

necessary. Through history these changes have taken place through assassinations, through riots, through upheavals. The advantage of democracy is that a way is found whereby the rascals can be thrown out simply by ballots and they in turn can become the ones to watch and then who get the others thrown out when they in turn become corrupt. And so you have here a situation where Dathan and Abiram are saying, All the congregation is holy. Everyone of them. The Lord's with all of us. Why should you say what we are going to do? Why do you lift yourselves up above the congregation of the Lord? Now in this situation their words might have been very good and very true, if the leadership had become corrupt. They might be very true if people who were not worthy of leadership had assumed a situation of leadership. But in this particular situation God had called Moses for their word. God had appointed him to this task, and it was a situation in which it was very important that they work together and move forward to accomplish the task that the Lord had given them.

And so the Reubenites are saying, they are not saying here as they probably would have said if they had won out at this point, they probably next would have said, We are the sons of Reuben the eldest son of Jacob; we are the ones who should be the leaders. That's probably the next step they would have taken. But at this point they are simply saying, You Moses and Aaron have no right to lift yourselves up above the rest. We are all everyone just as good as you are. Now this is the attitude of the Reubenites shown here in vs. 3. It comes out again in vs. 12-14. There we read: (reading text of vs. 12-14). Their attitude is one of stubborn defiance. We were in that wonderful situation down in Egypt there. And that alas is something that comes to the mind of everyone. Everyone who is endeavoring to serve the Lord and comes into difficulties looks back occasionally and looks into the area of unbelief and wickedness and sees it through brilliant colored spectacles because it's at a distance from him and longs for the things that could be his if he were not endeavoring to follow the Lord. Everyone has such periods ---when ---where he has come out of looks like a land flowing with milk and honey. But that's not the way they talked when they were in Egypt. That was not the true situation. There were plenty of good things in Egypt, but there was a situation of real misery. Someone has said that there is a constant situation between a desire for order and the desire for freedom.