

Korach, Torah, June 24, 2023

Numbers 16:1-17:15

(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 יהוה is in their midst. Why then do you raise yourselves above יהוה’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, יהוה will make known who is [God’s] and who is holy by

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) וַיִּקְמוּ
לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה וְאַנְשֵׁים מִבְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל
חֲמִשִּׁים וּמְאַתָּים נְשִׂאֵי עֵדָה קְרָאִי
מוֹעֵד אַנְשֵׁי-שָׁם: (ג) וַיִּקְהֻלוּ
עַל-מֹשֶׁה וְעַל-אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם
רַב-לָכֶם כִּי כָל-הָעֵדָה כֻּלָּם
קְדוֹשִׁים וּבְתוֹכְכֶם יְהוָה וּמִדּוּעַ
תִּתְנַשְּׂאוּ עַל-קְהַל יְהוָה: (ד)
וַיִּשְׁמַע מֹשֶׁה וַיִּפֹּל עַל-פָּנָיו: (ה)
וַיַּדְבֵּר אֶל-קֹרַח וְאֶל-כָּל-עֵדָתוֹ
לֵאמֹר בֹּקֶר וַיֵּדַע יְהוָה
אֶת-אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ וְאֶת-הַקְּדוֹשׁ וְהַקְּרִיב
אֵלָיו וְאֶת אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר-בּוֹ יִקְרִיב
אֵלָיו: (ו) זֹאת עֲשׂוּ קְחוּ-לָכֶם
מִחֲתוֹת קֹרַח וְכָל-עֵדָתוֹ: (ז) וַתִּגַּי

granting direct access; the one whom [God] has chosen will be granted access. (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 יהוה. Then the candidate whom יהוה 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 direct access, to perform the duties of יהוה’s Tabernacle and to minister to the community and serve them? (10) Now that [God] has advanced you and all your fellow Levites with you, do you seek the priesthood too? (11) Truly, it is against יהוה that you and all your company have banded together. For who is Aaron that you should rail against him?” (12) Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, sons

בְּהֵן | אֲשׁ וְשִׁימוּ עֲלֵיהֶן | קְטֹרֶת
לְפָנַי יְהוֹה מִחֹר וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ
אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחַר יְהוֹה הוּא הַקָּדוֹשׁ
רַב־לָכֶם בְּנֵי לֵוִי: (ח) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה
אֶל־קֹרַח שְׂמְעוּ־נָא בְּנֵי לֵוִי: (ט)
הַמַּעֲט מִכֶּם כִּי־הִבְדִּיל אֱלֹהֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתְכֶם מֵעַדְת יִשְׂרָאֵל
לְהַקְרִיב אֶתְכֶם אֵלָיו לְעֹבֵד
אֶת־עֲבֹדַת מִשְׁכַּן יְהוֹה וְלַעֲמֹד
לְפָנַי הָעֵדָה לְשִׁרְתָּם: (י) וַיִּקְרַב
אֹתָם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲחֵיהֶם בְּנֵי־לֵוִי אֹתָם
וּבִקְשׁוּתָם גַּם־כִּפְהֵנָה: (יא) לָכֵן אֶתְּהוּ
וְכָל־עַדְתָּם הַנֹּעְדִים עַל־יְהוֹה
וְאֶהְרֹן מִה־הוּא כִּי (תלונו) [תְּלִינוּ]
עָלָיו: (יב) וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה לְקַרְא
לְדָתָן וְלֹאֲבִירָם בְּנֵי אֱלִיאָב וַיֹּאמְרוּ
לֹא נַעֲלָה: (יג) הַמַּעֲט כִּי הֵעֲלִיתָנוּ
מֵאֶרֶץ זֹבַת חֶלֶב וּדְבָשׁ לְהִמִּיתָנוּ
בַּמִּדְבָּר כִּי־תִשְׁתַּרְרַר עָלֵינוּ
גַּם־הִשְׁתַּרְרַר: (יד) אָף לֹא אֶל־אֶרֶץ
זֹבַת חֶלֶב וּדְבָשׁ הֵבִיאָתָנוּ

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 the eyes of those involved? We will not come!” (15) Moses was much aggrieved and he said to יהוה, “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 יהוה, you and they and Aaron. (17) Each of you take your fire pan and lay incense on it, and each of you bring that fire pan before יהוה, two hundred and fifty fire pans; you and Aaron also [bring] your fire pans.” (18) They each took their fire

וּתְמוֹנָתָנוּ נִחַלְתָּ שָׂדֵה וְכָרֶם הָעֵינִי
הָאֲנָשִׁים הָהֵם תִּנְקַר לָא נַעֲלֶה:
(טו) וַיִּחַר לְמֹשֶׁה מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר
אֶל־יְהוָה אֶל־תִּפְּן אֶל־מִנְחָתָם לֹא
תִמּוֹר אֶחָד מֵהֶם נִשְׂאתִי וְלֹא
הִרְעַתִּי אֶת־אֶחָד מֵהֶם: (טז) וַיֹּאמֶר
מֹשֶׁה אֶל־קָרַח אַתָּה וְכָל־עֲדֹתֶיךָ
הֲיִי לְפָנַי יְהוָה אַתָּה וְהֵם וְאַהֲרֹן
מִחָר: (יז) וַיִּקְחוּ אִישׁ מִחֶתְתּוֹ
וַנְּתַתֶּם עֲלֵיהֶם קִטְרֹת וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אִישׁ מִחֶתְתּוֹ חֲמִשִּׁים
וּמֵאֲתֵימ מִחֶתֶת וְאַתָּה וְאַהֲרֹן אִישׁ
מִחֶתְתּוֹ: (יח) וַיִּקְחוּ אִישׁ מִחֶתְתּוֹ
וַיִּתְּנוּ עֲלֵיהֶם אֵשׁ וַיִּשְׂימוּ עֲלֵיהֶם
קִטְרֹת וַיַּעֲמֵדוּ פֶתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד
וּמֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן: (יט) וַיִּקְהַל עֲלֵיהֶם
קָרַח אֶת־כָּל־הָעֵדָה אֶל־פֶּתַח אֹהֶל
מוֹעֵד וַיֵּרָא כְבוֹד־יְהוָה
אֶל־כָּל־הָעֵדָה: {ס} (כ) וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה
אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל־אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: (כא)
הַבְּדִלוּ מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה הַזֹּאת וְאֶכְלֶה

pan, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and took a 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 יהוה appeared to the whole community, (20) and יהוה 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 member sins, will You be wrathful with the whole community?” (23) יהוה 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

אתם כָּרַגְעוּ: (כב) וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל-פְּנֵיהֶם
 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵל אֱלֹהֵי הָרוּחַת
 לְכֹל-בָּשָׂר הָאִישׁ אֶחָד יַחֲטֵא וְעַל
 כָּל-הָעֵדָה תִּקְצָף: {ס} (כג) וַיַּדְבֵּר
 יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵּאמֹר: (כד) דַּבֵּר
 אֶל-הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר הֲעֵלוּ מִסִּבִּיב
 לְמִשְׁכַּן-קָרַח דָּתָן וְאַבִּירָם: (כה)
 וַיִּקָּם מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל-דָּתָן וְאַבִּירָם
 וַיֵּלְכוּ אַחֲרָיו זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (כו)
 וַיַּדְבֵּר אֶל-הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר סוּרוּ נָא
 מֵעַל אֶהְיֶה הָאֲנָשִׁים הָרָשָׁעִים
 הָאֵלֶּה וְאֶל-תִּגְעוּ בְּכֹל-אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם
 פֶּן-תִּסְפוּ בְּכֹל-חַטֹּאתֵם: (כז) וַיַּעֲלוּ
 מֵעַל מִשְׁכַּן-קָרַח דָּתָן וְאַבִּירָם
 מִסִּבִּיב וְדָתָן וְאַבִּירָם יָצְאוּ נֹצְצִים
 פָּתַח אֶהְיֶיהֶם וּנְשֵׁיהֶם וּבְנֵיהֶם
 וְטַפָּם: (כח) וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה בְּזֹאת
 תִּדְעוּן כִּי-יְהוָה שָׁלַחְנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת אֵת
 כָּל-הַמַּעֲשִׂים הָאֵלֶּה כִּי-לֹא מִלְּבָבִי:
 (כט) אִם-כִּמּוֹת כָּל-הָאָדָם יִמְתּוּן
 אֵלֶּה וּפְקַדְתָּ כָּל-הָאָדָם יִפְקֹד

men and touch nothing that belongs to them, lest you be wiped out for all their sins.” (27) So they 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 adult children, and their little ones. (28) And Moses said, “By this you shall know that it was יהוה who sent me to do all these things; that they are not of my own devising: (29) if these people’s death is that of all humankind, if their lot is humankind’s common fate, it was not יהוה who sent me. (30) But if יהוה 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 those involved have spurned יהוה.” (31) Scarcely had he finished speaking all these words when the ground under

עֲלֵיהֶם לֹא יְהוָה שְׁלַחְנִי: (ל)
וְאִם-בְּרִיאָה יִבְרָא יְהוָה וּפְצָתָהּ
הָאָדָמָה אֶת-פִּיהָ וּבִלְעָה אֹתָם
וְאֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם וַיִּרְדּוּ חַיִּים
שְׂאֵלָה וַיִּדְעֹתֶם כִּי נֶאֱצוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים
הָאֵלֶּה אֶת-יְהוָה: (לא) וַיְהִי כְכֹלְתוֹ
לְדַבֵּר אֵת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה
וַתִּבָקַע הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר תַּחְתֵּיהֶם:
(לב) וַתִּפְתַּח הָאָרֶץ אֶת-פִּיהָ
וַתִּבְלַע אֹתָם וְאֶת-בְּתֵיהֶם וְאֶת
כָּל-הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר לְקִרְחָ וְאֶת
כָּל-הָרְכוּשׁ: (לג) וַיִּרְדּוּ הֵם
וְכָל-אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם חַיִּים שְׂאֵלָה וַתִּכַּס
עֲלֵיהֶם הָאָרֶץ וַיֵּאבְדּוּ מִתּוֹךְ
הַקֶּהֶל: (לד) וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר
סָבִיבְתֵיהֶם נָסוּ לְקִלְמֹם כִּי אָמְרוּ
פֶן-תִּבְלַעֵנוּ הָאָרֶץ: (לה) וְאֵשׁ
יֵצְאָה מֵאֵת יְהוָה וַתֹּאכַל אֵת
הַחֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאֲתֵיבֵם אִישׁ מִקְרִיבָיו
הַקְטָרֶת: {ס} (א) וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה
אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵּאמֹר: (ב) אָמַר

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 יהוה and consumed the two hundred and fifty contestants offering the incense. (1) יהוה 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

אֶל-אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן-אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן וְיָרָם
אֶת-הַמַּחֲתֹת מִבֵּין הַשָּׂרִפָּה
וְאֶת-הָאֵשׁ זֶרֶה-הֵלֵאָה כִּי קִדְּשׁוּ׃
(ג) אֵת מַחֲתוֹת הַחֲטָאִים הָאֵלֶּה
בְּנַפְשָׁתָם וְעָשׂוּ אֹתָם רִקְעֵי פְחִים
צָפוּי לַמִּזְבֵּחַ כִּי-הִקְרִיבָם
לְפָנֵי-יְהוָה וַיִּקְדְּשׁוּ וַיְהִיו לְאוֹת
לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל׃ (ד) וַיִּקַּח אֶלְעָזָר
הַכֹּהֵן אֵת מַחֲתוֹת הַנְּחֹשֶׁת אֲשֶׁר
הִקְרִיבוּ הַשָּׂרִפִּים וַיִּרְקְעוּם צָפוּי
לַמִּזְבֵּחַ׃ (ה) זָכְרוֹן לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִקְרַב אִישׁ זָר
אֲשֶׁר לֹא מִזְרַע אַהֲרֹן הוּא
לְהִקְטִיר קִטְוֹת לְפָנֵי יְהוָה
וְלֹא-יִהְיֶה כְּקֹרַח וּכְעֵדֻתוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר
דִּבֶּר יְהוָה בְּיַד-מֹשֶׁה לּוֹ׃ {פ} (ו)
וַיִּלְנוּ כָּל-עֵדֻת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמַּחֲתוֹת
עַל-מֹשֶׁה וְעַל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר אַתֶּם
הִמַּתְתֶּם אֶת-עַם יְהוָה׃ (ז) וַיְהִי
בְּהִקְהֵל הָעֵדָה עַל-מֹשֶׁה
וְעַל-אַהֲרֹן וַיִּפְנוּ אֶל-אַהֲלֵ מוֹעֵד

for offering to יהוה, 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 יהוה had ordered him 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 יהוה 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 יהוה'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 יהוה appeared. (8) When Moses and Aaron reached the Tent of Meeting, (9) יהוה spoke to Moses,

וְהָיָה כִּסְהוּ הָעֲנָן וַיֵּרָא כְבוֹד
 יְהוָה: (ח) וַיָּבֵא מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן
 אֶל־פְּנֵי אֱהֹל מוֹעֵד: {ס} (ט) וַיְדַבֵּר
 יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵּאמֹר: (י) הֲרִמּוּ
 מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדוּת הַזֹּאת וַאֲכַלְתֶּם אֹתָם
 כְּרָגַע וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם: (יא) וַיֹּאמֶר
 מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן קַח אֶת־הַמִּחָתָה
 וְתוֹנֵעֶלֶיהָ אֵשׁ מֵעַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְשִׁים
 קִטְרֹת וְהוֹלִיךְ מִהֲרָה אֶל־הָעֵדוּת
 וְכִפֵּר עֲלֵיהֶם כִּי־יֵצֵא הַקֶּצֶף מִלְּפָנַי
 יְהוָה הַחֵל הַנִּגָּף: (יב) וַיִּקַּח אַהֲרֹן
 כַּאֲשֶׁר | דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּרֶץ אֶל־תּוֹךְ
 הַקְּהָל וְהֵנִיחַ הַחֵל הַנִּגָּף בָּעַם וַיִּתֵּן
 אֶת־הַקִּטְרֹת וַיִּכְפֹּר עַל־הָעַם: (יג)
 וַיַּעֲמֵד בֵּין־הַמִּתִּים וּבֵין הַחַיִּים
 וַתַּעֲצֹר הַמַּגֵּפָה: (יד) וַיְהִיו הַמִּתִּים
 בַּמַּגֵּפָה אַרְבַּעַת עָשָׂר אֶלֶף וַשְּׁבַע
 מֵאוֹת מִלִּבְד הַמִּתִּים
 עַל־דִּבְר־קִרְחָ: (טו) וַיָּשָׁב אַהֲרֹן
 אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֶל־פֶּתַח אֱהֹל מוֹעֵד
 וְהַמַּגֵּפָה נִעְצְרָה: {פ}

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 יהוה: 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.

