

law and the fact that thousands of people were observing this law around him, a man was caught flagrantly disobeying it. He was brought to Moses and Aaron, and they sought special wisdom as to what should be done. God ordered that he be killed as a warning to the people of the terrible nature of wilful sin.

d. The ribband of blue (xv.37-41)

God knows how easy it is for a man living in Satan's world to forget His Creator. So He commanded the Israelites to make special borders on their clothes as a reminder. It is always a good- thing to seek ever new ways of reminding ourselves of God and His desires for us. When one means has been used for a time its purpose tends to be forgotten, or it may become an end in itself instead of simply a reminder to do God's will. Hence all such means must be subject to frequent change, if they are to retain their effectiveness.

XI. THE GREAT REBELLION OF KORAH, DATHAN AND ABIRAM. xvi.1-50

This chapter presents a complicated series of events with many involved details. Two distinct groups are joined in a temporary alliance against Moses and Aaron. One of these, headed by Korah, is composed principally of Levites, who are offended by the setting apart of the family of Aaron for the duties and privileges of the priesthood.

The other group, headed by Dathan and Abiram, feel that they, rather than Moses, should have the pre-eminence in the nation, since they are leaders of the tribes descended from the firstborn son of Jacob. Thus a rebellion against ecclesiastical authority and another against political authority are associated together, and the strength of each is greatly enhanced by cooperation with the other. Yet there is considerable difference in the attitude of the two groups, and to some extent they are dealt with separately and differently. In view of the complexity of these events the running summary below should be helpful in gaining an understanding of the chapter.