

Midrash *Korach* (“Korah”)  
Numbers 16:1 – 18:32

“Murmuring” on the way to Sinai & to *Kadesh Barnea* has led to:  
Private Confrontation from Aaron & Miriam (two weeks ago)  
Public Confrontation from *Korah* & Sons of Reuben (this week’s Portion)

**Korah’s Rebellion**

**Numbers 16:1:11**

From Levi: *Korah* קֹרַח (“Bald”)

See Deuteronomy 14:1

From Reuben: *Dathan* (“Belonging to a Fountain”)  
*Abiram* (“My Father is Exalted”)  
*On* (“Wealth” or “Vigor”)

Tradition says that *On*’s wife talked him out of participating!

Underlying Reasons: **Firstborn**: *Korah* & followers are all firstborn in their (Levite) families

Reuben was firstborn of Jacob (Leah)

**Jealousy** – both thought they should have that birthright

Also: position in the camp contributed to the rebellion

“*And they rose up before Moses...*” פָּנִים *panim* “in the face of”

Same word used of Nimrod (not the best company to keep!)

Genesis 10:9

Both spoke “for the good of the people” against God’s “oppressive rule”

“...*famous* (men) in the congregation...” אֲנָשִׁים-שָׂמַיִם *anshay – sham*

verse 2

Similar phrase used of the *Nephilim*

Genesis 6:4

Both lead “their people” to rebel against God

**Korah’s Complaint**: “*You take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation is holy.*”

Is all of the congregation holy at this point in time???

Exodus 19:5-6

“*The LORD will show who are His, and who is holy...*”

verse 5

(Levites) (Aaron the High Priest)

This test is to be through the Incense Service

Better be careful ... that didn’t work out well for *Nadab & Avihu!*

Leviticus 10

Moses turns their “battle cry” back onto them!

verse 7

...and chastises them for attacking Aaron – he didn’t “appoint himself”

verse 11

*Korah* wanted Moses’ assignment from God, not the one that God gave him

... Yeshua addressed this with His Disciples

John 21:18-23

**Dathan & Abiram’s Rebellion**

**Numbers 16:12-15**

Moses dealt with *Korah* first, now it’s time for *Dathan & Abiram*

They acknowledged that would “not come up” --- into the Land

Prophetic that they would descend --- now!

**D & A’s Complaint**: Moses is “misleading” the people to gain power for himself

Brought them into Wilderness to kill them....

Ironically, it’s their unbelief that kills them!

**The Rebellion is Put Down**

**Numbers 16:16-35**

*Korah* convinces a large numbers of rebels to join him

A picture of “tares sown among the wheat”

Matt 13:24-43

A “Showdown of Censers”

Moses intercedes for the rest of the people; just like

David interceded when he sinned

II Sam 24:17

Abraham interceded for Sodom

Genesis 18:25

Moses intercede for the Golden Calf

Exodus 32:31-32

God doesn't want the righteous to perish with the wicked

Luke 21:20-22

So .. the earth swallowed *Korah, Dathan & Abiram* alive

...but not all of *Korah's* family – the Sons of *Korah* survived to write Psalms 44-49

Num 26:11

***Korah & the Reubenites – Tares among the Wheat!***

Matthew 13: 24-30

**The Consequences of Rebellion** (Starts Chapter 17 in Jewish Bible)

**Numbers 16:36-50**

Tribal assignments: Levi was scattered among the 12 Tribes  
& Reuben placed east of the Jordan

The 250 thought they were offering incense ... but they became the Burnt Offering!

Their censers were melted and attached to the Altar, for a "sign"

Only the Priests could approach ... & with humility!

The added weight was a reminder to those who carried it (*Korah's* relatives)!

The Plague Begins: 14,700 + *Korah, Dathan & Abiram* (& families) + 250 princes

The Incense Offering was vital in the Atonement ritual

Leviticus 16:12-13

Up to now, the people associated it with death

...but here Aaron uses it to stay the plague and bring life!

Aaron stood between life and death!

**Budding of Aaron's Rod**

**Numbers 17:1-13**

One Prince from each of the 12 Tribes was to present a rod to the LORD

The rod that buds (comes to life) is the one that He chooses

Further confirmation of Aaron's Priesthood

Wood represents humanity; dead wood represents death

Aaron's rod was "resurrected" to yield fruit

A picture of Yeshua

.. our High Priest thru Resurrection (not Levitical Priesthood)

Hebrews 4:14-16 & 7:24-28

Aaron's budded rod was placed inside the ark as a "sign"

....not to murmur against God nor His Chosen

Manna was also placed in the Ark

} Both Held in Contempt by the People

As a result, the people feared that anyone who came too close to the Tabernacle would die!

But ... there is the proper way to approach without death!

**For us to approach God, we must die to ourselves!**

**Confirmation of the Priesthood**

**Numbers 18:1-7**

Priests & Levites are responsible for the Sanctuary

Levites protect the Outer Court & the People

Aaron & Priests protect the Holy Place & Holy of Holies

... and the Levites

**Tithes & Offerings**

**Numbers 18:8-32**

God gets the best!

Verse 30

Salt Covenant: Preservative – Prevents Decay

Used on Sacrifices

An Everlasting Covenant

II Chronicles 13:5

What did Yeshua mean: "*You are the salt of the earth.*"

Matthew 5:13

No land inheritance, therefore:

The congregation tithed to the Levites

verse 21

The Levites tithed to the Priests

verse 26

**Haftarah:** I Samuel 11:14-12:22

Samuel Transfers His Authority to Saul

**Brit Chadashah:** Matthew 26:57-65

Yeshua challenges *Caiaphas'* authority

Revelation 8:1-7

Repeat of *Korah's* Judgment in the End Times