

Is That REALLY in the Bible?  
The Day the Ground Opened up

1. Suppose tomorrow is election day. It's time to elect a new world leader – and your vote counts. Here are the choices:

Candidate A consults with astrologers. He's had two mistresses, chain smokes and drinks eight to ten martinis a day.

Candidate B was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college, and drinks a quart of brandy every evening.

Candidate C is a decorated war hero, a vegetarian, is monogamous, doesn't smoke and drinks only an occasional beer.

**Which candidate would you choose?**

2. Numbers 16: 1-3. Who were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? What was their complaint against Moses and Aaron? What were they accusing Moses of? Have you ever felt this way about someone in leadership over you (for example boss or spiritual leader)?
3. Numbers 16:4. What did Moses do before he answered them? Why do you think he did this?
4. Read Numbers 16:5-7. What would be the sign that indicated God's choice for leader?
5. Numbers 16:8-10. How would you summarize Moses' words to these men in modern English?
6. Numbers 16:11. What did Moses mean when he said, "It is against the Lord that you and all your company have gathered together."?
7. Numbers 16:12-15. How would you feel if you were doing your best to obey God and lead someone down the right path in life as a spiritual mentor (leader) and then that person (who you poured your heart and soul into) turned on you and accused you of causing their hardship and suffering? Have you ever had someone misunderstand your kindness and say hurtful things about you when you were only trying to help them?
8. Numbers 16:16-19. Jon Courson commentary says this: *That Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 leaders came to the tabernacle with censers in hand indicates that they thought they had a case, that they thought they would be vindicated, that they thought God would justify their rebellion.*

Have you ever thought you were right, only to find out (after you acted like a jerk) that you were wrong?

Have you ever judged someone's intentions, only to find out later, you were wrong?

Why should we be quick to listen and slow to cast judgment when it comes to the way someone in authority over us is leading? (Psalm 75:6,7)

9. Numbers 16:20-22. What made Moses and Aaron good leaders?
10. Numbers 16:23-35. What happened? Who was swallowed up by the ground? What lessons can we learn from this story? How does God feel about pride and rebellion? How does God feel when we grumble about the position we have in life or when we are jealous of someone else? What does he want us to do when we meet someone like Korah and his followers? (v.26)
11. Psalm 84:10. What job did the writer of this Psalm say he would be willing to do, just to be in God's House? How do you think the writer of this Psalm would do his job as "doorkeeper" with a grumbling spirit or with joy in his heart? Look up at the heading for this chapter. Who wrote this Psalm? Wow! What does that tell you about the grace of God? Do you think any lessons were learned?