



Message 6-24-17
Korach-Korah (Bald)
Numbers 16:1-18:32
Isaiah 66:1-24
Matthew 5:13-19

Introduction

The community is angry at Moses and Aaron and threatens to kill them. Moses sees that a plague from God has already begun to strike down the stiff-necked Israelites. Moses instructs Aaron to take his fire pan and bring incense among the people to make intercession for them. Aaron is able to stop the plague, although 14,600 people die.

Numbers 18:15-16

41 But on the next day all the congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and against Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the LORD." ⁴² And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aaron, they turned toward the tent of meeting. And behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared. ⁴³ And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting, ⁴⁴ and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁴⁵ "Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces. ⁴⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the LORD; the plague has begun." ⁴⁷ So Aaron took it as Moses said and ran into the midst of the assembly. And behold, the plague had already begun among the people. And he put on the incense and made atonement for the people. ⁴⁸ And he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped. ⁴⁹ Now those who died in the plague were 14,700, besides those who died in the affair of Korah. ⁵⁰ And Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the tent of meeting, when the plague was stopped. (ESV)

Despite the rebellion on the part of the leaders of Israel instigated by a Levite, Korah, the congregation of Israel were against Moses and Aaron. I believe that deep down inside of the people, they were angry with God but could not express their anger against Him for whatever reason, so they directed their displeasure against Moses and Aaron. It seems this was the start of a relationship where the Israelites had to learn to stop fighting God and to start following Him and His chosen leadership, Aaron as High Priest, and Moses as overall leader of all of Israel. Later, these areas would be separate with the priesthood distinct from the leadership of Israel itself. First, we would have Moses, and then would come Joshua. After Joshua, we have the elders, and after the elders came the judges, and then the prophets. With the prophet, Samuel, we see him install the first king of Israel,

Saul. Prophets were there to encourage and correct the people and the leadership. They did what God instructed them to do, not what the kings wanted them to do.

Repeatedly, the Children of Israel and the kings would rebel against God and His instructions found in His Torah, the covenant He gave to Moses that would become the guiding principles for all of Israel, including its kings. Israel had its good kings and its bad kings, not that much different with what we see around the world today. What we need to remember is that God sets up kings, presidents, prime ministers, etc., not man. If there is a bad king, they are there for a purpose. They may have been chosen by Satan, but the truth of the matter is that God is in control, though He has ceded some of this to Satan when He cast Him down to the earth.

Nehemiah 9:32 "Now therefore, our God, great, mighty, fearsome God, who keeps both covenant and grace: let not all this suffering seem little to you that has come on us, our kings, our leaders, our *Kohanim*, our prophets, our ancestors, and on all your people, from the times of the kings of Ashur until this very day. ³³ There is no question that you are just in all that has come upon us; for you have treated us fairly. It is we who have acted wickedly. ³⁴ Our kings, our leaders, our *Kohanim* and ancestors did not keep your *Torah*, pay attention to your *mitzvot* or heed the warnings you gave them. ³⁵ Even when they ruled their own kingdom, even when you prospered them greatly, in the great, rich land you gave them, they did not serve you; nor did they turn from their wicked deeds. (CJB)

The kings, leaders, and priests did not keep the Torah or pay attention to the commandments contained in the book of the Torah. They went their own way forsaking the God of Israel and trying to make him nothing. They wanted to turn Him into a god like the nations had. Their gods were made by them and controlled by them. Their gods did as they were told, and Israel tried to tell their God what they expected from Him. When He did not do as they wanted, they just ignored Him and did as they wanted. Things got so bad that they began to follow other gods forgetting that they had a binding covenant with the Holy One that He would never break, but He would hold Israel accountable and do what He needed to do to bring judgment upon Israel. If only men would look to their past, they would learn so much, but sadly, they don't or they see themselves as being somehow different when all they are is the same as their ancestors.

The story of Israel is one that can teach something to all the nations that exist today if they really wanted to understand the Creator. More than likely, this the main reason all the nations despise Israel and want them to disappear. The nations want to make Israel bow to their will as other nations in the past tried to do. The question we need to ask is where are these other nations now and where is Israel? Israel exists and rose from the ashes like the mythological creature called the Phoenix. Israel is no myth, and if we would look to Israel and its history and relationship with its God, we could learn so much that could help every leader who exists today. However, they are all hell bent on doing things their own way, and we know where that will lead them and the nations they lead.

Isaiah 66:1-2

1 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? ² All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. (ESV)

Heaven is where the Lord dwells, and He calls the earth His footstool. He wants a place to rest and desires His Temple, which was destroyed. Isaiah was prophesying about future events that to God had already happened from His vantage point in heaven. He looks down upon the earth, has watched us from the beginning, and chooses when He wants or needs to step in to guide things the way He wants them to go. Even Satan serves the Almighty, which must be so humiliating to him. He has created everything, and all He desires, for what He has done, is a people who are humble, contrite in spirit, and trembles at His word. His word, the Holy Torah, His covenant with mankind and then a chosen people known as Israel. Torah has existed from the beginning. It was used to create all there is. Adam and Chavah had the Torah in the garden and chose to disobey it because despite all the sins that are listed in the Torah, the essential point is the overarching sin is disobedience and will always be.

Psalm 34:18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. (ESV)

If you humble yourself before the Lord, salvation is there for you. He will be near to the brokenhearted when they don't think He is there. How many of us have gone through a heart wrenching experience and thought God had abandoned us, when He was always there through His Son Messiah Yeshua who loves us just as much as the Father does because He was the one who created us, and His Father gave us to His Son so we could receive the gift of redemption leading to eternal life.

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; ¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar. (ESV)

Isn't it interesting that the Psalmist tells us that the sacrifices God really wants are a broken spirit and a contrite heart which brings humility. This prepares us to bring the sacrifices He asks for in His sanctuary and temple. This is the reality of what God desires. It is not animal sacrifices, and it is not human sacrifice, though man has believed this. My belief is that somewhere along the way, the truth of God and His Son were known to mankind but became perverted like everything man touches. They took the truth of Messiah and what He would do for mankind and turned it into something unclean and not acceptable to the Father. His Son would be the once and for offering for sin, or should I say disobedience? Disobedience is what leads to sin because we defy the will and covenant of God. In doing this, we are in an adversarial relationship with the Father, and the only way to heal the breach is through the intermediary Yeshua.

Matthew 5:13-19

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Torah or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the Torah till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJ)

Salt adds flavor to food, and we are the salt of the earth because we all know it needs it! How many times have we tried to reach out only to be cast aside as some religious nut that most of the world doesn't want to hear? It also happens within groups of believers as well when we try to share with them the truth about Torah and that "*Jesus is Jewish!*" But the Messiah says we are to be a light to all who are in the house. About what house could He be referring? Could it be the earth that is the house for all mankind? I see an obvious connection between this section from Matthew and the passage in Revelation that talks about the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven to the earth where the Father and Son will rule. There will be no temple because the Father and Son will be the living Temple, their light will shine forth from the New Jerusalem, and there will never be darkness there ever again.

Ever more so in this passage from Matthew, Messiah tells us that He did not come to destroy the Torah until all is fulfilled. At this moment in time, and even for the near future, Torah will be in existence because it has not come to complete fulfillment. Before you say, "*What are you saying? Yeshua died for us and was resurrected from the dead. So, there you have it. Torah has been fulfilled, and we no longer have to follow the law because Yeshua now dwells within each one of us who ask Him to forgive our sins.*" This is a misunderstanding on the church's part as well as some Hebrew Roots and Messianic congregations. The truth be told is that the Torah is still in force because all has not come to fulfillment since sin still exists, and people still deny God and His Son. Without Torah, how would we know about redemption and the gift of eternal life? One more thing to consider. Messiah says that until heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or tittle will pass from the Torah. The last time I was outside, it was the same earth, and I would assume the same heaven. So, as long as man continues to break the Torah, we need the Torah to guide us to the One who will bring all to pass – Messiah Yeshua.

Torah Man says: "The author is known by his writings, a fool by his words, and all men by their companions."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

TORAH: LEARN IT, LOVE IT, LIVE IT AS YESHUA DID! PSALM 119. If you are not learning Torah, we invite you to attend Judaic Studies Institute, a Distance Learning Institute for Yeshua based Judaic Studies. Drop us a line at student.support@jsi-edu.org for more information. You can earn a certificate or diploma and take courses to help you grow in your understanding.



