



Carnegie Shul Chatter

June 22, 2023



Shabbat Services

Join us in the sanctuary, providing you have been vaccinated for Covid 19, or attend virtually. Watch your email for a Zoom link or contact Rosalyn Hoffman at rjlynman@yahoo.com. The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found at https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2495755/jewish/Korach-Torah-Reading.htm

Think Before You Act

Today's haftorah commentary includes the sentence, "I pray that all of us can learn from Shmuel and let us think before we act in order to keep out of spiritual trouble."

What a very profound sentence. How often do we see public figures do something wrong that gets them in the headlines, after which they issue a statement of regret, often written by a public relations person, apologizing for their actions -- only to do the same thing again sometime in the future.

This week's prime example was Bob Huggins, the West Virginia University basketball coach. Huggins was a college basketball coach for 41 years. His teams won 935 games, third most of any coach in history. He took teams to the NCAA tournament 26 times and reached the Final Fours twice. He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in September.

But in 2004, while coaching at the University of Cincinnati, Huggins was convicted of driving under the influence. Then, six weeks ago, he used an anti-gay slur and was critical of Catholics during an interview on a Cincinnati radio program. He was given a three-game suspension and had his \$3.5 million dollar an-

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nual salary reduced by \$1 million for next year. But did he learn his lesson?

Well, this Saturday night Huggins was arrested for DUI again, this time in Pittsburgh. His blood alcohol was more than twice the legal limit. He was so intoxicated that he did not even know what city he was in, telling the arresting officer he was in Columbus, Ohio.

Huggins has now resigned, but he most certainly would have been fired had he not resigned. And, of course, he issued the requisite apology and statement, saying, “My recent actions do not represent the values of the University or the leadership expected in this role. While I have always tried to represent our University with honor, I have let all of you – and myself – down. I am solely responsible for my conduct and sincerely apologize to the University community – particularly to the student-athletes, coaches and staff in our program. I must do better, and I plan to spend the next few months focused on my health and my family so that I can be the person they deserve.”

And so Huggins, a Hall of Fame coach will have as his legacy not the many positive things that he accomplished on and off the basketball court, but his DUI arrests and his gay and religious slurs. And he will also be without his \$3.5 million salary.

Do I feel sorry for him? No, I do not. Instead I pray that we can learn from what has happened to Huggins to think before we act in order to keep out of trouble, both legal and spiritual.



Korach in a Nutshell

From Chabad.org

Numbers 16:1–18:32

The name of the Parshah, “Korach,” refers to Korach, head of the rebellion against Moses and Aaron.

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 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).

Haftorah in a Nutshell

I Samuel 11:14-12:22

The prophet Samuel (a descendant of Korach, the protagonist of this week's Torah portion) gathers the Jews to firmly install Saul as king of Israel. During the course of his address to the Jews he called out, "Here I am; bear witness against me before G-d and before His anointed; whose ox did I take, or whose donkey did I take, or whom did I rob; or whom did I oppress, or from whose hand did I take a bribe..." This echoes Moses' statement in this week's Torah reading: "I have not taken a donkey from a single one of them, and I have not harmed a single one of them."

The nation gathers at Gilgal for a second coronation of King Saul—the first one having lacked a convincing consensus. They offer sacrifices and rejoice together. The prophet Samuel then delivers a talk: he asks the people to testify that he never committed crimes against the people, and they confirm. He discusses how G-d saved and aided them every step of the way and chastises them for wanting a flesh and blood king. He assures them that G-d will be with them if they follow in His ways, and of the consequences they will face if they do not follow G-d's word.

To underscore the seriousness of his words, Samuel asks G-d to send a thunderstorm, although it was not the rainy season. The Jewish people got the message and asked Samuel to intercede on their behalf and to have the thunderstorm cease. The haftorah ends with a reassurance: "For G-d will not forsake His people for His great name's sake; for G-d has sworn to make you a people for Himself."

Haftorah Commentary

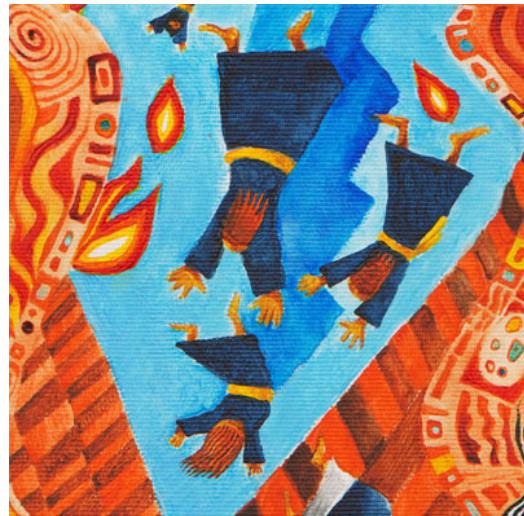
Samuel's Farewell Address

By Reuben Ebrahimoff

"The Haftorahman"

The connection between this week's Parasha and the Haftorah:

Samuel was an example of what the leader of Israel should be. He pulled everyone together to serve Hashem. On the other hand, Korach was a Levite who led the rebellion in the wilderness against Moses. The earth opened up and swallowed Korach and the other leaders of the rebellion. The reason for Korach's destruction was that his vision was to have each and every person in the nation of Israel be his or her own G-d. Needless to say Korach's vision was diametrically opposed to Samuel's belief in only one G-d.



The Storyline of this week's Haftorah:

Saul, who is just about to become Israel's first King, commands the nation of Israel to go up to the City of Gilgal where he is to be anointed. Afterwards the Nation of Israel celebrates Saul's coronation by giving peace offerings to Hashem. Samuel, Israel's last Judge then declares that he has fulfilled all the requests that the people of Israel have made of him, with emphasis on the recent appointment of Israel's first King. Now it has come time for Samuel to pass away. Samuel, who was only 52 at the time, claims that he has aged and feels very old, possibly as a result of his son's misdeeds. To pass away with a clear conscience, Samuel asks in front of Hashem and the King of Israel if there was anybody who could testify against him regarding any misdeeds he may have done. For example, had he taken any animals as payment for the work he has done for the community? Samuel continues to ask "Was there anyone whom he had cheated or was oppressed by him?" "Did anyone ever bribe him? Come forward!" The people of Israel responded, "You have been honest in all your dealings with us."



Haftorahman's Lesson of the week:

You cannot change what has already been done. What you can do is to make a conscious decision that, from this point on, before deciding to transgress a commandment and sin, you ask yourself once more "Is it worth it?" Once someone gets into a mess, they usually start bargaining with Hashem: "Please get me out of this mess. I'll do anything if you help me, Hashem." This simplest solution is this: don't get yourself into trouble in the first place. The Prophet Shmuel didn't have anything to hide, he was able to say, "I have a clear conscience, I have behaved well and I have nothing to fear. I pray that all of us can learn from Shmuel and let us think before we act, in order to keep out of spiritual trouble.

Samuel's Biography:

- ◆ The meaning of Shmuel is "The Lord heard her."
- ◆ Samuel was the 16th and the last of the Shoftim (Judges). Eli the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) raised him in the Holy Temple.
- ◆ His book covers 120 years. He was a prophet whose string of prophetic experiences lasted about 100 years, from 1070 - 970 B.C.E., during which Hashem spoke to him directly.
- ◆ Samuel was strong and unwavering. Hannah was his mother. Samuel was 52 years old at the time of this Haftorah.
- ◆ He was known as "The Reluctant King maker." He also appointed King David as Saul's successor to the throne over the Nation of Israel.
- ◆ Samuel was born in Ramat-Tsofim in the hill country of the tribe of Ephraim. He wrote his own book.
- ◆ Samuel the prophet is buried in Jerusalem.

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Lena Bendis

David Fred Block

May their memories be for a blessing.

Donations

The Carnegie Shul is most grateful for the following recent donations:

Robert and Mary Beth Mandelkorn

In memory of Benjamin M. Mandelkorn

Lois Ash Metlika

In memory of Sarah Lee Backal

Anna Silberman

In memory of Sara C Radman



Korach's last vacation

