

Parashat Korach [Korah]- The Deception of Jealousy

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Parashat Korach [Korah]



The Deception of Jealousy

B'midbar [Numbers]

16:1- 18:32

[16:1-35]

Torah: B'midbar [Numbers] 16:1- 18:32 [16:1-34] **Haftarah:** Shemuel Aleph [1 Samuel] 11:14-12:22

Netzarim Ketuvim: Tiymothiyos Beyth [2 Timothy] 2:8- 21

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The Rebellion Against Mosheh & Aharon

Bemidbar [Numbers 16: 1-35] And Qorah, son of Yitshar, son of Qehath, son of Lëvi, took both Dathan and Aþiram the sons of Eliyah and On, son of Peleth, sons of Re'ubën, 2 and they rose up before Mosheh with some of the children of Yisra'ël, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, called ones of the meeting, men of name. 3 And they assembled against Mosheh and against Aharon and said to them, "Enough of you! For all the congregation is set-apart, all of them and יהוה is in their midst. Why then do you lift up yourselves above the assembly of יהוה?" 4 And when Mosheh heard, he fell on his face, 5 and spoke to Qorah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning יהוה shall make known who is His and who is set-apart and bring him near to Him. And let Him bring near to Him the one whom He chooses. 6 "Do this: Take fire holders, Qorah and all your company, 7 and put fire in them and put incense in them before יהוה tomorrow. And it shall be that the one whom יהוה chooses is the set-apart one. Enough of you, sons of Lëvi!" 8 And Mosheh said to Qorah, "Hear now, you sons of Lëvi:

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9 "Is it little to you that the Elohim of Yisra'el has separated you from the congregation of Yisra'el, to bring you near to Himself, to perform the service of the Dwelling Place of יהוה and to stand before the congregation to serve them, 10 and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brothers, the sons of Lēwi, with you? Yet you seek the priesthood as well? 11 "Therefore you and all your company are set against יהוה. And Aharon, what is he that you grumble against him?" 12 And Mosheh sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliyab, but they said, "We are not coming up! 13 "Is it little that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you would also seize total rule over us? 14 "Also, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Would you bore out the eyes of these men? We are not coming up!" 15 And Mosheh became very displeased and said to יהוה, "Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I done harm to any of them." 16 Then Mosheh said to Qorah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company shall be there before יהוה, you and they and Aharon.

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17 "And take each one his firepan and you shall put incense in it. And let each one bring his firepan before יהוה, two hundred and fifty firepans and you and Aharon, each one with his firepan." 18 So each one took his firepan and put fire in it and laid incense on it and stood at the door of the Tent of Meeting with Mosheh and Aharon. 19 And Qorah assembled all the congregation against them at the door of the Tent of Meeting. Then the esteem of יהוה appeared to all the congregation. 20 And יהוה spoke to Mosheh and to Aharon, saying, 21 "Separate yourselves from the midst of this congregation and let Me consume them in a moment." 22 But they fell on their faces and said, "O Ēl, Elohim of the spirits of all flesh! When one-man sins, are You wroth with all the congregation?" 23 And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, saying, 24 "Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Move away from around the tents of Qorah, Dathan and Abiram.' " 25 So Mosheh rose up and went to Dathan and Abiram and the elders of Yisra'el followed him 26 And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Please turn away from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch whatever belongs to them, lest you be consumed in all their sins. "

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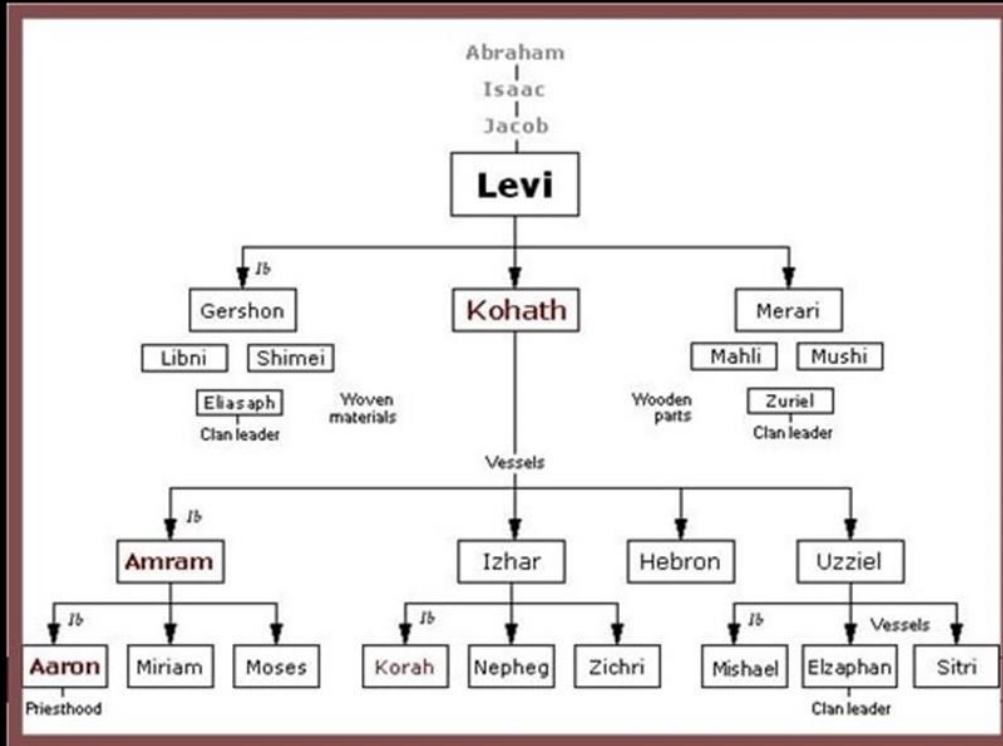
27 Then they moved away from around the tents of Qorah, Dathan and Abiram. And Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives and their sons and their little children. **28** And Mosheh said, "By this you know that יהוה has sent me to do all these works, that they are not from my own heart. **29** "If these die as all men do, or if they are visited as all men are visited, then יהוה has not sent me. **30** "But if יהוה creates what is unheard of and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them and they go down alive into the grave, then you shall know that these men have scorned יהוה." **31** And it came to be, as he ended speaking all these words, that the ground under them split apart, **32** and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Qorah, with all their goods. **33** So they and all those with them went down alive into the grave and the earth closed over them and they perished from the midst of the assembly. **34** And all Yisra'el who were round about them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up!" **35** And a fire came out from יהוה and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.

Introduction: Our Torah portion for today focuses on Korach [Korah] from the family tree of Kehath the son of Levi who was from one of the families of Levites. Korach with a confederacy of 250 leaders had the audacity to claim their right to be priests over and above the choice of YHWH that Aharon & his sons would be the priests. This draws right to the heart of every person who thinks he is better able to fulfil a leadership role than that of the appointed leadership especially when it was the call of Elohim that brought that one to that position.

Let us therefore observe the sequence of events in the Torah portion:

Summary of the Torah Portion:

- 1.** Korach with 250 ring leaders gather against Mosheh & Aharon accusing them of power hoarding.
- 2.** These leaders wished to present the incense offering & Korach spends the night inciting the multitude.
- 3.** The earth however swallows Korach & a fire from heaven consumes the 250 leaders.
- 4.** YHWH desiring to destroy Yisrael brings on a plague which is only stopped when Aharon burns incense to atone for their terrible sin.
- 5.** The people still complain to Mosheh for the deaths of the leaders after which a test of staffs is required. Aharon's staff now blossoms.
- 6.** Finally, the Levites were not to receive a portion of land except that they would receive a tithe & service to the Mishkan [Tabernacle].



The chart shows the relationship of the families remembering that the Levites carried all the vessels of the **Mishkan [the Tabernacle]** through the desert as the Nation travelled from one stop to the next. That information gives us a window into Korach's life. It is telling us what he was up to in the weeks and months leading up to his rebellion.

The Root of the Problem

We read this in:

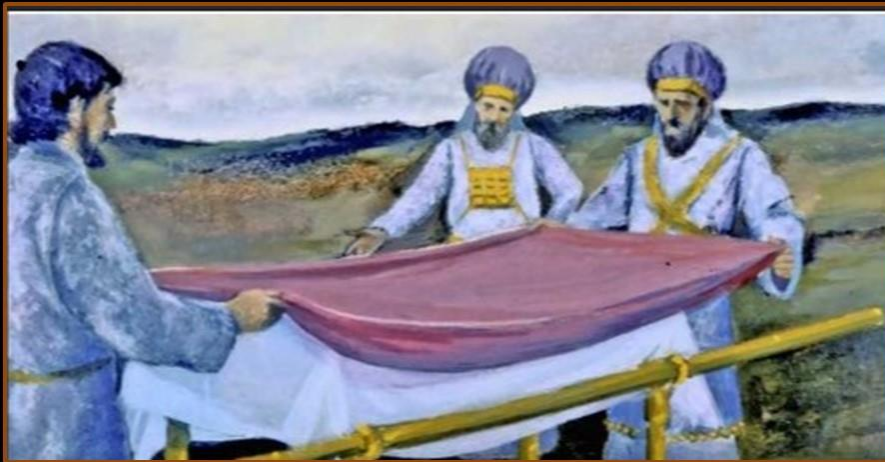
Bemidbar [numbers] 4:5- says “when the nation is ready to travel, Aaron and his sons would come into the Holy of Holies to start taking down the curtains....etc..”



The Levites Dismantle the Mishkan

The verses open by saying “**this is the job of Kehath**”... but then they start talking about Aaron and his family – the Kohanim [Priests], the cousins of **Kehath** – and what they do in the Holy of Holies. And this is not just a small interlude. The next 10 verses go on and on describing how the Kohanim prepared the Mishkan [Tabernacle] for transport – how they covered each and every vessel with special fabrics, with animal hides, and garments made of **techelet**, of sky-blue.

The Priests Cover the Ark



Then after everything is all wrapped and ready to go the family of **Kehath** finally comes in to pick up the vessels and carry them off.

In other words, Elohim wanted the **Kohanim** [the Priests] to micro-manage the family of Kehath, to literally put each one of them in his place. Why? – because if the family of Kehath would so much as see the holy vessels before they are properly covered... they would die. So, the Kohanim needed to be there to protect them and make sure nobody gets hurt.



This reminds me of Raiders of the Lost Ark with Indiana Jones when anyone looking into the Ark is destroyed.

[Understanding Korach's Backstory in the Bible](#)

So now that we have seen this, just imagine you are Korach, and this is your job description. How do you think you would feel? Your illustrious cousins the **Kohanim** [the Priests] get to actually go inside and see and touch the holiest objects on earth. But for you, just catching a glimpse of those vessels would kill you. And that is not all.

While you are out there waiting, the Kohanim are bossing you around and telling you what to do. **“Stand here, don't touch anything, don't even peek. Okay, ready? Now lift!”** It is like they are your babysitters. So yeah, you both work in the Holy of Holies, but they get all the glory.

Korach [Korah] Gathers Against Mosheh with 250 Rebels



Korach's message is not **"It's my turn to be number 1!"** It's: **"Nobody should be number 1! We are all equal in the eyes of Elohim! Down with Hierarchy!"** **Korach** was not truly advocating on behalf of the rest of the nation. It was a cover for his deep resentment of playing second fiddle to the **Kohanim** [the Priests]. He was trying to dismantle the entire structure of leadership. This structure however was not established by man but **Yahweh Elohim** himself, so Korach's rebellion was against Elohim [God] himself.

The Lesson Behind What Happened to Korach

It seems to me that Korach fell into the trap of his own distorted self-perception. Because if you were to ask someone from the tribe of Shimon, **"Is that Korach guy important?"** He would say to you, **"Korach? As in the Korach, from Kehat? He carries the Ark on his shoulders! He's like an angel among men!"**

A Note to remember: The ark & all the Holy Vessels were covered & then Carried with no-one except the Priest ever seeing them.

It is not how many depictions are as we see here but rather like the second image:

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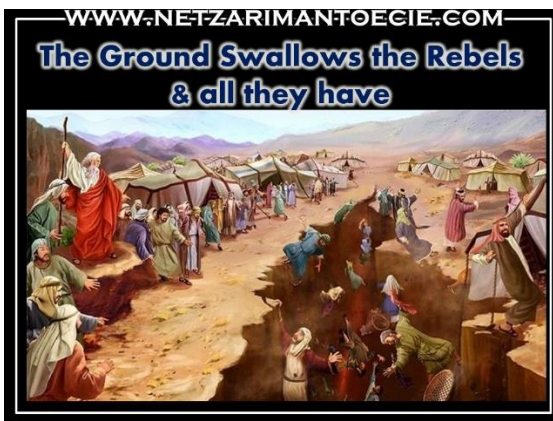


But Korach could not see how precious or valuable his role was. He was so fixated on what he did not have, and what other people did have, that he could not find any value in his own position.

I mean, haven't you ever felt like there was someone out there – maybe a friend or a colleague – who just made you feel like a failure? As long as that guy has a better job than me, gets more praise than me, I have failed. We truly must remember that all are important as we read in:

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Messiah.

Truly the punishment Koach received though horrific had something to do with his own words that they were all holy vessels of Elohim. It is interesting that Holy Vessels are covered & that is what happened to Korach too in his punishment:



With Korah were also the 250 rebel leaders who had dared to come & offer incense which was not theirs to offer and were in an instant consumed by fire that came out from Elohim.



The next part of this mind-blowing story we read something totally unthought of as though the people believed that Mosheh from himself had some sort of power and that there was power in numbers for we read:

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B'midbar 16:41 On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel complained against Mosheh [Moses] and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of Elohim."

B'midbar [Numbers] 16:41 On the next day all the congregation of the Children of Yisrael complained against Mosheh [Moses] and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of Elohim."

The result of their complaint however was a plague that was only stopped by Aaron running & burning incense in their midst to atone for their rebellion with **14,700** people dying. Do we really wonder at the severity of Elohim for in the presence of the Elohim of Heaven do you think sin & rebellion can ever stand up? Yisrael was so privileged to have the very cloud, **the Shekinah** of Yahweh in their midst but that also had a great price. Today do you think that if we would see the exceedingly great power of Elohim move in our midst by great signs that he also would not punish rebellion and sin. We see that clearly shown in the early Assembly through the story of Anaias & Sapphira story:

Maaseh Ha Shiylichiyim [Acts] 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. **2** And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Kepha [Peter] said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Ruach Ha Kodesh [the Holy Spirit] and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? **4** While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to Elohim [God]." **5** Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. **6** And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

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Ananias & Sapphira Lie & Die



Maaseh Ha Shiylichim [Acts] 5:1-6

We are talking about the time after the resurrection, the time of grace yet we can see the lesson concerned with the Holiness of Elohim & the Holy Spirit remains, that it might cause us to check ourselves for sin & rebellion.

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The Night Trial of Yeshua before a Select Sanhedrin



The Brith Chadashah [the New Testament] is truly ripe with the same rebellion as Korach too because we see the arrest of Yeshua revolves around this same desire to be in a prominent position since the religious leader's desire to kill Yeshua was based on jealous & a desire to maintain their position.

We see an amazing similarity with Mosheh since Mosheh could call upon Yahweh the Almighty to destroy the rebels that wished to remove him as leader & we read this amazing statement from Yeshua when he is about to be arrested in:



MatithYahu [Matthew] 26:52-54 Then Yeshua said to him [Kepha], “Return your sword to its place, for all who take the sword shall die by the sword. Or do you think that I am not able to pray to My Father now and He shall provide Me with more than twelve legions of messengers? **54** “How then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it has to be this way?”

These Religious leaders within the Sanhedrin who wished to remove Yeshua held prominent positions in their nation with all the perks that went with it like living comfortably above the poverty of many others & they had accepted Roman rule & made the necessary concessions. Therefore, we read they brought Yeshua to Pilate & we see their true motivation was about power for we see the main accusation that brought them to Pilate in this discourse with him:

MatithYahu [Matthew] 27:11-14 Now Yeshua stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, “Are You the King of the Yahudim [Jews]?” Yeshua said to him, “It is as you say.” **12** And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. **13** Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” **14** But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marvelled greatly.

Yeshua Brought Before Pilate



So corrupt had they become that we read after the Temple Guards reported back to the High Priest what had happened at the Resurrection, we read this:



**The
Guards
are
Bribed
to keep
them
quite.**

MattithYahu [Matthew] 28:11-15 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. **12** When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, **13** saying, "Tell them [the body of Elders], 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' **14** And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." **15** So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Yahudim [Jews] until this day.

It is so amazing that at the demonstration of the truth of the risen Messiah these leaders could still hold on to their corruption over repentance but that is the true slavery of sin since it will finally destroy you totally.

Conclusion: the lesson for today is to consider the goodness of Elohim who has given us such mercy to bring us to himself through Yeshua and that wherever we are within the body of Messiah is of exceedingly great value & we should honour & respect all brothers & sisters & never see positions as vertical hierarchy but more as a horizontal hierarchy where each has been given gifts with one Master & Lord **Yeshua Ha Mashiach [the Messiah]** who is over all to the praise of him who called us into his glorious light. Even more glorious is that all the evil that was planned against Yeshua was the very means by which Yahweh would redeem the world he loves to the glory of his great name.

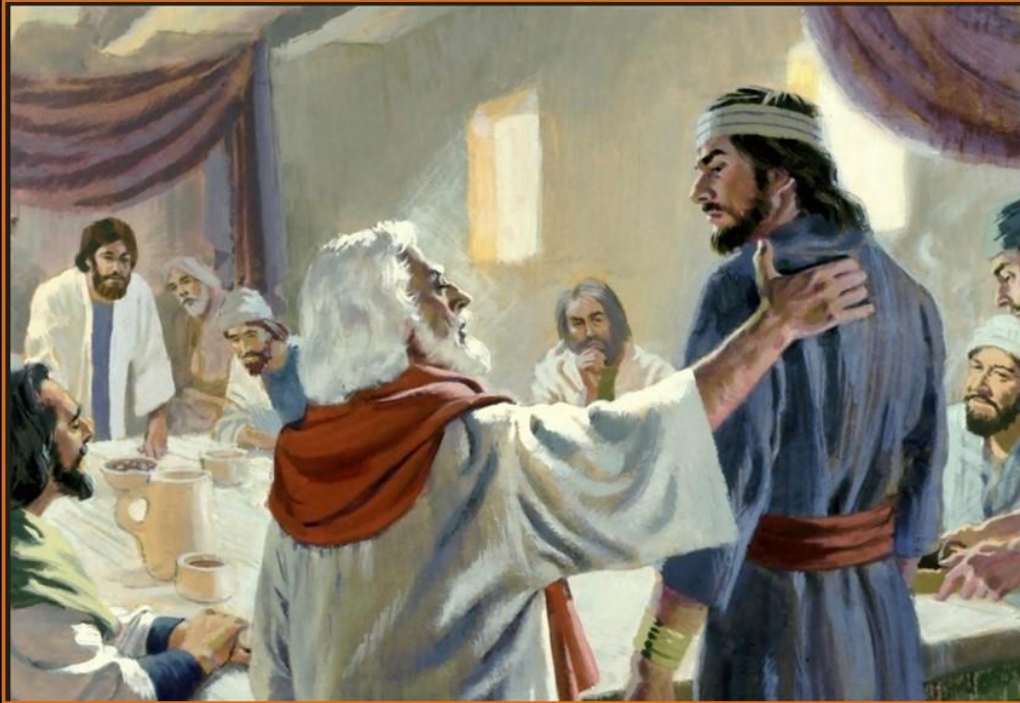
HalleluYah.



Haftarah: Shemuel Aleph [1 Samuel] 11:14- 12:22 [12:12- 22]

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Haftarah: Shemuel Aleph [1 Samuel] 11:14-12:22



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Samuel's Address at Shaul's Coronation

Sh'muel Aleph [1 Samuel]11: 14 And Shemu'el said to the people, "Come and let us go to Gilgal and renew the reign there." **15** And all the people went to Gilgal and there they set up Sha'ul [Saul] to reign before יהוה in Gilgal and there they made slaughterings of peace offerings before יהוה. And there Sha'ul rejoiced and all the men of Yisra'el, very greatly.

Sh'muel Aleph [1 Samuel]12: 1 And Shemu'el said to all Yisra'el, "Look, I have listened to your voice in all that you said to me and have set a sovereign over you. **2** "And now, look, the sovereign is walking before you. And I am old and grey and look, my sons are with you. And I have walked before you from my youth to this day. **3** "Look, here I am. witness against me before יהוה and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I oppressed? Whom have I abused, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? – then I restore it to you."

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4 And they said, "You have not oppressed us or abused us, nor have you taken any bribe from anyone's hand." 5 So he said to them, "יהוה is witness against you and His anointed is witness today, that you have found naught in my hand." And they answered, "He is witness." 6 And Shemu'el said to the people, "It is יהוה who appointed Mosheh and Aharon and who brought your fathers up from the land of Mitsrayim. 7 "And now, stand still, so that I judge you before יהוה concerning all the righteous acts of יהוה which He did to you and your fathers: 8 "When Ya'aqob had come to Mitsrayim and your fathers cried out to יהוה, then יהוה sent Mosheh and Aharon, who brought your fathers out of Mitsrayim and made them dwell in this place. 9 "But they forgot יהוה their Elohim, so He sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hatsu and into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the sovereign of Mo'ab. And they fought against them. 10 "And they cried out to יהוה and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken יהוה and served the Ba'als and the Ashtaroth. And now, deliver us from the hand of our enemies and we serve You.'

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11 "And יהוה sent Yerubba'al, Bedan, Yiphtaḥ and Shemu'el and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies round about and you dwelt in safety. 12 "And when you saw that Naḥash sovereign of the children of Ammon came against you, you said to me, 'No, but let a sovereign reign over us,' when יהוה your Elohim was your sovereign. 13 "And now, here is the sovereign whom you have chosen and whom you have asked. And see, יהוה has set a sovereign over you. 14 "If you fear יהוה and shall serve Him and obey His voice and not rebel against the command of יהוה, then both you and the sovereign who reigns over you shall follow יהוה your Elohim. 15 "But if you do not obey the voice of יהוה and shall rebel against the command of יהוה, then the hand of יהוה shall be against you as it was against your fathers. 16 "Now, stand and see this great matter which יהוה does before your eyes: 17 "Is today not the wheat harvest? Let me call to יהוה, so that He sends thunder and rain – know then and see that your evil is great, which you have done in the eyes of יהוה, in asking for yourselves a sovereign." 18 And Shemu'el called to יהוה and יהוה sent thunder and rain that day. And all the people greatly feared יהוה and Shemu'el.

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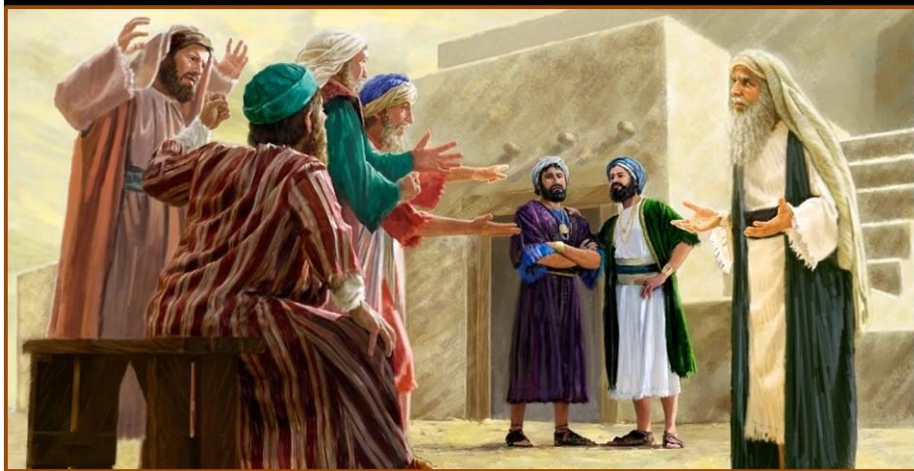
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19 And all the people said to Shemu'el, "Pray for your servants to יהוה your Elohim, that we do not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil of asking for ourselves a sovereign." **20** And Shemu'el said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this evil. Only, do not turn aside from following יהוה. And you shall serve יהוה with all your heart, **21** and do not turn aside after worthless matters which do not profit or deliver, for they are worthless. **22** "For יהוה would not cast away His people, for His great Name's sake, seeing it has pleased יהוה to make you His people.

The prophet Samuel a descendant of Korach, gathers Yisrael to install Shaul as king of Yisrael. He discusses how YHWH rescued and aided them every step of the way and chastises them for wanting a flesh and blood king. He assures them that YHWH will be with them if they follow His ways, and of the consequences they will face if they do not follow His word.

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Samuel before the Leaders



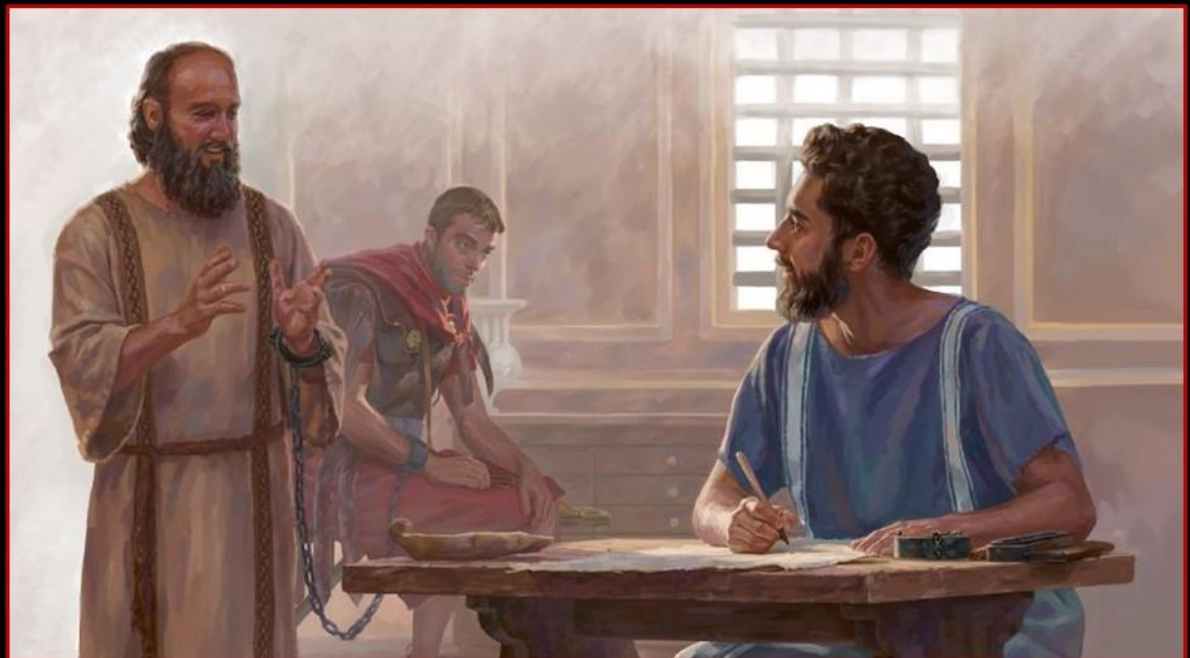
To underscore the seriousness of his words, Samuel asks Elohim to send a thunderstorm, though it was not the rainy season. The people receive the message and ask Samuel to intercede on their behalf and to cause the thunderstorm to cease. The haftarah then ends with this reassurance: "For Elohim will not forsake His people for His great name's sake; for YHWH has sworn to make you a people for Himself."

Netzarim Ketuvim: Tiymothiyos Beyth [2 Timothy] 2:8-21 [2:11-19]

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Netzarim Ketuvim: Tiymothiyos Beyth

(2 Timothy) 2:11 - 19



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Approved & Disapproved Workers

Timothyos Beyth [2 Timothy] 2: 11-19 Trustworthy is the word: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. **12** If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also shall deny us. **13** If we are not trustworthy, He remains trustworthy, it is impossible for Him to deny Himself. **14** Remind them of this, earnestly witnessing before the Master, not to wage verbal battles – which is useless – to the overthrowing of the hearers. **15** Do your utmost to present yourself approved to Elohim, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of Truth. **16** But keep away from profane, empty babblings, for they go on to more wickedness, **17** and their word shall eat its way like gangrene. Humeniyos and Philetos are of this sort, **18** who have missed the goal concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection has already taken place and overthrow the belief of some. **19** However, the solid foundation of Elohim stands firm, having this seal, “יהוה knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the Name of Messiah turn away from unrighteousness.”

In this reading Timothy must be prepared to endure strife for the sake of Heaven as must we, so as to receive the prize & with that thought we must strive to present ourselves approved to EL & shun all falsehood. True believers may fail but those who deny Messiah give evidence that they never belonged to Him and face His denial. Arguing with false teachers who use human reason as Korach did is not only foolish but is dangerous. **Shaul** [Paul] encourages zealous persistence to complete the goal to impart the Word of Elohim completely & accurately to the hearers. This is our whole reason for studying the Word that we might rightly divide the truth because we are handling the pure Holy word of Elohim. May this always be our desire, that we may impart the truth to others & live this truth out in our lives & through our life draw many unto the Master of Salvation.

Amen. Shavua Tov Aleichem [A Good Week to you all]