



Message 6-16-18
Korach-Korah (Bald)
Numbers 16:1-18:32
1 Samuel 11:14-12:22
Matthew 5:13-19

Introduction

Korah's flaw was to confuse equal worth with equal skills. People are not the same. The most cursory glance around a room reveals differing degrees of intelligence and strength, various personalities, and states of health. Great athletes and Nobel laureates are different from the rest of us. There is a difference. Korah was threatened by diversity, by specialization, and by distinction. Yet, our faith is based precisely on the celebration of diversity and the importance of distinction. One can be different and still be equal. We are not better. We live the values and practices that make for a society of sacred learning, divine service, and deeds based on our faith in Messiah Yeshua and the Torah. We must remain distinct. Not better, not isolated, but distinct. We needed Moses as a leader, a man of God. We also have a role to play in the drama of life. We must be men and women of God, who have placed our faith in Yeshua and walk in the light of Torah. We are part of Israel.

Numbers 16:1-5

1 Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men. ² And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. ³ They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?" ⁴ When Moses heard it, he fell on his face, ⁵ and he said to Korah and all his company, "In the morning the LORD will show who is his, and who is holy, and will bring him near to him. The one whom he chooses he will bring near to him. (ESV)

Korah was a Levite, but not a priest. He may have felt slighted by this, most likely believing that it was Moses' decision to raise Aaron up as the High Priest and not Yehovah. The sad part of this affair was not just in the penalty that was laid on Korah, his family, and all those who listened to him, but his lack of faith in the Holy One of Israel. This appears to be at the heart of Israel's problem. From the very beginning of their relationship with Yehovah, they lacked the faith to stick with Him and surrender themselves to Him completely. This mirrors our relationship with Him today and down through history. It is

not just Israel's problem but ours as well, whether native born into Israel or grafted in through faith in Yeshua and living a Torah-based life.

Korah made sure he had the backing of the best of the best in Israel. He gathered 250 leaders of Israel to back him up and claimed that all of Israel was holy to the Almighty and not just Aaron and Moses. Korah was putting just enough of the truth into his lie to persuade his backers and Israel itself. This was an out and out challenge to Aaron's position as High Priest and Moses as the chosen leader of Israel. It was through Moses that the Holy One performed His miracles to bring Israel out of bondage in Egypt and to care for them in the wilderness. What short memories the people of Israel had and what punishments they brought upon themselves. You would have thought they would have learned what it meant to disobey the covenant between themselves and Yehovah. But, they were not any different than all those who came before them and those who would come afterwards in how they handled their relationship with their Creator. It was haphazard and a cut and paste belief system. They chose what they wanted to follow and disregarded the rest. It wasn't enough when Miriam was punished for challenging her brother. They should have learned from that incident and the shame that she brought on herself by being afflicted with a skin disease that showed she was guilty of *lashon hara*.

Korah was making the same mistake as Miriam and was taking down 250 leaders of Israel along with those who helped him organize the revolt: Korah, the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and on. All these rebels would pay with their lives and their families as well. Right in front of Israel, Korah and his family were swallowed alive when the earth opened beneath them, fulfilling Moses' prophecy about them. This is not to say that at times we may find the need to question our leaders, but there is a right way and a wrong way to go about this. Do it with respect. Respect given is respect returned. Moses could be approached as with the daughters whose father had died and had no son to be his heir. They brought the point up that they should be the ones to receive their father's inheritance. Moses did not make this decision himself. He went to Yehovah, and He confirmed that what the daughters were saying was true, and they should receive the inheritance, but there were some conditions attached to ensure the land inheritance would remain within the tribe. If there is a lesson to be learned here, it is to be careful if you challenge the Almighty's anointed. You might wind up on the receiving end of what you thought you were laying on them.

1 Samuel 11:14-12:22

12 And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the LORD your God was your king. ¹³ And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the LORD has set a king over you. ¹⁴ If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well. ¹⁵ But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king. ¹⁶ Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes. ¹⁷ Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the LORD, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see

that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking for yourselves a king." ¹⁸ So Samuel called upon the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. ¹⁹ And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king." ²⁰ And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD but serve the LORD with all your heart. ²¹ And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. ²² For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself. (ESV)

The people of Israel wanted a king like the other nations. It was not enough for them to have Yehovah as their king and Samuel as His prophet. Samuel had lead Israel for many years and had served them without payment. In asking for a king, they had transgressed against their Creator, and it would be the sins of the kings would be laid upon the people. This is because kings are men, and men tend to sin, particularly those who have power because power seeks out more power, and this is not from Yehovah, but from the Adversary.

It only dawned on the people what they had done in asking for a king, and even though they repented of that sin, the deed was done, and Yehovah gave them what they wanted. Samuel had been offended when the people first asked him for a king, but the Holy One told him they were not rejecting Samuel, they were rejecting their Creator. Now they would be tied to the king, for better or for worse, and when the king sinned, so too would Israel. When the king followed the Almighty, the people would be blessed as well. There were good kings and bad kings in Israel as well as when Israel was divided into Judah and Ephraim. The lesson for us in all of this is Yehovah by His Son Yeshua was always meant to be King, not any man except for the Son who offered Himself as the sin offering to His Father, who accepted His sacrifice to redeem His people, Israel, those who believe in Messiah Yeshua and walk in Torah.

2 Timothy 2:19-23

19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." ²⁰ Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. ²² So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. (ESV)

The Creator dwells in heaven and upon the Father, Son, and the *Ruach HaKodesh*, all of creation stands supported by them. I do not talk just about the earth and all who dwell upon it, but I am talking about the universe and how vast it is. It shows us the power of the Almighty and the fact that we should be thankful He created us and wants to have

fellowship with us. He sent us His Son to show us His love for us. His Son taught us the Father's covenant, and through that covenant we cannot sin. We must do all we can to fight off sin which is disobedience of His covenant sealed by the blood of His Son and passed by His resurrection from the dead. Disobedience leads to separation from Messiah and the Father and has consequences attached to which we should be acutely aware. The Bible is a covenant and history. It contains the history of the Creator's relationship with mankind from the very beginning. The earth was created to hold life while the rest of the planets were not. They are there, as I said earlier, to show us His power and the fact that He created us through His Son and for His son to be in covenant with Him or to be outside that covenant. If we are, we should be aware of the penalty.

Matthew 8:7 Yeshua said, "I will go and heal him." ⁸ But the officer answered, "Sir, I am unfit to have you come into my home. Rather, if you will only give the command, my orderly will recover. ⁹ For I too am a man under authority. I have soldiers under me, and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes; to another, 'Come!' and he comes; to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." ¹⁰ **On hearing this Yeshua was amazed and said to the people following him, "Yes! I tell you, I have not found anyone in Isra'el with such trust!"** ¹¹ Moreover, I tell you that many will come from the east and from the west to take their places at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven with Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'akov. ¹² **But those born for the Kingdom will be thrown outside in the dark, where people will wail and grind their teeth!"** ¹³ Then Yeshua said to the officer, "Go; let it be for you as you have trusted." And his orderly was healed at that very moment. (CJB)

"But those born for the Kingdom will be thrown outside in the dark, where people will wail and grind their teeth."

These are the words spoken by the Messiah. Those who were born for the Kingdom, believers, will be cast out because of a lack of faith. Messiah shows us that those who not born into Israel, through faith, can find a place within Israel while the native born, who should be in covenant and in faith, will be cast out. Later, Peter, and then Paul, would expound further on the words of Yeshua bringing the promise of the covenant to the Goyim, the Nations. Faith and covenant is what the Almighty asks from us. Is it so difficult to follow in the footsteps of Yeshua? There is so much to be blessed with when we do.

Torah Man says: "A friend is a present you give yourself." (Robert Louis Stevenson)

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119. If you are not learning Torah, we invite you to attend Judaic Studies Institute, a Distance Learning Institute for Yeshua based Judaic Studies. Drop us a line at student.support@jsi-edu.org

for more information. You can earn a certificate or diploma and take courses to help you grow in your understanding.



etz
chayim
Tree of Life Messianic Ministries

Rabbi Mordecai Silver, Ph.D.

Tel: (866) 874-7250
Fax: (866) 800-2390
www.etz-chayim.org
tolmm@etz-chayim.org

P.O.Box 467, Organ, New Mexico, 88052

