

## Parashat Korach / פרשת קרח

Shabbat Sivan 30, 5767, June 16, 2007  
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### **This Weeks Reading List:**

Torah: Num 16:1-18:32

Haftarah: I Sam 11:14-12:22

B'rit HaChadashah: Rom 13:1-7

### ***Numbers 16:1-11***

*16:1 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 16:2 rebelled against Moshe. Siding with them were 250 men of Isra'el, leaders of the community, key members of the council, men of reputation. 16:3 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?" 16:4 When Moshe heard this he fell on his face. 16:5 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. 16:6 Do this: take censers, Korach and all your group; 16:7 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!" 16:8 Then Moshe said to Korach, "Listen here, you sons of Levi! 16:9 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? 16:10 He has brought you close and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you. Now you want the office of cohen too! 16:11 That's why you and your group have gathered together against ADONAI! After all, what is Aharon that you complain against him?"*

I actually was doubly blessed during this parsha. Not only have I been blessed by being able to study Torah and write about it, but I also was blessed by studying the Torah with my brother. I read this parsha with my brother and we had a short yet wonderful discussion together. It turned out to be a really nice study together.

Having read the parsha, we concluded Parshat Korach deals with pride and arrogance. As we can see in Numbers 16:1-11, Korach, Datan, and Aviram along with 250 leaders of the community were prideful over Moshe and Aharon. The sons of Levi were given certain responsibilities to serve the Lord and it appears out of jealousy they wanted to be more publicly recognized, even to be given the position of high priest where Moshe and Aharon stood. They were discontented in the service they were given and ended up angering the Lord in the process.

The Torah is full of examples for our lives, parsha korach deals with pride and I feel this is a great example because there are many times where pride has the opportunity to come up and sometimes possibly grumble and complain about others. First however, I want to talk about how these men were unsatisfied with (i) the gifts God had given them and (ii) the type of work they were responsible for. I believe God gives each of us gifts which can be used to bring glory to God's name but the gift we are given doesn't put us into a high position, similarly like the men described in parsha korach.

A real life example of this is when we are hired to work a new job. When we are hired into a job, we are usually started out given a small task. This is designed to slowly break us into the work environment, to learn, and so our employer can evaluate our abilities, attitude, and work ethic. I believe God works in a similar manner. The Lord gives us gifts, and then starts us out small. We can not expect to be brought right up to the forefront of a world wide ministry without having first gone through years of training through the exercising of our gifts. In the b'rit hachadasha the apostle Paul knew this as he explained about the gifts of the spirit in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 12 and its relation to the body of believers.

### *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:1-30*

*12:1 But, brothers, I do not want you to go on being ignorant about the things of the Spirit. 12:2 You know that when you were pagans, no matter how you felt you were being led, you were being led astray to idols, which can't speak at all. 12:3 Therefore, I want to make it clear to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says, "Yeshua is cursed!" and no one can say, "Yeshua is Lord," except by the Ruach HaKodesh 12:4 Now there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. 12:5 Also there are different ways of serving, but it is the same Lord being served. 12:6 And there are different modes of working, but it is the same God working them all in everyone. 12:7 Moreover, to each person is given the particular manifestation of the Spirit that will be for the common good. 12:8 To one, through the Spirit, is given a word of wisdom; to another, a word of knowledge, in accordance with the same Spirit; 12:9 to another, faith, by the same Spirit; and to another, gifts of healing, by the one Spirit; 12:10 to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, the ability to judge between spirits; to another, the ability to speak in different kinds of tongues; and to yet another, the ability to interpret tongues. 12:11 One and the same Spirit is at work in all these things, distributing to each person as he chooses. 12:12 For just as the body is one but has many parts; and all the parts of the body, though many, constitute one body; so it is with the Messiah. ... 12:27 Now you together constitute the body of the Messiah, and individually you are parts of it. 12:28 And God has placed in the Messianic Community first, emissaries; second, prophets; third, teachers; then those who work miracles; then those with gifts of healing; those with ability to help; those skilled in administration; and those who speak in various tongues. 12:29 Not all are emissaries, are they? Not all are prophets, are they? or teachers? or miracle-workers? 12:30 Not all have gifts of healing, not all speak in tongues, not all interpret, do they? (CJB)*

We start out small, and then God adds to our abilities as we humbly allow God to work in our lives. Notice this is conditional upon our actively exercising our gifts and not putting them away (suppressing them). An example of suppressing our gifts is given

by Yeshua in the parable of the coin. (see Matthew chapter 25). In this parable, three men are described, one was given 5 talents, the other 3 talents, and the last one 1 talent of silver. Note that a talent of silver contained 3,000 shekels and was equal to 94 3/7 lbs. This is a significant amount of money; the first two men wisely invested their money and made a return upon their money. The last man decided to hide the money (hide his gift) that was given him. This parable is an analogy of the gifts which God has given us. If we use our gifts, the return is great, we grow spiritually, and we enrich the lives of other people while bringing glory to God's name. If we do not use the gift God has given us, the Lord will take away that gift and give it to someone else who he can use; just like it says in the parable of the coin. The man who hid his gift, what he had was taken from him and given to another.

Once we realize the gifts we have are given to us by God, and that we are being used by God and not the other way around, it is easier to approach life from a humble spirit, but it takes a lot of work.

**Remember we need the Lord, it isn't the other way around,  
God can find someone else to replace you if you are unwilling  
to work in His service.**

The greatest example we have is of Yeshua, the living Word of God. (See John1:1-14) Yeshua humbled himself becoming a man, and then layed his life down and shed his blood for our sins. Realize the Lord wants to use you today, right now! He has a plan for you in your life just like those men in parsha korach if you are willing to serve Him and not complain. Be content in the service God has given you because Yeshua set the example. If you are not content, and begin to grumble and complain in your heart, the Lord is going to do something drastic ... hopefully it wont be as drastic as what happened to Korach where the ground opened up and Korach and his whole tent went down to the grave alive!

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**הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:**

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,  
"Yeshua" King Messiah for ever and ever