

LEVITES



# HOLINESS HIERARCHY

- Priesthood is central
- Tribe of Levi separated from Israel
- Levi formed 2 distinct groups:
  - 1) Levites
  - 2) Priests
- Korah, Levite, wants to be a priest
- Priests have greater degree of holiness than Levites

PRIESTS



GOLDEN TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

# TRIBE OF REUBEN WANTED TO LEAD

- Datan and Aviram were descendants of Reuben
- Reuben, firstborn of Jacob, was denied his birthright
- 300 years later, tribe of Reuben still had not accepted God's will
- Korah, Datan, Aviram, and 250 other leaders challenged Moses and Aaron in a coup attempt

# THE TEST

- Hot coals to be put into a fire pan, then incense on top
- Men to go to front of Tabernacle
- Korah and 250 men show up with their fire pans
- At the gate to the courtyard
- God announces he is going to annihilate the rebels



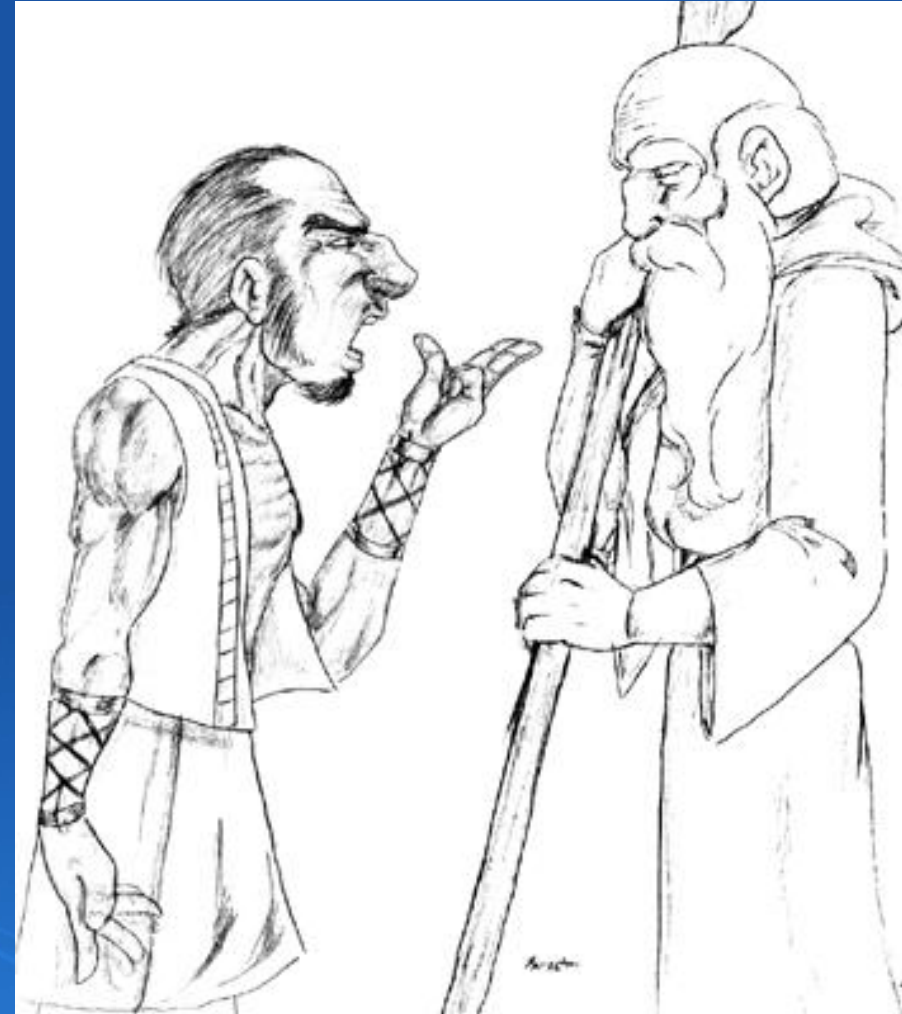
# MOSES THE MEDIATOR



- “....would you send wrath on an entire community because one man sinned?”
- Korah was the instigator
- Issue is Collective Punishment
- “Community” is referring to several different groups
- **Ha-edah** = community
- Depending on context means:  
All Israel, just the rebels, rebels and those who agree, those in near proximity

# MUCH HAPPENNING AT THE SAME TIME

- Only Korah and the 250 leaders went to the Tent of Meeting
- Datan and Aviram refused to come to Moses when summoned
- Moses walked from the EAST gate into the Tabernacle to the SOUTH side of the camp
- Moses confronts Datan and Aviram at their own tents and issues a challenge





# THE EARTH SPLITS

- Moses says that God is going to open the earth and swallow-up the rebels
- Datan, Aviram, and families fall into the crevice and die
- Other Israelites flee in fear
- Back at the EAST entrance to the Tabernacle, Korah and the 250 men are burned alive by the Lord
- Rebels, their families, and all trace of their existence is purged from Israel

# NADAV AND AVIHU

- Strange fire offered to God
- Nadav and Avihu were priests, but they offered fire NOT from the Great Altar
- The Rebels' sin was worse, they were NOT priests, and should not have offered fire at all



# SHEOL

- The place of the dead
- Hebrews did NOT see it as we see Hades, Hell
- They were not clear about life after death
- What happened to their bodies was important to them
- Had Egyptian ways of thinking about death





# REDEMPTION REJECTED



- The Rebels preferred their old lives in Egypt to the new one God offered them
- Rebels had **ALREADY** been redeemed, they **CHOSE** to give it back!
- Consequences are utter destruction
- All works of those who give it back, become as nothing
- **WE CAN INFLUENCE OTHERS!**

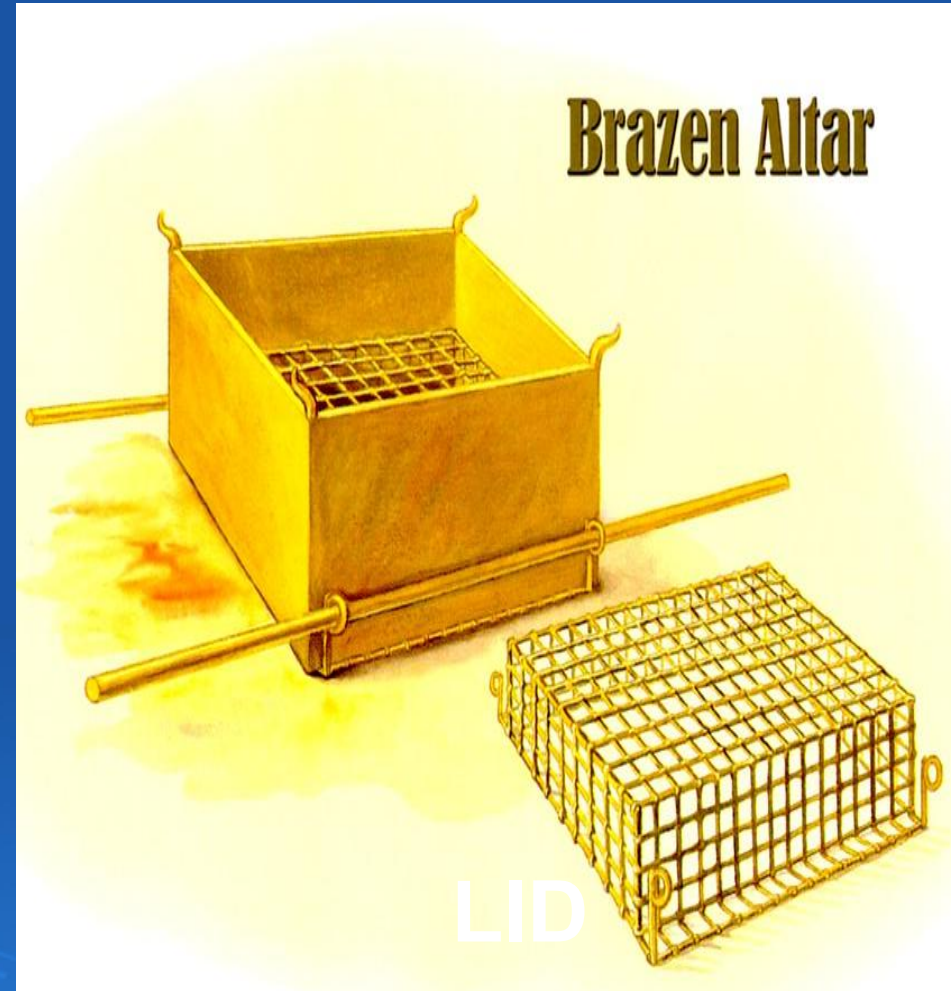
# BELIEVERS AS PRIESTS

- ONLY a redeemed person can come near to God
- Must be assigned a “Holy” status
- Salvation give us AUTHORIZATION to come near to Yehoveh
- In all cases we must come through a Mediator
- Moses was Mediator
- Christ is current Mediator



# NUMBERS 17

- Under the rebels' corpses lay their fire pans
- Fire pans had contracted holiness because they were offered to God
- Coals had to be removed from the area
- Copper fire pans were hammered into a lid for the Brazen Altar
- Lid was to be a reminder like the Tzitzit



# MORE REBELLION!



- Community again protests against Moses and Aaron
- Hebrews thought like Egyptians
- Believed Moses had manipulated God
- God threatens to destroy the protestors
- Moses and Aaron ask for mercy for the people
- God says **STAND BACK!**

# SEPARATE YOURSELF!

- Will God wipe out the good along with the wicked?
- YES!
- The Righteous must **SEPARATE** from The Evil
- Lot would have died in Sodom, and barely got out in time
- Lot's wife did not have sufficient separation, so she was turned into a pillar of salt



# BE SEPARATED



- In Egypt, all firstborn men and animals who did not SEPARATE themselves by means of the blood, died
- Believers MUST NOT stay attached to the wicked ways or people of this world
- Attached = Identified
- We are NOT to create an exclusive Christian community in order to be physically separated
- We are to be separated by our trust in God, our actions and our stand
- Do we identify with the world, or with the Word?