



Carnegie Shul Chatter

June 30, 2022



Korach in a Nutshell

Numbers 16:1–18:32

Korach incites a mutiny challenging Moses' leadership and the granting of the kehunah (priesthood) to Aaron. He is accompanied by Moses' inveterate foes, Dathan and Abiram. Joining them are 250 distinguished members of the community, who offer the sacrosanct ketoret (incense) to prove their worthiness for the

Zoom in for Services

Shabbat services are held by Zoom, at 10am and last 60-90 minutes. A link is sent to all Shul members; if you don't receive it, contact Wendy Panizzi at panizziw@gmail.com.

Give Back

While researching this week's parshah, Korach, I found this statement in a D'var Torah by Dr. Michael R. Mantell, Ph.D., "The parasha this week begins with a deep psychological insight into leadership with the words, 'Vay-ikach Korach,' 'and Korach took.' He was a taker, not a giver."

My wife has often told me that there are two kinds of people in this world, takers and givers. Korach was a taker. He wanted it all. You know where that got him. Moses was a giver. He gave and gave to the Jewish people, and he will always be revered for doing so.

We all know of people who have been successful in life who in their later years say, "I have so much. I don't need any more. The time has come for me to give back to the community." Isn't that great?

But why wait until your later years? There is always an opportunity to give. Maybe you don't have money to give but there are

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certainly other things to give besides money.

Give of your time. Give of your talents. Volunteer to help others. Give something.

There is a critical shortage of blood right now. Give blood if you can.

When you do give you may find out that you will get back even more than you give in the form of gratitude, self-accomplishment and self-fulfillment.

Wouldn't you rather be a Moses than a Korach?

priesthood. The earth opens up and swallows the mutineers, and a fire consumes the ketoret-offerers.

A subsequent plague is stopped by Aaron's offering of ketoret. Aaron's staff miraculously blossoms and brings forth almonds, to prove that his designation as high priest is divinely ordained.

G-d commands that a terumah ("uplifting") from each crop of grain, wine and oil, as well as all firstborn sheep and cattle, and other specified gifts, be given to the kohanim (priests).

Korach

And so the rebellious nature of some of the Children of Israel continues to rear its ugly head in this week's parshah, Korach, as Korach leads a rebellion against Moses. Here is an excellent commentary on Korach from partnersintorah.org that I think you will enjoy.



Parsha Perspectives

Nepotism Rears Its Ugly Head

By Rabbi Elazar Meisels

"Korach... and Dathan and Abiram, took 250 men, princes of the congregation... men of renown. And they gathered against Moses and Aaron and said, 'You take too much upon yourselves, for the entire assembly – all of them – are holy.'" (Bamidbar, 16:1-3)



The Jewish nation was in its infancy. Positions of responsibility were being assigned to various tribes, families, and individuals, but one man was unhappy. Korach, who hailed from the Kehothites, a prominent family of Levites, felt that he deserved better. Sure, the Kehothites were awarded the choicest assignment of all three Levite families. They, alone, were granted the right to carry the holiest items from the Tabernacle on their shoulders, but this was not enough for Korach. He felt that he, by virtue of his age, should have been given overall managerial duties.

A young man from a wealthy family was preparing to graduate college. Knowing there was nothing his dad couldn't afford, the young man informed his father that an appropriate gift to mark the occasion would be a beautiful sports car that he had long admired. Graduation day approached, and with unconcealed enthusiasm the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally the day came. After a grand ceremony, his father told him how much he loved him and handed him a beautifully wrapped gift box. The young man tore off the wrapping, opened the box, and found a leather-bound photo album containing pictures of him at every stage of his life. Hardly taking the time to look through the album, the young man yelled, "With all your money, this is the best you could do?" He stormed out of the house. He rarely called his father after that and never visited him. He refused to make peace with his disappointment over what had happened on graduation day.

The young man grew to become a parent. One day, before his own daughter's eighth grade graduation, she asked to visit her grandfather, whom she had never seen before. He began to make arrangements but in the interim received a telegram informing him that his father had passed away and had willed all his possessions to him. When he searched through his father's important papers, he discovered the still-new photo album. As he turned the pages, his childhood passed before his eyes. When he came to the final page, which was blank, he realized it was supposed to have been filled with pictures of his graduation. Instead, there was an unopened envelope. He opened it up, and a car key dropped out. There was a tag with the date of his graduation and the words "paid in full."

Korach may not have had it all, but he certainly had been granted an incredible opportunity to serve in the capacity of a Levite. Had he accepted his role, he would have ranked among the leading families in Israel and enjoyed immense respect and adulation. Instead, his legacy is that of a miscreant and rabble-rouser who chose to focus on the packaging, never taking the time to examine his gifts.

We do not have to repeat Korach's mistake. G-d truly loves us and wants us to be happy. We can feel confident that just because something is not packaged the way we expect it does not mean that it is not a gift.

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Rachel Bessie Kelson
Julius Moskovitz
Sara Cooper Radman
Stanley Roth

Steven A. Schectar
Benjamin M. Mandelkorn
Morris J. Mayer
Max Landau

Rose Kimmelman
Bertha Dorn
Fannie Roth

May their memories be for a blessing.