

Numbers 16:1 - 17:15

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(1) Now Korah, son of Izhar son of Kohath son of Levi, betook himself, along with Dathan and Abiram sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—descendants of Reuben—
(2) to rise up against Moses, together with two hundred and fifty Israelites, chieftains of the community, chosen in the assembly, men of repute. (3) They combined against Moses and Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! For all the community are holy, all of them, and the LORD is in their midst. Why then do you raise yourselves above the LORD’s congregation?” (4) When Moses heard this, he fell on his face. (5) Then he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, “Come morning, the LORD will make known who is His and who is holy, and will grant him access to Himself; He will grant access to the one He has chosen. (6) Do this: You, Korah and all your band, take fire pans, (7) and tomorrow put fire in them and lay incense on them before the LORD. Then the man whom the LORD chooses, he shall be the holy one. You have gone too far, sons of Levi!” (8) Moses said further to Korah, “Hear me, sons of Levi. (9) Is it not enough for you that the God of Israel has set you apart from the community of Israel and given you access to Him, to perform the duties of the LORD’s Tabernacle and to minister to the community and serve them? (10) Now that He has advanced you and all your fellow Levites with you, do you seek the priesthood too? (11) Truly, it is against the LORD that you and all your company have banded together. For who is

במדבר ט"ז:א'-י"ז:ט"ו

(א) וַיִּקַּח קֹרַח בֶּן־יִצְחָר בֶּן־קֹהַת בֶּן־לֵוִי וְדָתָן וְאַבִּירָם בְּנֵי אֱלִיאָב וְאוֹן בֶּן־פִּלֶת בְּנֵי רְאוּבֵן: (ב) וַיִּקְמְדוּ לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה וְאַנְשֵׁים מִבְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאָתָּים נְשִׂאֵי עֵדָה קְרָאִי מוֹעֵד אֲנָשֵׁי־שָׁם: (ג) וַיִּקְהָלוּ עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם רַב־לָכֶם כִּי כָל־הָעֵדָה כָּלָם קִדְשִׁים וּבַתּוֹכֶם יְהוָה וּמִדּוּעַ תִּתְנַשְּׂאוּ עַל־קְהַל יְהוָה: (ד) וַיִּשְׁמַע מֹשֶׁה וַיִּפֹּל עַל־פָּנָיו: (ה) וַיִּדְבֹר אֶל־קֹרַח וְאֶל־כָּל־עֵדָתוֹ לֵאמֹר בִּקְרַ וַיֵּדַע יְהוָה אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וְאֶת־הַקְּדוֹשׁ וְהַקְּרִיב אֵלָיו וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר יִבְסֹר־בּוֹ יִקְרִיב אֵלָיו: (ו) זֹאת עֲשׂוּ קַחוּ־לָכֶם מִחֲתוֹת קֹרַח וְכַל־עֵדָתוֹ: (ז) וּתְנֶנּוּ בָהֶן אֵשׁ וְשִׂימוּ עֲלֵיהֶן קִטְרֶת לִפְנֵי יְהוָה מִחֹר וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־יִבְתָּר יְהוָה הוּא הַקְּדוֹשׁ רַב־לָכֶם בְּנֵי לֵוִי: (ח) וַנֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־קֹרַח שְׂמַעוּ־נָא בְנֵי לֵוִי: (ט) הֲמַעֲט מִכֶּם כִּי־הִבְדִּיל אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתְכֶם מֵעַדְתַּת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַקְרִיב אֶתְכֶם אֵלָיו לַעֲבֹד אֶת־עַבְדָּת מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה וּלְעַמֵּד לִפְנֵי הָעֵדָה לְשֹׁרְתָם: (י) וַיִּקְרַב אֲתוֹ וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲחֵיָּהּ בְּנֵי־לֵוִי אֲתוֹ וּבִקְשׁוּתָם גַּם־כֹּהֲנָה: (יא) לָכֵן אָמַתָּה וְכַל־עֵדָתְךָ הַנֹּעֲתִים עַל־יְהוָה וְאַהֲרֹן מִה־הוּא כִּי תְלוּנוּ [מְלִינוּ] עֲלֵינוּ: (יב) וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה לְקַרְא לְדָתָן וּלְאַבִּירָם בְּנֵי אֱלִיאָב וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא נַעֲלָה: (יג) הֲמַעֲט כִּי הָעֲלִיתָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ זְבַת חֶלֶב וּדְבַשׁ לְהַמִּיתָנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר כִּי־תִשְׁתַּרְרַר עָלֵינוּ גַּם־הַשְׁתַּרְרַר: (יד) אֵף לֹא אֶל־אֶרֶץ

Aaron that you should rail against him?” (12) Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab; but they said, “We will not come! (13) Is it not enough that you brought us from a land flowing with milk and honey to have us die in the wilderness, that you would also lord it over us? (14) Even if you had brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and given us possession of fields and vineyards, should you gouge out those men’s eyes? We will not come!” (15) Moses was much aggrieved and he said to the LORD, “Pay no regard to their oblation. I have not taken the ass of any one of them, nor have I wronged any one of them.” (16) And Moses said to Korah, “Tomorrow, you and all your company appear before the LORD, you and they and Aaron. (17) Each of you take his fire pan and lay incense on it, and each of you bring his fire pan before the LORD, two hundred and fifty fire pans; you and Aaron also [bring] your fire pans.” (18) Each of them took his fire pan, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and took his place at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, as did Moses and Aaron. (19) Korah gathered the whole community against them at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. Then the Presence of the LORD appeared to the whole community, (20) and the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, (21) “Stand back from this community that I may annihilate them in an instant!” (22) But they fell on their faces and said, “O God, Source of the breath of all flesh! When one man sins, will You be wrathful with the whole community?” (23) The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (24) “Speak to the community and say: Withdraw from about the abodes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.” (25) Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, the elders of Israel following him. (26) He addressed the community, saying, “Move away from the tents of these wicked men and touch nothing that belongs to them, lest you be wiped out for all their sins.” (27) So they

זָבַת חֶלֶב וּדְבַשׁ הִבְיֵאתֶנּוּ וּתְתוּן-לָנוּ נִחְלַת
שְׁנֵיהֶם וְכָרֶם הַעֵינִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הַהֵם תִּנְקֶר לֹא
נֵעֲלֶה: (ט) וַיִּסַּח לְמֹשֶׁה מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר
אֶל-יְהוָה אֶל-תִּפְּן אֶל-מִנְחֹתֶם לֹא תִמּוֹר
אֲחַד מֵהֶם נִשְׁאֲתִי וְלֹא הִרְעֵתִי אֶת-אֲחֵד
מֵהֶם: (י) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-קָרַח אַתָּה
וְכָל-עֲצֻתְךָ הִיוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אַתָּה וְהֵם וְאַהֲרֹן
מִחֶר: (יז) וַיִּקְחוּ אִישׁ מִחֶתְתּוֹ וַיִּנְתְּתֶם
עֲלֵיהֶם קִטְרֹת וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אִישׁ
מִחֶתְתּוֹ חֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאֲתִים מִחֶתֶת וְאַתָּה
וְאַהֲרֹן אִישׁ מִחֶתְתּוֹ: (יח) וַיִּקְחוּ אִישׁ
מִחֶתְתּוֹ וַיִּתְּנוּ עֲלֵיהֶם אֵשׁ וַיִּשְׂמִימוּ עֲלֵיהֶם
קִטְרֹת וַיַּעֲמִדוּ פֶתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וּמֹשֶׁה
וְאַהֲרֹן: (יט) וַיִּקְהַל עֲלֵיהֶם קָרַח
אֶת-כָּל-הָעֵדָה אֶל-פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וַיִּבְרָא
כְּבוֹד-יְהוָה אֶל-כָּל-הָעֵדָה: (פ) וַיִּדְבֹר
יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: (כ) אֲתֵם
כָּרְגַע: (כב) וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל-פְּנֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵל
אֱלֹהֵי הַרְוֵחַת לְכָל-בָּשָׂר הָאִישׁ אֲחַד יִחְטָא
וְעַל כָּל-הָעֵדָה תִּקְצָף: (פ) וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה
אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: (כד) דַּבֵּר אֶל-הָעֵדָה
לֵאמֹר הִעֲלוּ מִסְבֵּיב לְמִשְׁכַּן-קָרַח דָּתוֹ
וְאַבִּירָם: (כה) וַיִּקָּם מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל-דָּתוֹ
וְאַבִּירָם וַיֵּלְכוּ אַחֲרָיו זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (כו) וַיִּדְבֹר
אֶל-הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר סוּרוּ נָא מֵעַל אֹהֶל־י
הָאֲנָשִׁים הַרְשָׁעִים הָאֵלֶּה וְאַל-תִּגְעוּ
בְּכָל-אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם פֶּן-תִּסְּפוּ בְּכָל-חַטֹּאתֵם:
(כז) וַיַּעֲלוּ מֵעַל מִשְׁכַּן-קָרַח דָּתוֹ וְאַבִּירָם
מִסְבֵּיב וְדָתוֹ וְאַבִּירָם יָצְאוּ נֹצְצִים פֶּתַח
אֹהֶל־יָהִם וַיִּנְשִׂיהֶם וַיִּבְנִיהֶם וְטָפָם: (כח)
וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה בּוֹזֵאת תִּדְעוּן כִּי-יְהוָה שָׁלַח־נִי
לְעִשׂוֹת אֶת כָּל-הַמַּעֲשִׂים הָאֵלֶּה כִּי-לֹא
מִלְּבִי: (כט) אִם-כְּמוֹת כָּל-הָאָדָם יִמְתּוּן
אֵלֶּה וּפְקַדַת כָּל-הָאָדָם יִפְקֹד עֲלֵיהֶם לֹא
יְהוָה שָׁלַח־נִי: (ל) וְאִם-בְּרִיאָה יִבְרָא יְהוָה
וּפְצֹתָהּ הָאֲדָמָה אֶת-פִּיהָ וּבָלְעָה אֶת־ם
וְאֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם וַיִּרְדּוּ חַיִּים שְׂאֵלָה

withdrew from about the abodes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Now Dathan and Abiram had come out and they stood at the entrance of their tents, with their wives, their children, and their little ones. (28) And Moses said, “By this you shall know that it was the LORD who sent me to do all these things; that they are not of my own devising: (29) if these men die as all men do, if their lot be the common fate of all mankind, it was not the LORD who sent me. (30) But if the LORD brings about something unheard-of, so that the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, you shall know that these men have spurned the LORD.” (31) Scarcely had he finished speaking all these words when the ground under them burst asunder, (32) and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up with their households, all Korah’s people and all their possessions. (33) They went down alive into Sheol, with all that belonged to them; the earth closed over them and they vanished from the midst of the congregation. (34) All Israel around them fled at their shrieks, for they said, “The earth might swallow us!” (35) And a fire went forth from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men offering the incense. (1) The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: (2) Order Eleazar son of Aaron the priest to remove the fire pans—for they have become sacred—from among the charred remains; and scatter the coals abroad. (3) [Remove] the fire pans of those who have sinned at the cost of their lives, and let them be made into hammered sheets as plating for the altar—for once they have been used for offering to the LORD, they have become sacred—and let them serve as a warning to the people of Israel. (4) Eleazar the priest took the copper fire pans which had been used for offering by those who died in the fire; and they were hammered into plating for the altar, (5) as the LORD had ordered him

וַיִּדְעֻם כִּי נִאֲצוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה אֶת־יְהוָה:
 (א) וַיְהִי כַכִּלְתּוֹ לְדָבָר אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים
 הָאֵלֶּה וַתִּבְקַע הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר תַּחְתֵּיהֶם: (ב)
 וַתִּפְתַּח הָאָרֶץ אֶת־פִּיהָ וַתִּבְלַע אֹתָם
 וְאֶת־בְּתֵיהֶם וְאֵת כָּל־הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר לְקֶרֶח
 וְאֵת כָּל־הַרְכוּשׁ: (ג) וַיִּרְדּוּ הֵם וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר
 לָהֶם סָיִים שְׂאֵלָה וַתִּכַּס עֲלֵיהֶם הָאָרֶץ
 וַיֹּאבְדוּ מִתּוֹךְ הַקֶּהֶל: (ד) וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל
 אֲשֶׁר סָבִיבֹתֵיהֶם גָּסוּ לְקֻלָּם כִּי אָמְרוּ
 פֹּתֵחַ־תִּבְלַעֵנוּ הָאָרֶץ: (ה) וְאֵשׁ יִצְאָה מֵאֵת
 יְהוָה וַתֹּאכַל אֵת הַחַמְשָׁשִׁים וּמֵאֲתֵימֵם אִישׁ
 מִקְרִיבֵי הַקֹּטֶרֶת: (ו) (ז) וַיִּדְבַר יְהוָה
 אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: (ב) אָמַר אֶל־אֶלְעָזָר
 בְּוֹאֲהֶרָו הַפֶּלֶן וַיִּגַּם אֶת־הַמִּחְתָּת מִבֵּין
 הַשָּׂרָפָה וְאֶת־הָאֵשׁ זָרָה־הֵלָאָה כִּי קָדְשׁוֹ:
 (ג) אֵת מִחְתּוֹת הַחַטָּאִים הָאֵלֶּה בְּנִפְשָׁתָם
 וְעָשׂוּ אֹתָם רִקְעֵי פַחִים צְפוּי לַמִּזְבֵּחַ
 כִּי־הִקְרִיבֶם לִפְנֵי־יְהוָה וַיִּקְדָּשׁוּ וַיְהִי לְאוֹת
 לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ד) וַיִּקַּח אֶלְעָזָר הַפֶּלֶן אֵת
 מִחְתּוֹת הַבְּהֻשָׁת אֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיבוּ הַשָּׂרָפִים
 וַיִּרְקְעוּם צְפוּי לַמִּזְבֵּחַ: (ה) זָכָרוֹן לְבָנֵי
 יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִקְרַב אִישׁ זָר אֲשֶׁר
 לֹא מִגֵּרַע אֶהְרֹן הוּא לְהַקְטִיר קֹטֶרֶת לִפְנֵי
 יְהוָה וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה כְּלֶרֶח וְכַעֲדָתוֹ כְּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר
 יְהוָה בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה לוֹ: (ו) וַיִּלְנוּ כָּל־עַדַּת
 בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּחְתָּרֹת עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אֶהְרֹן
 לֵאמֹר אַתֶּם הַמִּתְעַם אֶת־עַם יְהוָה: (ז) וַיְהִי
 בַּהִקְהֵל הָעֵדָה עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אֶהְרֹן וַיִּפְנוּ
 אֶל־אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְהִגָּה כִסֵּהוּ הָעֵגֹן וַיִּבֶא כְבוֹד
 יְהוָה: (ח) וַיָּבֵא מֹשֶׁה וְאֶהְרֹן אֶל־פְּנֵי אֹהֶל
 מוֹעֵד: (פ) (ט) וַיִּדְבַר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה
 לֵאמֹר: (י) הֲרָמוּ מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה הַזֹּאת וְאָכְלָה
 אֹתָם כְּרִגְעַ וַיִּפְלוּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם: (יא) וַיֹּאמֶר
 מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אֶהְרֹן קַח אֶת־הַמִּחְתָּת וּתְנוּ־עֲלֶיהָ
 אֵשׁ מֵעַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְשִׂים קֹטֶרֶת וְהוֹלֵךְ מִהֲרָה
 אֶל־הָעֵדָה וּכְפַר עֲלֵיהֶם כִּי־יֵצֵא הַקֶּצֶף
 מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה הַתֵּל הַגָּגֶר: (יב) וַיִּקַּח אֶהְרֹן
 כְּאֲשֶׁר ׀ דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה וַיִּרְץ אֶל־תּוֹךְ הַקֶּהֶל

through Moses. It was to be a reminder to the Israelites, so that no outsider—one not of Aaron’s offspring—should presume to offer incense before the LORD and suffer the fate of Korah and his band. (6) Next day the whole Israelite community railed against Moses and Aaron, saying, “You two have brought death upon the LORD’s people!” (7) But as the community gathered against them, Moses and Aaron turned toward the Tent of Meeting; the cloud had covered it and the Presence of the LORD appeared. (8) When Moses and Aaron reached the Tent of Meeting, (9) the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (10) “Remove yourselves from this community, that I may annihilate them in an instant.” They fell on their faces. (11) Then Moses said to Aaron, “Take the fire pan, and put on it fire from the altar. Add incense and take it quickly to the community and make expiation for them. For wrath has gone forth from the LORD: the plague has begun!” (12) Aaron took it, as Moses had ordered, and ran to the midst of the congregation, where the plague had begun among the people. He put on the incense and made expiation for the people; (13) he stood between the dead and the living until the plague was checked. (14) Those who died of the plague came to fourteen thousand and seven hundred, aside from those who died on account of Korah. (15) Aaron then returned to Moses at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, since the plague was checked.

והגהה התל הגגף בעם ויחן את־הקטרת
ויכפר על־העם: (יג) ויעמד בין־המתים
ויבין הקיים ותעצר המגפה: (יד) ויהיו
המתים במגפה ארבעה עשר אלף ושבע
מאות מלבד המתים על־דבר־קרח: (טו)
וישב אהרן אל־משה אל־פתח אהל מועד
והמגפה נעצרה: (פ)

