

When events so complex as these are described, it is easy to attempt to put together the verses dealing with each of the two movements and to allege that the chapter is really a composite account formed by the interweaving of two distinct documents. This claim, however, lacks convincing proof. While there are two distinct movements there is one series of events, and the claim of some critics that there are two distinct ~~movements/their~~ sources has no foundation of solid evidence. Such alleged contradictions as have been discussed in connection with the story of the spies (cf. chapter xiii) are not found in this account.

The critical argument makes much of the fact that in Dt. xi.6 Dathan and Abiram are mentioned but there is no mention of Korah, while in Nu.xxvii.3 reference is made to the rebellion of Korah but no mention is made of Dathan and Abiram. In considering this argument certain factors should be noticed.

1. In Dt.xi.6 Moses is calling the attention of the people to the fact that they themselves had seen the earth open up and swallow Dathan and Abiram. There was no reason to mention Korah, since he was not swallowed up by the earth, but died in a different way.

2. In Nu.xxvii.3 the daughters of Zelophehad mention the fact that their father did not join the revolt headed by Korah. In any such brief mention it would seem quite normal merely to mention one leader without necessarily giving the whole roster of the heads of a revolt.

3. These two instances are not the only early allusions to this revolt. In Nu.xxvi.9 Korah, Dathan and Abiram are all named together. In Ecclus.xiv.18 this is also the case. Cf. Ps.cvi.16-18, where both the civil and ecclesiastical aspects of the rebellion are mentioned.

4. In writings as late as the beginning of the Christian era we sometimes find that the two sections of the revolt are mentioned separately, as in Jude 11 which refers only to Korah, and in 4 Macc.ii.17 which refers only to Dathan and Abiram. Even if the critical theories were true, by this time the narrative