



#38 Korach Numbers 16:1-18:32

Torah teaching By Moshe Schwab

Names

Kefa – Peter
Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ
in the Greek means to be smudged
Mishkan – Tent of Meeting in the desert
Moshe – Moses
Shaul – Paul
Yeshua – Jesus' real name
Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)
Yochanan – John

Terms

Haftarah – reading from the prophets
Menorah – 7 candle Israelite lamp
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
Mishkan – tent of meeting in the desert
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah
(There are also transliterations from Hebrew)

The name of this portion is Korach in Hebrew. It is the name, "Korah" and means, "baldness, ice, hail, or frost."¹ In the previous portion Israel sinned through unbelief in God because of the negative report of the spies. In this portion, we see some Israelites led by Korach believe that they should be the ones to lead Israel and Korach apparently wants to be the High Priest. Moshe tells them they are rebelling against God in Numbers 16:11.

The pagan religion that was passed down to us.

In the same way, Christianity was taken over by the pagan Roman Empire and they decided they did not need God's commandments and feasts and made up their own system that is only partly what God and the Messiah taught. That is the rebellion that we inherited and that is the rebellion that is being passed down through Christianity until this day. Many Messianic believers have left this false system. I was introduced to the Messiah Yeshua through this false system, but eventually, I realized that they do not keep what the Bible says to keep. We have decided to do what Bible says to do and what the Messiah Yeshua taught.

Only a few Israelites rebelled in this portion, but it seems that most of Christianity has decided to continue to follow a Gentile god instead of the God of the Bible and our Messiah. Christianity for the most part does not understand that they do not follow the Messiah the way they should, they are following man-made doctrines. They are satisfied with made up rules and religious philosophy. They have rejected the commandments of God in the Old Testament portion that the Bible says are "right and good." This often-quoted scripture is a key scripture to remember. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you."

¹ Definition from Wikipedia.

Some say that that the Old Testament portion is for the Jews or that it has been done away with. It says we are to diligently keep God's commandments because they are right and good. And, it says they are commandments of God and not just Jewish commandments. Also, there are more than 10 commandments. All God's commandments are God's commandments. It is my hope that people will come to know the truth. I repeat this important section in our Toray study for today.

I would like to begin today by encouraging us to stay in the ways of God. Outside of God's commandments is bondage.

We can either choose God's ways or some other way. Yeshua tells us that those who choose sin are slaves to sin. John 8:34 NKJV says, "Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin." Perhaps you never thought that leading a sinful life causes a person to be a slave to that behavior. When I was a young child, I would sometimes exaggerate what happened to get people to laugh. When I realized that exaggerating was a form of lying, I decided to stop doing that and I had to make an effort to make sure I did not do that anymore. I came to understand that we can develop bad and even sinful habits. I had to get into the habit of thinking through what happened and reporting what happened without any additional or misleading information. I also decided that anytime that I made a mistake in what I said that I would correct myself even if I was innocent of trying to change any facts.

The Bible talks about demonic spiritual influences and that we are not to give into them. They often take the form of accepting anything that contradicts how God says to live. Not keeping God's commandments is called sin. James 4:7-8 NKJV says, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." We are to resist sinful influences and thoughts that contradict God's commandments. Sinful thoughts are often called temptations.

Where did these devil spirits come from? Isaiah talks about a spiritual being that rebelled against God and wanted to be like God. Lucifer and his followers are responsible for weakening the nations. God created a good world. In rebellion, devil spirits want to destroy God's creation and they tempt people to do things contrary to how they were designed by God. This causes trouble in the life of people and the world.

Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJV says,

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, **you who weakened the nations!** For you have said in your heart: "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High."

Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.

The best explanation as to where devil spirits come from is that this fallen angel took 1/3 of the angels from heaven (see Revelation 12:1) and were cast to earth and they became our nemesis in rebellion against God. They are often called devil spirits in the Bible, but they are also called other names such as the enemy, dragon, destroyer, liar, murderer, Belial, the serpent, and so forth.

In the Garden of Eden, Eve encountered a temptation from a devil spirit or perhaps Lucifer who spoke through a snake. This story teaches us how these devil spirits tempt mankind.

Genesis 3:1-5 NKJV says,

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So, what happened there? The devil questioned what God said and then Eve responds by adding to God's words with "nor shall you touch it," and by saying, "lest," namely, perhaps you will die. Then the devil contradicts what God told Adam and Eve to do. God said in Genesis 2:17, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Adam and Eve disobey God and it appears they repent. They must leave their privileged life and eventually die. From then on, people must make up their own mind whether they will follow our good God or follow the rebellion that Lucifer began. It will not be good for those who follow Lucifer's rebellion. Revelation 20:10 NKJV says, "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

I might add that this teaching from Genesis is a typical rabbinical teaching. Somehow in our modern time, many Jews have lost a proper understanding of this teaching. Eve changed what God said so she did not have the truth anymore. The devil questioned what God said and then said what God said is not true. We should be careful not to change what God told us to do. Some say there will be no consequences, but that is not true. Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever."

How are we tempted at times? Things have not changed much since the Garden of Eden. The devil will put a thought into someone's mind and then answer the question. The person thinks it is their thought. Perhaps the devil will say, "Is there a God?" The devil will then tell the person, "There is no God." If they have not committed themselves to God, then perhaps they will accept this lie. The devil will try to tempt people with any number of false statements that contradict the Bible and God's commandments.

Reality comes from God's truths in the Bible. That is where we find sure footing for life. We are then situated above the turmoils and false ideals that surround us.

God is the creator, and He gave us His good commandments and He continues to preserve the earth at His discretion. Nehemiah 9:6 NKJV says, "You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all." Psalms 33:6 NKJV says, "By the word of the

LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth." As humans, we cannot understand everything, but God know all. God does not become weary like we do. Isaiah 40:28 NKJV says, "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable." Also, God is not like mankind and does not lie. Numbers 23:19 NKJV says, "God is not a man, that He should lie."

Since God is the eternal all-knowing God who wants what is best for us, He gave us His commandments to help mankind. Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NKJV says, "Fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good." At God's discretion He can intervene in life and help us. Psalms 18:20-21 NKJV says, "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God."

Choose the right direction in life in all you do.

Do not do things your own way, but God's way. Proverbs 3:5-8 NKJV says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones." We fear God, we deeply respect God for who He is. He is a good and caring God. Deuteronomy 5:29 NKJV says, "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!"

Is God's law your delight? Psalms 119:172-174 NKJV says, "My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness. Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts. I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight." Be humble towards God and His commandments. Take time to think and make the right choices in life. Do not react, stay calm, and pray about situations.

Be committed and be at peace in God's ways.

God is looking for good people to follow Him and His commandments. Psalms 101:6 NKJV says, "My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in a perfect way, he shall serve me." Follow God with your heart. 1 Samuel 12:24 NKJV says, "Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you." We are to love God with our whole heart. Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJV says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." The Bible tells us that to love God is to follow His good commandments for life. Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV says, "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always."

God cares about us and if we follow God with our whole heart, He is merciful towards us. Deuteronomy 7:9 NKJV says, "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments." Following God's commandments helps us in life and gives us peace.

Psalms 29:11 NKJV says, "The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace." Even the earth rejoices at those who follow God. Isaiah 55:12 NKJV says, "For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." With the works of the law comes peace. Isaiah 32:17 NKJV says, "The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."

Learn and keep God's commandments for your own good. Proverbs 3:1-4 NKJV says, "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man."

Torah Study

Korach is the name, "Korah" and means, "baldness, ice, hail, or frost."² In the previous portion Israel sinned through unbelief in God because of the negative report of the spies and they now have to spend 40 years in the wilderness (38 more years). In this portion, we see some Israelites led by Korach believe they should be the ones to lead Israel and Korach apparently wants to be the High Priest. Perhaps they were power hungry or perhaps they thought they could do a better job. Moshe was following what God told him to do. Korach could not have done any better than that.

Perhaps this should remind us that we can do no better than follow God's commandments and the leading of the Holy Spirit. His commandments give us wisdom and understanding. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "**Be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'"

Since God's commandments give us wisdom and understanding, deciding to do things our own way falls short of what God wants for His believers. Christianity was taken over by the pagan Roman Empire and the Roman Empire decided they did not need God's wisdom and understanding and made up their own system that is only partly what God and the Messiah taught. That is the rebellion that we inherited and that is the rebellion that is being passed down through Christianity until this day. Many Messianic believers have left this false system. I was introduced to the Messiah Yeshua through this false system that was passed down into Christianity, but eventually, I realized that they do not keep what the Bible says to keep. We have decided to do what Bible says to do and what the Messiah Yeshua taught.

Only a few Israelites rebelled in this portion, but it seems that most of Christianity has decided to continue to follow a Gentile god instead of the God of the Bible and our Messiah. Christianity for the most part does not understand that they do not follow the Messiah the way they should, Often, they are following man-made doctrines. They are satisfied with made up rules and religious philosophy. They have rejected the commandments of God in the Old Testament portion that the Bible says are "right and good." This often quoted scripture is a key scripture to

² [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korach_\(parsha\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korach_(parsha))

remember. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, " You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you."

Some say that that the Old Testament portion is for the Jews or that it has been done away with. It says we are to diligently keep God's commandments because they are right and good. And, it says they are commandments of God and not just Jewish commandments. Also, there are more than 10 commandments. All God's commandments are God's commandments. Some commandments apply to men only, some apply to women only, some apply to farmers, some apply to the priests and Levites, and so forth. Also, man-made commandments are not God's commandments. Some additional applications of the commandment can be understood from the original commandment. I do not know how God will judge those who do not keep His commandments properly, but God did not tolerate the rebellion of Korach. It is my hope that you will come to a knowledge of the truth and desire to follow God the way you should.

God opens up the earth and destroys Korach and those associated with his rebellion. The 250 people who were being negative toward the authority of Moshe and Aharon were burned up. The Bible teaches us not to commit lashon harah (we are not to speak evil about others). Instead, we should have good thoughts (ayin tovah which means a good eye) and be humble and not greedy (we are to be lowly). Pirke Avot 5:22 talks about this. Pirke Avot is a Jewish commentary. Remember, commentary is not the same as God's word, but can be helpful at times. Shaul also taught "ayin tovah (a good eye)." Philippians 4:8 NKJV says, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things."

Israel had just committed the sin of the 10 spies in the previous; they should have known better than to have a bad attitude again. The people were angry about God's rebuke and God responds by sending a plague, but Aharon offers up incense to stop the plague. How ironic; the one they wanted to do away with helps them. Aharon's staff buds so designating him as High Priest. Some of the people were unhappy and afraid of God. They should have been grateful for all that God had done for them.

Only the Levi'im (the Levites) were to help with the work of the Mishkan (the Tabernacle in the desert). God chose the descendants of Aharon and the Levi'im (the Levites) to serve Him and receive support from the offerings. The Levi'im were to also give from the offerings they received, and they were not to profane the holy things of God at the Mishkan. The people were to give a little over 10% per year, but the rabbis made the people give more than 20%. Certain years they were to give 10% to the Temple in Jerusalem, other years they were to give 10% to the Levites and the poor. Note that giving also involves helping the poor. They were also to leave the corners of their field for the poor and widows.

Korach did not understand that God had chosen Moshe and Aharon to lead Israel. It is perhaps a picture of the need for us to accept that God chose the Jews, and the commandments God gave them, and they are God's commandments for everyone. Also, God chose Yeshua to be the

Messiah. God gave us His good commandments that give us wisdom and understanding, and we are to receive and use His good gift of the Holy Spirit.

God chose Yeshua (Jesus) as His anointed Messiah who is both God and King (see Jeremiah 23:5-6). God chose to come as a man in the form of Yeshua to die for our sins and rise from the dead (as prophesied in Isaiah 53); God can do what He wants and just as He chose Moshe and Aharon, Yeshua was the Messiah that God chose for mankind and not any other. Yeshua said in Mark 13:22 CJB, "There will appear false Messiahs and false prophets performing signs and wonders for the purpose, if possible, of misleading the chosen." The false teachings handed down to us by the pagan Roman Empire have led many astray.

Also, do not believe in psychics, fortune tellers, astrology (not to be confused with astronomy), ESP, giving yourself over to being possessed through meditation, (the Bible says that there are devil spirits that want to deceive us), or any of the other curious arts which are devil spirit backed signs. The Bible says there are people who believe in and produce false signs. Ephesians 6:11NKJV says, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." We are in a spiritual battle (not a physical battle), and we need to protect our mind against these false signs and wonders that are produced by devil spirits.³

The Bible says there are other beings (devil spirits) that are against us. Yeshua talks about the **Roman leaders of Israel** (the leadership of Israel was picked by Rome; they are the ones who had Yeshua killed).⁴ The Roman appointed leaders of his time were thieves who were filled with the demonic. John 10:10 NKJV says, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." The devil and those influenced by the devil will take away your life and keep you from God and from eternal life. Those who operate the demonic arts are focused on their power and do not lead us to the true God. Yeshua came to help us receive the abundant goodness of God.

Just as Aharon was eager to bring deliverance to Israel from the plague, Yeshua was zealous to bring deliverance to Israel and the blessings of God to the whole world. We should remember that God chooses those who serve Him and their spiritual gifting. We should give them the encouragement, honor, and financial support that they deserve. 1 Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV says, "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer is worthy of his wages.'"

Shaul quotes this from the Old Testament portion to substantiate what he is saying.

If these so-called teachers do not believe in the Old Testament, you do not have to give to them. They just pick and choose what they want to believe. We need to believe in the whole Bible; it is the word of God. The Old Testament is God's word.

³ There are books that cover spiritual warfare and devil spirits. One free resource is at: <https://drlestersumrall.com/books/101-questions-and-answers/>

⁴ Herod was given the position by the Roman Empire as was the chief priest. Yeshua said the Gentiles would put Him to death. A squad of Roman soldiers arrested Yeshua. The Roman leadership put anyone to death who they thought could be a threat.

The Head of the believers is the Messiah Yeshua (Jesus). He does not lead a worldly organization. Those that Yeshua chooses to lead serve under Him and are chosen by Him. Ephesians 1:22-23 NKJV says about Yeshua, "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

The present-day leadership that are chosen by Yeshua are chosen because of their zealousness for the things of God just as Aharon was zealous to follow God. Willingness to serve, learn, teach, teach God's commandments, follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, integrity, purity, and other godly characteristics are things God requires of leadership. The Bible says leaders will be judged more strictly (see James 3:1).

There are false leaders out there the Bible says. Some leaders are self-appointed leaders and have not been chosen by Yeshua. If they are not teaching you to follow God's commandments, they are false teachers. 2 Peter 2:4 NKJV says, "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment." Do not follow them to the lake of fire. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone," God opened up the earth and destroyed Korach and those who organized the rebellion and then burned up the other 250 rebellious people who followed them. If you are living in sin or think sin is okay, then you are being rebellious.

The Haftarah for Korach is 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22. In the Haftarah portion Israel defeats the Ammonites and Shaul is made king. God was Israel's King, but they still wanted an earthly king. Shmuel (Samuel) tells them to continue to follow Yĕhōvāh (the name of the true God, see Exodus 3:15); Yĕhōvāh desires a people for Himself. He reached out to man in Old Testament times, and He continues to reach out to man in the present and through the Messiah, Yeshua HaMashiach.

**Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts.
(We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)**

They were to guard God's holy place, the Mishkan, and the Levites were to do their work and the Kohen his work. Those of other tribes were not to do the work of the Mishkan. There is not end to their work. Numbers 18:4, 23

A first-born male son and animals are to be redeemed. The first born of a kosher animal is to be sacrificed. Numbers 18:5, 17.

The Levites are not given an area of land to rule. On the assigned years they are to be given the 1/10 tithe. They were to tithe from the tithe they received. Numbers 27:30, 18:26

The Aaronic Blessing

ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name. Won't you also honor God's and use His true name with respect at times.

The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. 2,363 different manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh.

Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה). Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶּךָ יְהוָה, וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ
 יֵאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְּךָ
 יֵשָׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹמִים

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.