

tempted to join in with those like Dathan and Abiram and Korah in a situation/^{or}where we will be in a situation like Moses and Aaron trying to reconcile ~~the~~ discordant elements in order to move forward and accomplish something.

B. The Two separate movements. There are two separate movements here and they are presented by the fact that Korah is mentioned with his whole genealogy as representing one of the sections. and then Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben. This On the son of Peleth is mentioned only in this first verse. He is not mentioned again in the course of the chapter. It is possible that he left the others and came back to his loyalty, but if so I think probably that it would have been described. I think it is more likely that he is mentioned here at the beginning because he was an important element in the force that was raised up there, but that as time went on he simply became less prominent and he is not mentioned again at all in the chapter. Dathan and Abiram is mentioned a number of times more. But Korah is mentioned in the chapter nearly 3 times as often as any of the others mentioned in this first verse. Now the two groups then -- the Korahite group is perhaps the most important. But the Reuben group is doubtless the larger. And so we will make

1. The Attitude of the Reubenite Group (and then 2. The Attitude of the Korahite Group).
The attitude of the Reubenite group we find in vs. 3 (reading text . . .) You might get the impression from this that they are standing for a situation of absolute equality where everybody will have an equal say in what is done. Of course nothing ever succeeds on that sort of basis. Success is not determined by counting of noses but by careful consideration of situations and determination of the elements that enter into them. All through history situations have gravitated to where control rests in the hands of comparatively few people. The great advantage of a system of democracy is twofold: (1) that you get a great unity of support from the great mass of people when they feel that they have a voice in what is done (2) the other great benefit is that they can make a change in the leadership when the leadership becomes corrupt. And in every human situation leadership always eventually becomes corrupt. There is sin in every human being, and when you have leadership for any long period in any one individual or group, eventually it becomes corrupt and a change is