

Mordekhi's Drash for Shabbat June 16, 2007 / Sivan 30, 5767

Parashah #38: Korakh (Korah), B'Midbar (Numbers) 16:1-18:32

Haftarah: Shmuel Alef (1 Samuel) 11:14-12:2

Suggested Messianic Writings reading: Hebrews 3:1-4:16

Shalom,

Korakh and company questioned the authority and anointing that were upon Moshe and Aharon. Their claim was that the entire nation of Israel was chosen and holy, so who were Moshe and Aharon to set themselves up as the leaders?

There are different possible facets to this rebellion. One is that Korakh was a firstborn son (*Sh'mot* (Exodus) 6:21) and was probably jealous and angry at the fact that Aharon, also a firstborn, was selected to be the *Kohen HaGadol* (the High Priest), possibly seeing it as an act of nepotism by Moshe. Korakh was from the family of *K'hat* (Kohath), a sub-tribe of the tribe of Levi. However, Aharon was also from *K'hat* through *K'hat's* firstborn, Amram. (*Sh'mot* (Exodus) 6:18). So, Aharon and Korakh were first cousins, their two fathers being brothers, and Aharon's father was the older brother. *B'Midbar* 10:21 tells us that *K'hat* was the group to carry the sanctuary of the Tabernacle whenever Israel traveled in the wilderness journey. According to Rashi, this included the most sacred parts of the Tabernacle, such as the Ark, the Menorah, and so on. Korakh was probably a leader within the tribe of *K'hat* and had elevated his own self-importance.

Datan (Dathan), *Aviram* (Abiram) and *On* (pr Ohn) were all from the tribe of *Reuven* (Reuben). The tribe of *Reuven* was most likely indulging some grudges because their father, *Reuven*, had lost his status as firstborn son of *Ya'akov* (Jacob) to the children of *Yosef* (Joseph) (see *B'reshet* (Genesis) 35:22 & 49:3-4). Siding along with these men were 250 more men of Israel, "leaders of the community, key members of the council, men of reputation." Jewish Sage *Ibn Ezra* assumes that other *Levi'im* (Levites) were also upset at having been assigned duties to be "only" assistants to the *kohanim* (priests), and joined the group.

In last week's Parashah we read of the fiasco of the twelve spies and the following decree by HaShem that the nation was to wander in the wilderness as punishment for the next 40 years. Korakh played upon the emotions of the people and built up a following to challenge the leadership that HaShem Himself had set in place.

Chief however was the challenge to the role of *Kohen HaGadol*. Aharon had been appointed and anointed to the position, and he in fact represented the role now being filled by Yeshua as our Great High Priest. Pictured in this rebellion is the continued rebellion against Yeshua to this day. Yeshua is the Great Interceder and Intercessor for Israel and all mankind, yet most of mankind feels no need for any of this. Yeshua is laughed at, mocked, scorned, denigrated, belittled, and even denied existence by the sinful nature of humanity.

FPOZ pointed out this week of the three offices of Yeshua, as prophet, priest and king. He was the Prophet spoken of by Moshe when He walked this earth, He is currently filling the role of Priest, and upon His return He will reign as King upon this earth for the millennial reign. Yeshua as the Great High Priest is currently serving in Heaven, and is soon coming back to this planet to reign as King. He will rule and reign in Israel, in Yerushalayim. All who have accepted Him as such will rule and reign with Him. According to *Z'kharyah* (Zechariah) 8, Messianic Jews will be the top leaders. The Festivals of HaShem will also be observed in the millennial reign, per *Z'kharyah* 14.

Followers of Yeshua cannot straddle the fence. Kefa also says that, "it is time for judgment to begin, and it begins with the household of G-d." and quoting from Proverbs 11, he also says that, "It is with difficulty that the righteous are saved...." Korakh thought he was righteous, but Kefa states that the outcome will be terrible for those who disobey G-d's Good News. We must walk the narrow road, for the days are growing dark. We must strengthen ourselves in the power and anointing of the Ruakh HaKodesh, and

through worship, praise and prayer crush any type of rebellious sin that comes to our mind. *Shmuel* (Samuel) said to King *Sha'ul* (Saul) that, "rebellion is like the sin of sorcery, stubbornness like the crime of idolatry" (*Shmuel Alef* (1 Samuel) 15:23). As believers, we hopefully are not involved in pagan witchcraft or idolatry, but are we stubborn or rebellious in attitude? Do we stand with Korakh, or with Aharon? Rather, here is better advice: "Come House of Ya'akov, let us walk in the Light of Adonai" (*Yesha'yahu*/Isaiah 2:5). We know that Yeshua is *Or HaOlam*, the Light of the World. *Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* – Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

B'rakhot v'todah rabbah (Blessings & thank you very much)

Mordekhi (Marc) & Yisraela Carmela (Teresa)

This Yeshua, who has been taken away from you into heaven, will come back to you in just the same way as you saw him go into heaven.

(Acts 1:11 CJB)