

YOU THINK TOO MUCH OF YOURSELF

Numbers 16:1-40; Luke 14:7-11

Now Korah, the son of Izhar, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, gathered some men together. They came before Moses with two hundred and fifty princes of the children of Israel. In fact, they gathered against Moses and against Aaron. They claimed that Moses and Aaron had claimed too much authority in the nation. These men wanted power and authority to lead the people also. They wanted to be important in the eyes of the people.

When Moses heard their words, he fell on his face. He spoke to Korah and those that were with them, saying, "Tomorrow the Lord will show who he wants to guide his people. He will show who is set apart for this task and who is not. The Lord will cause the ones that he has chosen to come near him. So now, all of you take censers and put fire and incense in them. Tomorrow come before the Lord with your censers and he will show who is set apart." Moses warned these men that they were thinking too highly of themselves.

Moses said to them, "Do you think that the service that the Lord has given you is nothing? Why aren't you satisfied with where the Lord has placed you? Now you have incited all these people to complain against the Lord and Aaron."

Then Moses called Dathan and Abiram, but they would not listen to him. They complained, "It's your fault that we are in this wilderness to die, because you have made yourself a ruler over us. We will not come to you."

This made Moses very angry and he said to the Lord, "Please don't accept their offering of incense, for I have never hurt these people in any way."

The next day Korah gathered all the congregation at the door of the tabernacle. There the glory of the Lord appeared to the people. The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, "Separate yourselves from this congregation so that I may destroy them in a moment!"

But Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the Lord and prayed that he would not destroy all the people. Then the Lord commanded that all the congregation should move away from Korah and his followers. The people believed Moses' warning and moved from the company of those wicked men.

Then Moses told the people that they would know who God had chosen to lead them and who had raised themselves in their own eyes because they coveted the position. The Lord would cause those who were not really chosen to lead his people to be swallowed up by the earth.

As soon as Moses finished saying these things, the earth quaked and trembled. A great opening appeared in the ground right exactly where those who spoke against Moses and Aaron were standing. All those wicked men, and all that they had fell into the great crack and then the earth closed up again. So they died and the Lord showed he had chosen to lead his people again.

Many times people look with covetous eyes at the job or position of someone else. They say in their heart, I'm just as good as that person, I should be doing what they are doing, Who do they think they are to do that job?" The Bible tells us that it is foolish to seek any position, or to raise one's self up. The Lord does the choosing, not us. It is foolish to think ourselves more important than we are. The Lord knows where he wants each of us to serve him and when and how, it is not our place to think that we are more important than we are. Korah learned that lesson the hard way. Aren't you glad that we can learn this lesson by reading his story? We don't have to learn how God feels about pride by experience, instead we can learn by listening to his truth and obeying him. When those feelings of wanting to be higher come to us, the Lord will help us to reject them if we ask.

Jesus told a parable about a man invited to a feast. He said, "Don't take the best place when you get there, because maybe a person more important than you will come, and then you will be asked to move to a less important seat. How embarrassing! Wouldn't it be better to take an unimportant place and then be asked to move to a better place? The Lord wants us to be humble not prideful. Then when it the right time he will honor us and it will be true honor, not our make believe self-importance.

LEARN: *For whoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. Luke 14:11*

1. Color Moses picture.

2. Fold on dotted lines to close hole in the earth.



closed
hole

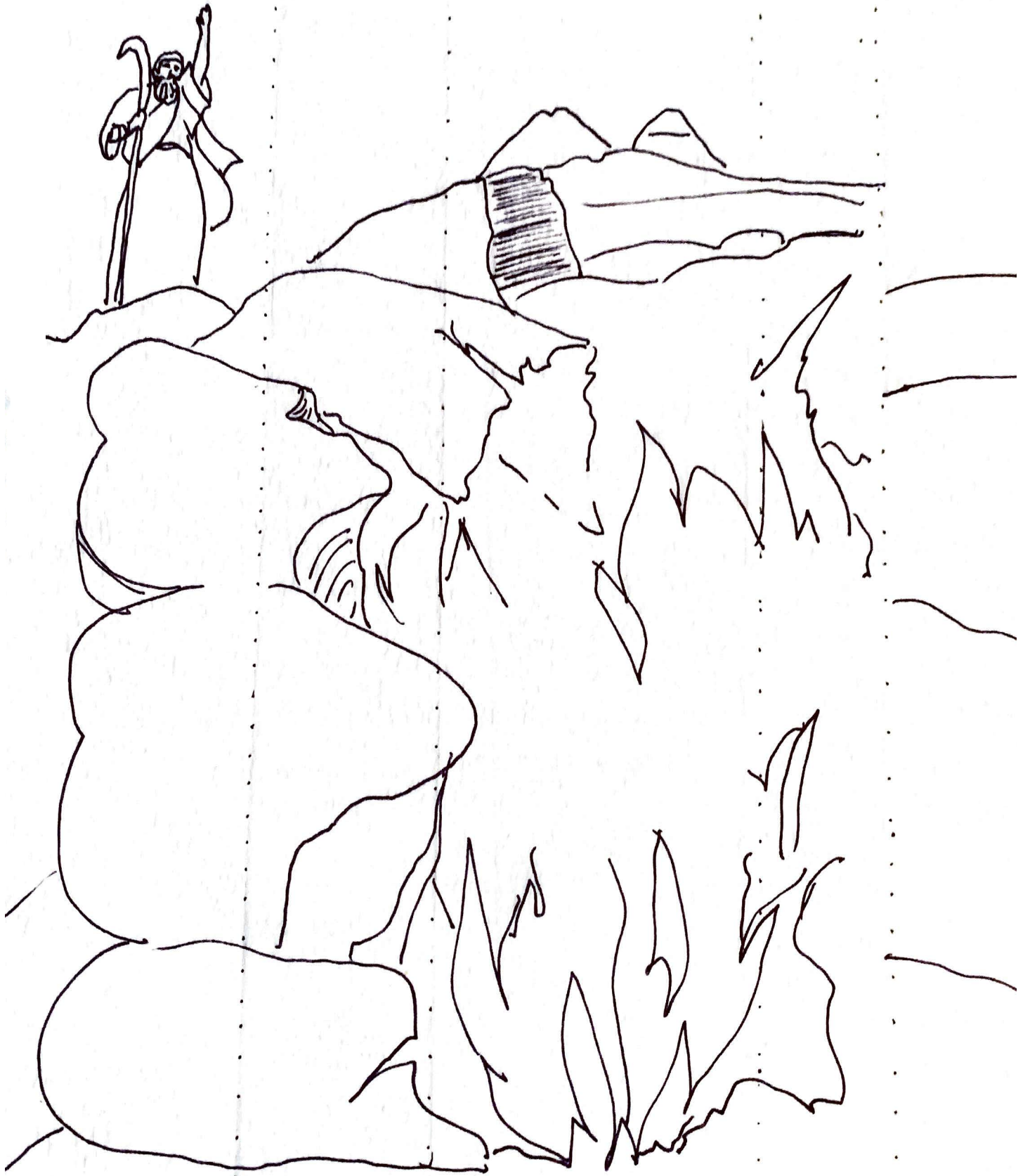
3. Color Korah + men and cut them out.

4. Paste them inside fold so they do not
show when hole is closed.

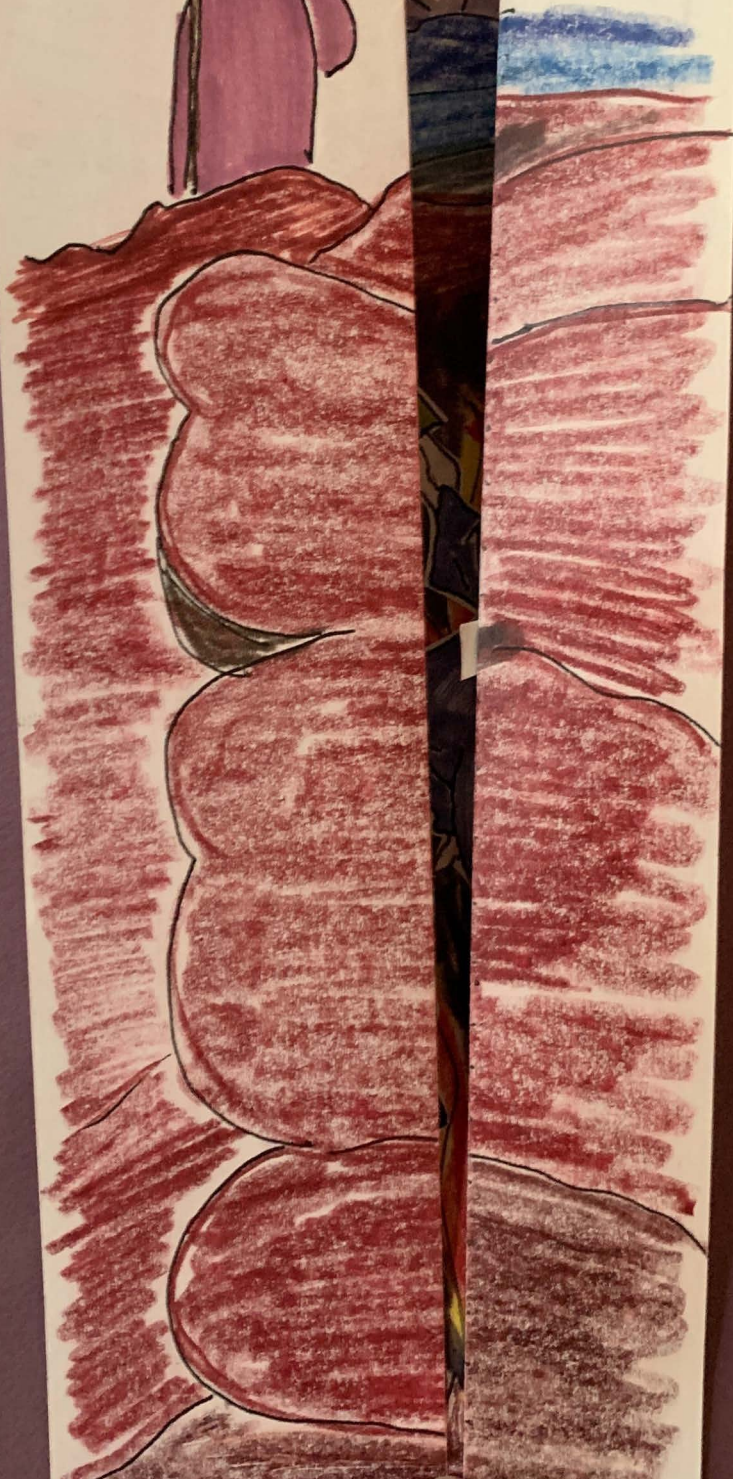


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