

Conflict Resolution



Aaron's Rod Buds

Rebellious people are often slow learners. After the destruction of Korah, and all they who appertained to them, a person might think twice before murmuring.

The Conflict: Just as there will always be those who will rise up to protest when a righteous judgment is brought upon the ungodly, so it was with the congregation of Israel: “But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of Jehovah.”

The Consequence of their actions: “And it came to pass, when the congregation was assembled against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tent of meeting: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of Jehovah appeared. And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting. And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. And they fell upon their faces. And Moses said unto Aaron, Take thy censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and lay incense thereon, and carry it quickly unto the congregation, and make

atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from Jehovah; the plague is begun. And Aaron took as Moses spake, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on the incense, and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed. Now they that died by the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, besides them that died about the matter of Korah. And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tent of meeting: and the plague was stayed” (Numbers 16:41–50).

What motivate Korah to take such actions? To this, the prophet Jude said, “Woe unto them! For they went in the way of Cain, and ran riotously in the error of Balaam for hire, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah” (Jude 11). Korah’s “gainsaying,” or dispute, disobedience, and/or contradiction against that which Jehovah had determined for the well-being, and good of man, and the nation.

Not until man recognizes that he cannot have everything he wants, simply because he wants it, and attempts to seize that which he wants regardless of having no right to it, will the man, or any group of men truly be in subjection to the Father of spirits, and live.

The Resolution: After the demise of Korah, and the destruction of those who further rebelled against Jehovah, Jehovah provides a test, if you will, to establish the priesthood: an unbiased test that none, neither Moses, nor Aaron would have the final say, but Jehovah.

“And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of them rods, one for each fathers' house, of all their princes according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod. And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi; for there shall be one rod for each head of their fathers' houses. And thou shalt lay them up in the tent of meeting before the testimony, where I meet with you. And it shall come to pass, that the rod of the man whom I shall choose shall bud: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur

against you. And Moses spake unto the children of Israel; and all their princes gave him rods, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. And Moses laid up the rods before Jehovah in the tent of the testimony. And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses went into the tent of the testimony; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and put forth buds, and produced blossoms, and bare ripe almonds. And Moses brought out all the rods from before Jehovah unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. And Jehovah said unto Moses, Put back the rod of Aaron before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the children of rebellion; that thou mayest make an end of their murmurings against me, that they die not. Thus did Moses: as Jehovah commanded him, so did he. And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we perish, we are undone, we are all undone. Every one that cometh near, that cometh near unto the tabernacle of Jehovah, dieth: shall we perish all of us?" (Numbers 17:1–13)

It is difficult for mankind to accept his station in life, and see that such stations are within the greater plans of the Creator. All mankind can flourish in the realm God has given them, but will surely perish when usurping that which is not. Whether it be as citizens of the nation within which we reside, the home within which we live, or our obligation to our God, the way of peace is through an understand of our various duties before God, and then, "when ye shall have done all things that are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which it was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).