plague on the people to destroy them.
         3. The rescue (Num. 16:47–50): Aaron burns incense and makes atonement for the people in order to stop the plague. Before it stops, 14,700 Israelites die.
2. 40 Years have Passed! (See 33:38) **20:1** Regrouping at Kadesh.
3. The Death of Miriam. *Miriam, Moses*’ *sister* dies and is buried in the wilderness of Zin, near Kadesh. (Num. 20:1)
4. The Disobedience of Moses
   1. **The People Complain…again!** (Num. 20:2–6): When the Israelites run out of water, they blame Moses and lament the fact that they are not back in Egypt.
   2. **The directive of God** (Num. 20:7–8): The Lord tells Moses to assemble the people and command a rock to give them water.
   3. **The disobedience of Moses** (Num. 20:9–13): After the rebellious people are assembled, Moses’ anger causes him to cry out, “Must we bring you water from this rock?” He disobeys the Lord’s command and strikes the rock twice. The water still comes out, but Moses pays a sad price for his disobedience: he cannot lead the people into the Promised Land.
5. The Death of Aaron (Num. 20:23–25, 28–29)
   1. The preparation for his death (Num. 20:23–25): Moses is commanded to take Aaron and Eleazar (Aaron’s son) up on Mount Hor and there transfer the clothing (and office) of Israel’s high priest from father to son.
   2. Aaron dies and is buried on Mount Hor. The people then mourn for Aaron for thirty days. (Num. 20:28–29)
   3. *Eleazar succeeds Aaron* (Num. 20:26–28): Eleazar now becomes Israel’s second high priest.
6. The Appointment of Joshua (Num. 27:12–23)
   1. Moses is to climb a mountain and view the Promised Land, for he must soon die. (Num. 27:12–14)
   2. Joshua is appointed as Israel’s new leader. In a public ceremony Moses lays hands on Joshua and passes the torch of leadership to him. (Num. 27:15–23)