

Parsha Q&A



Parshas Korach

For the week ending 28 Sivan 5756 (5 Tamuz 5756)*
14 & 15 June 1996 (21 & 22 June 1996)*
*week ending dates for locations outside of Israel

Parsha Questions

1. What did Korach "take"?
2. Why is Yaakov's name not mentioned in Korach's genealogy?
3. What motivated Korach to rebel?
4. Why did Moshe delay the confrontation with Korach's congregation until the next day?
5. What warning did Moshe give the rebels regarding the offering of the incense?
6. Korach knew prophetically that great men would descend from him. Who were the descendants of Korach?
7. What event did Korach not foresee?
8. What did Korach do the night before the final confrontation?
9. In verse 16:25, why did Moshe approach Dasan and Aviram?
10. Before what age is a person not punished by the Heavenly Tribunal for his sins?
11. The censers used by Korach's assembly were made into an overlay for the *Mizbe'ach*. This was to serve as a warning. What was the purpose of the sign?
12. What happens to one who rebels against the institution of *Kehuna*? Who suffered such a fate?
13. How did Moshe know that burning incense would stop the plague?
14. Which tribe was divided into two families?
15. Why was Aaron's staff placed in the middle of the other eleven staffs?
16. Aaron's staff was kept as a sign. What did it signify?
17. After Aaron's *Kehuna* was firmly established, what fear did the Jewish People express to Moshe?
18. Why are the 24 gifts for the *Kohanim* taught in this week's *Parsha*?
19. Who may eat the *Kodshei Kodashim* (most holy sacrifices), and where must they be eaten?
20. If a *Levi* comes to the pile of grain on the threshing floor before *terumah gedolah* has been separated, what must he do before receiving his own tithe?

BONUS

Q:

In verse 16:1 the Torah mentions that *Ohn ben Peles* as one of the leaders of Korach's rebellion. But, *Ohn ben Peles* is not mentioned even one more time in the *Parsha* after this incident. What happened to *Ohn ben Peles*?

I Did Not Know That!

Among the members of Korach's congregation were the 12 *Nesi'im* (Princes of the Tribes) who offered their gifts at the dedication of the *Mishkan*.

Rabbeinu Bachaye

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Parshas **Korach** — 28 Sivan 5756, 14 & 15 June 1996

Production Design: Lev Seltzer

Recommended Reading List

Ramban

16:21	The Sin of the Congregation
16:29	The Sin of Dasan and Aviram
16:30	A New Creation
18:7	The Gifts of the <i>Kehuna</i>
18:20	Inheritance of the <i>Kehuna</i>

Sefer Hachinuch

389	Defined Roles
394	Service of the <i>Levi'im</i>
395	<i>Ma'aser Rishon</i> (The First Tithe)

Sforno

16:15	Nullifying Atonement
16:32	Why Also Their Possessions

Answers to this Week's Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated

- 16:1 - He 'took himself' out of the community in order to incite dissension.
- 16:1 - Yaakov prayed that his name would not be mentioned in connection with Korach's rebellion (*Bereshis* 49:6).
- 16:1 - He was jealous that Elzaphan ben Uziel was appointed as leader of the family of Kehas instead of himself.
- 16:5 - In order that they might repent.
- 16:6 - Only one person would survive.
- 16:7 - Shmuel *HaNavi*, and 24 groups of *Levi'im* who served in the *Beis Hamikdash*, all of whom were *Nevi'im*.
- 16:7 - That his sons would repent. (Shmuel and the 24 groups of *Levi'im* descended from them).
- 16:19 - He went from tribe to tribe in order to rally support for himself.
- 16:25 - He felt that if he himself approached them, they might back down.
- 16:27 - 20 years old.
- 17:3 - To serve as remembrance of the challenge to the *Kehuna* and that the rebels were burned.
- 17:5 - He is stricken with *tzara'as*, as was King Uziyahu (*Divrei HaYamim* II 26:16-19).
- 17:11 - He was told on *Har Sinai* by the Angel of Death that the *ketores* (incense) has the power to stop plagues.
- 17:18 - Levi. It was divided into the family of *Kohanim*, and the family of *Levi'im*.
- 17:21 - So that people would not say that Aaron's staff bloomed because Moshe placed it closer to the *Shechina*.
- 17:25 - That only Aaron and his children were selected for the *Kehuna*.
- 17:28 - Since they were permitted in the courtyard of the *Ohel Mo'ed*, they feared that they might accidentally enter the *Ohel Mo'ed* itself and be punished.
- 18:8 - Since Korach claimed the *Kehuna*, the Torah emphasizes Aaron's and his descendants' rights to *Kehuna* by recording the gifts given to them.
- 18:10 - Male *Kohanim* may eat them and only in the *Azara* (fore-court of the *Beis Hamikdash*).
- 18:29 - He must first set aside 1/50 of the pile — the average amount given as *teruma gedolah* — before taking his tenth from the pile.

BONUS

A:

When *Ohn ben Peles* told his wife of his role in the rebellion, she realized that he was behaving foolishly. That night she gave him strong wine to drink and he fell asleep. She and her daughter sat in front of the family tent. When Korach's messengers came to summon *Ohn* they were forced to turn back at the sight of his wife and his daughter. When the earth swallowed Korach's assembly, *Ohn ben Peles* was sleeping peacefully in his bed, saved by his wife's great wisdom.

Bamidbar Rabbah 18:15

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