

Parashah 38: Korach (Korah) 16:1-18:32

(Num 16:1 CJB) Now Korach the son of Yitz'har, the son of K'hat, the son of Levi, along with Datan and Aviram, the sons of Eli'av, and On, the son of Pelet, descendants of Re'uven, took men and

(Num 16:2 CJB) rebelled against Moshe. Siding with them were 250 men of Isra'el, leaders of the community, key members of the council, men of reputation.

(Num 16:3 CJB) They assembled themselves against Moshe and Aharon and said to them, "You take too much on yourselves! After all, the entire community is holy, every one of them, and Adonai is among them. So why do you lift yourselves up above Adonai's assembly?"

(Num 16:4 CJB) When Moshe heard this he fell on his face.

(Num 16:5 CJB) Then he said to Korach and his whole group, "In the morning, Adonai will show who are his and who is the holy person he will allow to approach him. Yes, he will bring whomever he chooses near to himself.

(Num 16:6 CJB) Do this: take censers, Korach and all your group;

(Num 16:7 CJB) put fire in them; and put incense in them before Adonai tomorrow. The one whom Adonai chooses will be the one who is holy! It is you, you sons of Levi, who are taking too much on yourselves!"

(Num 16:8 CJB) Then Moshe said to Korach, "Listen here, you sons of Levi!

(Num 16:9 CJB) Is it for you a mere trifle that the God of Isra'el has separated you from the community of Isra'el to bring you close to himself, so that you can do the work in the tabernacle of Adonai and stand before the community serving them?

(Num 16:10 CJB) He has brought you close and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you. Now you want the office of cohen too!

(Num 16:11 CJB) That's why you and your group have gathered together against Adonai! After all, what is Aharon that you complain against him?"

(Num 16:12 CJB) Then Moshe sent to summon Datan and Aviram, the sons of Eli'av. But they replied, "We won't come up!

(Num 16:13 CJB) Is it such a mere trifle, bringing us up from a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the desert, that now you arrogate to yourself the role of dictator over us?

(Num 16:14 CJB) You haven't at all brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, and you haven't put us in possession of fields and vineyards. Do you think you can gouge out these men's eyes and blind them? We won't come up!"

(Num 16:15 CJB) Moshe was very angry and said to Adonai, "Don't accept their grain offering! I haven't taken one donkey from them, I've done nothing wrong to any of them."

(Num 16:16 CJB) Moshe said to Korach, "You and your group, be there before Adonai tomorrow — you, they and Aharon.

(Num 16:17 CJB) Each of you take his fire pan and put incense in it; every one of you, bring before Adonai his fire pan, 250 fire pans, you too, and Aharon — each one his fire pan."

(Num 16:18 CJB) Each man took his fire pan, put fire in it, laid incense on it and stood at the entrance to the tent of meeting with Moshe and Aharon.

(Num 16:19 CJB) Korach assembled all the group who were against them at the entrance to the tent of meeting. Then the glory of Adonai appeared to the whole assembly.

(Num 16:20 CJB) Adonai said to Moshe and Aharon,

(Num 16:21 CJB) "Separate yourselves from this assembly; I'm going to destroy them right now!"

(Num 16:22 CJB) They fell on their faces and said, "Oh God, God of the spirits of all humankind, if one person sins, are you going to be angry with the entire assembly?"

(Num 16:23 CJB) Adonai answered Moshe,

(Num 16:24 CJB) "Tell the assembly to move away from the homes of Korach, Datan and Aviram."

(Num 16:25 CJB) Moshe got up and went to Datan and Aviram, and the leaders of Isra'el followed him.

(Num 16:26 CJB) There he said to the assembly, "Leave the tents of these wicked men! Don't touch anything that belongs to them, or you may be swept away in all their sins."

(Num 16:27 CJB) So they moved away from all around the area where Korach, Datan and Aviram lived. Then Datan and Aviram came out and stood at the entrance to their tents with their wives, sons and little ones.

(Num 16:28 CJB) Moshe said, "Here is how you will know that Adonai has sent me to do all these things and that I haven't done them out of my own ambition:

(Num 16:29 CJB) if these men die a natural death like other people, only sharing the fate common to all humanity, then Adonai has not sent me.

(Num 16:30 CJB) But if Adonai does something new — if the ground opens up and swallows them with everything they own, and they go down alive to Sh'ol — then you will understand that these men have had contempt for Adonai."

(Num 16:31 CJB) The moment he finished speaking, the ground under them split apart —

(Num 16:32 CJB) the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up with their households, all the people who had sided with Korach and everything they owned.

(Num 16:33 CJB) So they and everything they owned went down alive into Sh'ol, the earth closed over them and their existence in the community ceased.

(Num 16:34 CJB) All Isra'el around them fled at their shrieks, shouting, "The earth might swallow us too!"

(Num 16:35 CJB) Then fire came out from Adonai and destroyed the 250 men who had offered the incense.

(Num 16:36 CJB) (17:1) Adonai said to Moshe,

(Num 16:37 CJB) (17:2) "Tell El`azar the son of Aharon the cohen to remove the fire pans from the fire, and scatter the smoldering coals at a distance, because they have become holy.

(Num 16:38 CJB) (17:3) Also the fire pans of these men, whose sin cost them their lives, have become holy, because they were offered before Adonai. Therefore, have them hammered into plates to cover the altar. This will be a sign for the people of Isra'el."

(Num 16:39 CJB) (17:4) El`azar the cohen took the brass fire pans which the men who had been burned to death had offered, and they hammered them into a covering for the altar,

(Num 16:40 CJB) (17:5) to remind the people of Isra'el that an ordinary person, not descended from Aharon, is not to approach and burn incense before Adonai, if he wants to avoid the fate of Korach and his group — as Adonai had said to him through Moshe.

(Num 16:41 CJB) (17:6) But the very next day, the whole community of the people of Isra'el complained against Moshe and Aharon: "You have killed Adonai's people!"

(Num 16:42 CJB) (17:7) However, as the community was assembling against Moshe and Aharon, they looked in the direction of the tent of meeting and saw the cloud cover it and the glory of Adonai appear.

(Num 16:43 CJB) (17:8) Moshe and Aharon came to the front of the tent of meeting.

(Num 16:44 CJB) (17:9) Adonai said to Moshe,

(Num 16:45 CJB) (17:10) "Get away from this assembly, and I will destroy them at once!" But they fell on their faces.

(Num 16:46 CJB) (17:11) Moshe said to Aharon, "Take your fire pan, put fire from the altar in it, lay incense on it, and hurry with it to the assembly to make atonement for them, because anger has gone out from Adonai, and the plague has already begun!"

(Num 16:47 CJB) (17:12) Aharon took it, as Moshe had said, and ran into the middle of the assembly. There the plague had already begun among the people, but he added the incense and made atonement for the people.

(Num 16:48 CJB) (17:13) He stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped.

(Num 16:49 CJB) (17:14) Those dying from the plague numbered 14,700 — besides those who died in the Korach incident.

(Num 16:50 CJB) (17:15) Aharon returned to Moshe at the entrance to the tent of meeting, and the plague was stopped.

(Num 17:1 CJB) (17:16) Adonai said to Moshe,

(Num 17:2 CJB) (17:17) "Speak to the people of Isra'el, and take from them staffs, one for each ancestral tribe from each leader of a tribe, twelve staffs. Write each man's name on his staff;

(Num 17:3 CJB) (17:18) and write Aharon's name on the staff of Levi, for each tribe's leader is to have one staff.

(Num 17:4 CJB) (17:19) Put them in the tent of meeting in front of the testimony, where I meet with you.

(Num 17:5 CJB) (17:20) The staff of the man I am going to choose will sprout buds — in this way I will put a stop to the complaints the people of Isra'el keep making against you."

(Num 17:6 CJB) (17:21) Moshe spoke to the people of Isra'el, and all their leaders gave him staffs, one for each leader, according to their ancestral tribes, twelve staffs. Aharon's staff was among their staffs.

(Num 17:7 CJB) (17:22) Moshe put the staffs before Adonai in the tent of the testimony.

(Num 17:8 CJB) (17:23) The next day Moshe went into the tent of the testimony, and there he saw that Aharon's staff for the house of Levi had budded — it had sprouted not only buds but flowers and ripe almonds as well.

(Num 17:9 CJB) (17:24) Moshe brought out all the staffs from before Adonai to all the people of Isra'el, and they looked, and each man took back his staff.

(Num 17:10 CJB) (17:25) Adonai said to Moshe, "Return Aharon's staff to its place in front of the testimony. It is to be kept there as a sign to the rebels, so that they will stop grumbling against me and thus not die."

(Num 17:11 CJB) (17:26) Moshe did this; he did as Adonai had ordered him.

(Num 17:12 CJB) (17:27) But the people of Isra'el said to Moshe, "Oh no! We're dead men! Lost! We're all lost!"

(Num 17:13 CJB) (17:28) Whenever anyone approaches the tabernacle of Adonai, he dies! Will we all perish?"

(Num 18:1 CJB) Adonai said to Aharon, "You, your sons and your father's family line will be responsible for anything that goes wrong in the sanctuary. You and your sons with you will be responsible for anything wrong in your service as cohanim.

(Num 18:2 CJB) But you are to bring your kinsmen, the tribe of Levi, along with yourselves, to work together with you and help you — you and your sons with you — when you are there before the tent of meeting.

(Num 18:3 CJB) They are to be at your disposal and perform all kinds of tasks related to the tent; only they are not to come near the holy furnishings or the altar, so that neither they nor you will die.

(Num 18:4 CJB) They will work together with you in your duties related to the tent of meeting, whatever the service in the tent may be; but an unauthorized person is not to come near you.

(Num 18:5 CJB) You will take charge of all the holy things and the altar, so that there will no longer be anger against the people of Isra'el.

(Num 18:6 CJB) I myself have taken your kinsmen the L'vi'im from among the people of Isra'el; they have been given as a gift to Adonai for you, so that you can perform the service in the tent of meeting.

(Num 18:7 CJB) You and your sons with you will exercise your prerogatives and duties as cohanim in regard to everything having to do with the altar and within the curtain. I entrust the service required of cohanim to you; the unauthorized person who tries to perform it is to be put to death."

(Num 18:8 CJB) Adonai said to Aharon, "I myself have put you in charge of the contributions given to me. Everything consecrated by the people of Isra'el I have given and set aside for you and your sons; this is a perpetual law.

(Num 18:9 CJB) Here is what is to be yours of the especially holy things taken from the fire: every offering they make — that is, every grain offering, sin offering and guilt offering of theirs that they turn over to me — will be especially holy for you and your sons.

(Num 18:10 CJB) You are to eat it in an especially holy place; every male may eat it; it will be set apart for you.

(Num 18:11 CJB) "Also yours is the contribution the people of Isra'el give in the form of wave offerings. I have given these to you, your sons and your daughters with you; this is a perpetual law. Everyone in your family who is clean may eat it.

(Num 18:12 CJB) All the best of the olive oil, wine and grain, the first portion of what they give to Adonai, I have given to you.

(Num 18:13 CJB) The first produce to turn ripe of all that is in their land, which they bring to Adonai, is to be yours; every clean person in your family may eat it.

(Num 18:14 CJB) "Everything in Isra'el which has been consecrated unconditionally is to be yours.

(Num 18:15 CJB) "Everything that comes first out of the womb, of all living things which they offer to Adonai, whether human or animal, will be yours. However, the firstborn of a human being you must redeem, and the firstborn of an unclean beast you are to redeem.

(Num 18:16 CJB) The sum to be paid for redeeming anyone a month old or over is to be five shekels of silver [*two ounces*], as you value it, using the sanctuary shekel (this is the same as twenty gerahs).

(Num 18:17 CJB) But the firstborn of an ox, sheep or goat you are not to redeem; they are holy — you are to splash their blood against the altar and make their fat go up in smoke as an offering made by fire, as a fragrant aroma for Adonai.

(Num 18:18 CJB) Their meat will be yours, like the breast that is waved and the right thigh — they will be yours.

(Num 18:19 CJB) All the contributions of holy things which the people of Isra'el offer to Adonai I have given to you, your sons and your daughters with you; this is a perpetual law, an eternal covenant of salt before Adonai for you and your descendants with you."

(Num 18:20 CJB) Adonai said to Aharon, "You are not to have any inheritance or portion in their land; I am your portion and inheritance among the people of Isra'el.

(Num 18:21 CJB) "To the descendants of Levi I have given the entire tenth of the produce collected in Isra'el. It is their inheritance in payment for the service they render in the tent of meeting.

(Num 18:22 CJB) From now on, the people of Isra'el are not to approach the tent of meeting, so that they will not bear the consequences of their sin and die.

(Num 18:23 CJB) Only the L'vi'im are to perform the service in the tent of meeting, and they will be responsible for whatever they do wrong. This is to be a permanent regulation through all your generations. They are to have no inheritance among the people of Isra'el,

(Num 18:24 CJB) because I have given to the L'vi'im as their inheritance the tenths of the produce which the people of Isra'el set aside as a gift for Adonai. This is why I have said to them that they are to have no inheritance among the people of Isra'el."

(Num 18:25 CJB) Adonai said to Moshe,

(Num 18:26 CJB) "Tell the L'vi'im, 'When you take from the people of Isra'el the tenth of the produce which I have given you from them as your inheritance, you are to set aside from it a gift for Adonai, one tenth of the tenth.

(Num 18:27 CJB) The gift you set aside will be accounted to you as if it were grain from the threshing-floor and grape juice from the wine vat.

(Num 18:28 CJB) In this way you will set aside a gift for Adonai from all your tenths that you receive from the people of Isra'el, and from these tenths you are to give to Aharon the cohen the gift set aside for Adonai.

(Num 18:29 CJB) From everything given to you, you are to set aside all that is due Adonai, the best part of it, its holy portion.'

(Num 18:30 CJB) "Therefore you are to tell them, 'When you set aside from it its best part, it will be accounted to the L'vi'im as if it were grain from the threshing-floor and grape juice from the wine vat.

(Num 18:31 CJB) You may eat it anywhere, you and your households; because it is your payment in return for your service in the tent of meeting.

(Num 18:32 CJB) Moreover, because you will have set aside from it its best parts, you will not be committing any sin because of it; for you are not to profane the holy things of the people of Isra'el, or you will die.' "

Haftarah Korach: Sh'mu'el Alef (1 Samuel) 11:14-12:22

(1Sa 11:14 CJB) Then Sh'mu'el said to the people, "Come, let's go to Gilgal and inaugurate the kingship there.

(1Sa 11:15 CJB) So all the people went to Gilgal; and there in Gilgal, before Adonai, they made Sha'ul king. They presented sacrifices as peace offerings before Adonai there, and there Sha'ul and all the people of Isra'el celebrated with great joy.

(1Sa 12:1 CJB) Sh'mu'el said to all Isra'el, "Here, I have done everything you asked me to do — I have made a king over you.

(1Sa 12:2 CJB) There is the king, walking ahead of you; but I am old and gray-headed. There are my sons with you, and I have walked at your head from when I was a boy until today.

(1Sa 12:3 CJB) So here I am; now is the time to witness against me before Adonai and before his anointed king. Does any of you think I have taken your ox or donkey, defrauded or oppressed you, or accepted a bribe to deprive you of justice? Tell me, and I will restore it to you."

(1Sa 12:4 CJB) They answered, "You haven't defrauded or oppressed us, and you have accepted nothing from anyone."

(1Sa 12:5 CJB) He said, "Adonai is witness against you, and his anointed king is witness against you today, that you have found nothing in my hands?" They replied, "He is witness."

(1Sa 12:6 CJB) Sh'mu'el said to the people, "It was Adonai who appointed Moshe and Aharon and who brought your ancestors up from the land of Egypt.

(1Sa 12:7 CJB) Now, hold still; because I am going to enter into judgment with you before Adonai regarding all the righteous acts of Adonai that he did for you and your ancestors.

(1Sa 12:8 CJB) "After Ya`akov had entered Egypt, your ancestors cried to Adonai; and Adonai sent Moshe and Aharon, who brought your ancestors out of Egypt and had them live here in this place.

(1Sa 12:9 CJB) But they forgot Adonai their God; so he handed them over to Sisra, commander of the army of Hatzor, and to the P'lishtim, and to the king of Mo'av; and they fought against them.

(1Sa 12:10 CJB) But they cried to Adonai and said, 'We sinned by abandoning Adonai and serving the ba`alim and `ashtarot. But now, if you rescue us from the power of our enemies, we will serve you.'

(1Sa 12:11 CJB) So Adonai sent Yeruba`al, B'dan, Yiftach and Sh'mu'el and rescued you from the power of your enemies on every side, and you lived securely.

(1Sa 12:12 CJB) When you saw that Nachash the king of the people of `Amon was attacking you, you said to me, "No, we want a king to rule over us" — when Adonai your God was your king.

(1Sa 12:13 CJB) Now, here's the king you have chosen, the one you asked for. See, Adonai has put a king over you.

(1Sa 12:14 CJB) If you will fear Adonai, serve him, obey what he says and not rebel against Adonai's orders — if both you and the king ruling you remain followers of Adonai your God — *[then things will go well for you.]*

(1Sa 12:15 CJB) But if you refuse to obey what Adonai says and rebel against Adonai's orders, then Adonai will oppress both you and your leaders.

(1Sa 12:16 CJB) "Now therefore, hold still; and see the great deed which Adonai will perform before your very eyes.

(1Sa 12:17 CJB) Now is wheat harvest time, isn't it? I am going to call on Adonai to send thunder and rain. Then you will understand and see how wicked from Adonai's viewpoint is the thing you have done in asking for a king."

(1Sa 12:18 CJB) Sh'mu'el called to Adonai, and Adonai sent thunder and rain that day. Then all the people became very much afraid of Adonai and Sh'mu'el.

(1Sa 12:19 CJB) All the people said to Sh'mu'el, "Pray to Adonai your God for your servants, so that we won't die; because to all our other sins now we've added this evil as well, asking for a king over us."

(1Sa 12:20 CJB) Sh'mu'el answered the people, "Don't be afraid. You have indeed done all this evil; yet now, just don't turn away from following Adonai; but serve Adonai with all your heart.

(1Sa 12:21 CJB) Don't turn to the side; because then you would go after useless things that can neither help nor rescue, they are so futile.

(1Sa 12:22 CJB) For the sake of his great reputation, Adonai will not abandon his people; because it has pleased Adonai to make you a people for himself.

B'rit Hadashah suggested readings for Parashah Korach: 2 Timothy 2:8-21; Y'hudah (Jude) 1-25

(2Ti 2:8 CJB) Remember Yeshua the Messiah, who was raised from the dead, who was a descendant of David. This is the Good News I proclaim,

(2Ti 2:9 CJB) and for which I am suffering to the point of being bound in chains — but the Word of God is not bound in chains!

(2Ti 2:10 CJB) Why do I persevere through it all? For the sake of those who have been chosen, so that they too may obtain the deliverance that comes through the Messiah Yeshua, with eternal glory.

(2Ti 2:11 CJB) Here is a statement you can trust: If we have died with him, we will also live with him.

(2Ti 2:12 CJB) If we persevere, we will also rule with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.

(2Ti 2:13 CJB) If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

(2Ti 2:14 CJB) Keep reminding people of this, and charge them solemnly before the Lord not to engage in word-battles. They accomplish nothing useful and are a catastrophe for the hearers!

(2Ti 2:15 CJB) Do all you can to present yourself to God as someone worthy of his approval, as a worker with no need to be ashamed, because he deals straightforwardly with the Word of the Truth.

(2Ti 2:16 CJB) But keep away from godless babbling, for those who engage in it will only become more ungodly,

(2Ti 2:17 CJB) and their teaching will eat away at people like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are among these;

(2Ti 2:18 CJB) they have missed the mark, as far as the truth is concerned, by saying that our resurrection has already taken place; and they are overturning some people's faith.

(2Ti 2:19 CJB) Nevertheless, God's firm foundation stands, stamped with these words: "The Lord knows his own," and, "Let everyone who claims he belongs to the Lord stand apart from wrongdoing."

(2Ti 2:20 CJB) In a large house there are dishes and pots not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. That is, some are meant for honorable use and some for dishonorable.

(2Ti 2:21 CJB) If a person keeps himself free of defilement by the latter, he will be a vessel set aside for honorable use by the master of the house and ready for every kind of good work.

(Jud 1:1 CJB) From: Y'hudah, a slave of Yeshua the Messiah and a brother of Ya`akov To: Those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept for Yeshua the Messiah:

(Jud 1:2 CJB) May mercy, love and shalom be yours in full measure.

(Jud 1:3 CJB) Dear friends, I was busily at work writing to you about the salvation we share, when I found it necessary to write, urging you to keep contending earnestly for the faith which was once and for all passed on to God's people.

(Jud 1:4 CJB) For certain individuals, the ones written about long ago as being meant for this condemnation, have wormed their way in — ungodly people who pervert God's grace into a license for debauchery and disown our only Master and Lord, Yeshua the Messiah.

(Jud 1:5 CJB) Since you already know all this, my purpose is only to remind you that Adonai, who once delivered the people from Egypt, later destroyed those who did not trust.

(Jud 1:6 CJB) And the angels that did not keep within their original authority, but abandoned their proper sphere, he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for the Judgment of the Great Day.

(Jud 1:7 CJB) And S'dom, `Amora and the surrounding cities, following a pattern like theirs, committing sexual sins and perversions, lie exposed as a warning of the everlasting fire awaiting those who must undergo punishment.

(Jud 1:8 CJB) Likewise, these people, with their visions, defile their own flesh, despise godly authority and insult angelic beings.

(Jud 1:9 CJB) When Mikha'el, one of the ruling angels, took issue with the Adversary, arguing over the body of Moshe, he did not dare bring against him an insulting charge, but said, "May Adonai rebuke you."

(Jud 1:10 CJB) However, these people insult anything they don't understand; and what they do understand naturally, without thinking, like animals — by these things they are destroyed!

(Jud 1:11 CJB) Woe to them, in that they have walked the road of Kayin, they have given themselves over for money to the error of Bil`am, they have been destroyed in the rebellion of Korach.

(Jud 1:12 CJB) These men are filthy spots at your festive gatherings meant to foster love; they share your meals without a qualm, while caring only for themselves. They are waterless clouds carried along by the winds; trees without fruit even in autumn, and doubly dead because they have been uprooted;

(Jud 1:13 CJB) savage sea-waves heaving forth their shameful deeds like foam; wandering stars for whom the blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

(Jud 1:14 CJB) Moreover, Hanokh, in the seventh generation starting with Adam, also prophesied about these men, saying, "Look! Adonai came with his myriads of holy ones

(Jud 1:15 CJB) to execute judgment against everyone, that is, to convict all the godless for their godless deeds which they have done in such a godless way, and for all the harsh words these godless sinners have spoken against him."

(Jud 1:16 CJB) These people are grumblers and complainers, they follow their evil passions, their mouths speak grandiosities, and they flatter others to gain advantage.

(Jud 1:17 CJB) But you, dear friends, keep in mind the words spoken in advance by the emissaries of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

(Jud 1:18 CJB) They told you, "During the acharit-hayamim there will be scoffers following their own godless passions."

(Jud 1:19 CJB) These are the people who cause divisions. They are controlled by their impulses, because they don't have the Spirit.

(Jud 1:20 CJB) But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith, and pray in union with the Ruach HaKodesh.

(Jud 1:21 CJB) Thus keep yourselves in God's love, as you wait for our Lord Yeshua the Messiah to give you the mercy that leads to eternal life.

(Jud 1:22 CJB) Rebuke some who are disputing;

(Jud 1:23 CJB) save others, snatching them out of the fire; and to yet others, show mercy, but with fear, hating even the clothes stained by their vices.

(Jud 1:24 CJB) Now, to the one who can keep you from falling and set you without defect and full of joy in the presence of his Sh'khinah —

(Jud 1:25 CJB) to God alone, our Deliverer, through Yeshua the Messiah, our Lord — be glory, majesty, power and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen.