

Wednesday 25th November

Numbers 16: 16-50

Key Verse 16: 33,35

A censer is a gadget for burning incense to God. Moses sets a test for Korah and his followers. Along with Aaron they were invited to appear with censers before God at the Tent of Meeting. Aaron was the High Priest and the only one ordained to do such a thing (see v 40). God's judgement follows swiftly (v35). The 250 self-appointed priests were consumed by fire.

Moses re-affirms his authority in vs 28-30. He cuts to the heart of the problem. He was getting the blame for everything so, in effect, he tells his people, 'Watch and see. This is from God not from me!' He predicts the horrific manner of death for Korah, Dathan, Abiram and their families. God the creator of the Earth uses his creation to swallow them alive!

God establishes Aaron's unique priesthood and Moses' unique authority!

Key verse 16: 22

Three times in this chapter Moses adopts this position. (4,22,45) We can pray in any position, be it standing, sitting or kneeling but Moses lowers himself as far as he can in humility as he genuinely pleads with God. Those he is interceding for are the very people in v41 who blame Moses, not God, for the death of Korah and his followers.

Sin, like a virus, first infected Korah, then Dathan and Abiram, the 250 and finally the whole of Israel. It is our own sin that condemns us too but we have Christ interceding for us before God in the way that Moses did for his people.

Key Verse 16:46-47

In verse 45 God threatens total destruction but Moses calls upon God's High Priest to make atonement for the people. There is urgency. 'Hurry' (v46). Death is imminent. The people will be lost in hell unless there is action. The plague had started, the rot had set in but maybe some could be saved!

Moses knew only one person could make atonement for the sins of the people. In those days it was the one appointed by God, Aaron.

Christ is our Aaron! Like Moses, are we urging Christ to make atonement for those we know who are in imminent danger of being lost?

'He stood between the living and the dead'. (v48) What a statement! Christ stands between life eternal, life to the full (John 10v10) and eternal death for all people!!

Nothing can be more important. Take time right now to urge Christ to give life to those we love!