

# Parsha Q&A



## Parshas Korach

For the week ending 30 Sivan 5757  
4 & 5 July 1997

### Parsha Questions

1. According to Rashi, where can you look to find a nice explanation of this week's *Parasha*?
2. What did Korach 'take'?
3. Why is Yaakov's name not mentioned in Korach's genealogy?
4. What motivated Korach to rebel?
5. What warning did Moshe give the rebels regarding the offering of the incense?
6. Who was as great as Moshe and Aharon?
7. What event did Korach not foresee?
8. What lands are described in this week's *Parsha* as 'flowing with milk and honey'?
9. What did Korach do the night before the final confrontation?
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. Why *specifically* was incense used to stop the plague?
14. Why was Aaron's staff placed in the middle of the other eleven staffs?
15. Aaron's staff was kept as a sign. What did it signify?
16. Why are the 24 gifts for the *kohanim* taught in this week's *Parsha*?
17. Who may eat the *kodshei kodashim* (most holy sacrifices), and where must they be eaten?
18. Why is Hashem's covenant with the *kohanim* called 'a covenant of salt'?
19. What is a 'yekev'?
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:

"But if Hashem creates a new phenomenon, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them... then you'll know that these people have rebelled against Hashem." (16:30)

What was so unusual about the ground opening up and destroying Korach's followers? Aren't earthquakes somewhat common?

### *I Did Not Know That!*

Korach's followers attacked Moshe with their mouths by making fun of him and provoking rebellion against him. Their sin was compounded by their lowly spiritual stature compared to that of Moshe. Therefore, they were punished measure for measure: The 'lowly of lowlies' — the ground — opened its mouth and swallowed them.

Abarbanel

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## 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 - Midrash Rabbi Tanchuma.
- 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.
- 16:6 - Only one person would survive.
- 16:7 - Shmuel *HaNavi*.
- 16:7 - That his sons would repent. (Shmuel and the 24 groups of *Levi'im* were their descendants.)
- 16:12 - Egypt and Canaan.
- 16:19 - He went from tribe to tribe in order to rally support for himself.
- 16:27 - Twenty years old.
- 17:3 - To serve as a 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).
- 17:13 - Because the people were deprecating the incense offering, saying that it caused the death of two of Aharon's sons and also the death of 250 of Korach's followers. Therefore, Hashem demonstrated that the incense offering was able to avert death, and that sin, not incense, causes death.
- 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*.
- 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*).
- 18:19 - Just as salt never spoils, so this covenant will never be rescinded.
- 18:27 - The vat in front of the wine press into which the wine flows.
- 18:29 - He must first set aside 1/50th of the pile — the average amount given as *teruma gedolah* — before taking his tenth from the pile.

**Bonus**

A:

In the case of Korach's followers, "the land covered them up and they were lost from among the community (16:33)." Usually an earthquake results in a gaping chasm, but here the earth opened like a mouth, swallowed them, and closed again, leaving no trace of the people.

*Abarbanel*