

The Levites had the leadership in the direction of the religious life, but in the control that Moses exercised this did not remain with the tribe of Levi. In fact I don't recall there was any Later, yes, there was one, Samuel for a period of a few yrs. But I don't recall any other case ~~where~~ when it was in the tribe of Levi. Reuben was the ~~oldest~~ eldest. If the firstborn would have the great rights, it would be the Reubenites. But they never were the leaders so far as our evidence goes. The tribe of Benjamin provided the first king -- King Saul. And eventually it was the tribe of Judah which does not play an outstanding part in these years here, that gave the line of the kings from which the Lord sent David and David's greater son.

So this is the attitude of the Reubenites. Why is this tribe of Levi ahead of us? Reuben is just as good. We all are equal. This is what they said.

2. Now the Attitude of the Korahites is so ~~diff~~ different that under ordinary circumstances the Korahites and the Reubenites would not have stood together. But they are together here because they are against the same thing. They are against Moses and Aaron's leadership. So we find the attitude of the Korahites touched upon in what Moses said to them in the end of vs. 7, "You take too much upon you, you sons of Levi". We haven't been told before that as to what the attitude of the Korahites was, but Moses recognized that they were the really vital party in the situation. In vs. 9--11 we again have Moses speaking to them and there we see what their attitude was in the way that he reflects it. (Reading text, vs. 8-11 of ch. 16). Here were the Levites who were now in control and here was a group of the Levites that is objecting to Moses' and Aaron's leadership, and then the Reubenites are objecting to the leadership of the tribe of Levi, but these two groups here are joined together and it could have destroyed Moses' and Aaron's leadership and resulted eventually in anarchy and destruction. And that has happened in many a movement in the world's history. In this case the Lord intervened. It is highly improbable that the Israelites ever could have come out of Egypt and come into the promised land as they did without the Lord's intervening in many cases. In subsequent ~~years~~ years the Lord has given His Holy Spirit, has given his leadership to leaders of God's people, has given them wisdom, has given them the wonderful Scripture from which we can get the truth. But then some of