

So we have a few chapters that we do not know just where to place within the 38 yrs. One might say this occurred just about anytime, yet the fact that the group is living together when it happened makes it look rather probable that it is either near the beginning or near the end of that period. They were doubtless scattered out during a good part of this 38 yrs. moving in a rather larger area as they looked for pasture for their flocks and for their herds and as they wandered in the wilderness for 38 yrs. in accordance with God's command.

The (16th) chapter simply starts: Now Korah, the son of Ixhar, the son of Kohath . . . (reading text, vs. 1-2). It starts out telling us when this happened, but it was a very important event. It was something could have completely wrecked God's -- the carrying out of the plan for the Israelites to go into the land. So we will mention

A. The Complexity of the Situation. This is a chapter that has a number of varying incidents and varying elements entering into it. The critics get great joy out of dividing this into two distinct documents. One dealing with Dathan and Abriam and one dealing with Korah and his followers and considering them as separate units which were combined into one source. Actually the two stories are not at all parallel. The situation is quite different in each of them. And when you divide it you do not have a complete story in either case. I believe that this chapter is good to bring to our attention the fact that in most situations in life the elements are complex. Here you have various elements, various approaches which entered in. And each of these was encouraged by the existence of the other. And they had to be dealt with if the work was to go forward. There doubtless were many other situations ^{when} ~~which~~. When you take a large group of people like this carrying out such a great enterprise. Moses doubtless had to deal with dozens of situations any one of which might conceivably have wrecked the whole situation but he dealt with them wisely and firmly and God gave him success in handling them. And we are in the Scripture here simply told of the particular ^{ones} one that were climactic and we are given them as illustrations of the sort of thing that we will have to meet ourselves as we try to serve the Lord. None of us will ever be in a situation exactly like this but many of the elements of it will represent situations where we will either be