

Parsha QA



Parshat Korach

For the week ending 21 Sivan 5759 / 4 & 4 June 1999 (Inside Israel)
28 Sivan 5759 / 11 & 12 June 1999 (Outside Israel)

Parsha Questions

1. What did Dasan and Aviram join Korach?
2. Why is Yaakov's name not mentioned in Korach's genealogy?
3. What motivated Korach to rebel?
4. What did Korach and company do when Moshe said that a *techelet* garment needs *tzizit*?
5. What warning did Moshe give the rebels regarding the offering of the incense?
6. Did Moshe want to be the *kohen gadol*?
7. What event did Korach not foresee?
8. What does the phrase *rav l'chem* mean in this week's Parsha? (Give two answers.)
9. What lands are described in this week's Parsha as "flowing with milk and honey"?
10. When did Moshe have the right to take a donkey from the Jewish Community?
11. What did Korach do the night before the final confrontation?
12. What did Dasan and Aviram have in common with Goliath?
13. Before what age is a person not punished by the Heavenly Court for his sins?
14. What happens to one who rebels against the institution of *kehuna*? Who suffered such a fate?
15. Why *specifically* was incense used to stop the plague?
16. Why was Aharon's staff placed in the middle of the other eleven staffs?
17. Aharon's staff was kept as a sign. What did it signify?
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. Why is Hashem's covenant with the *kohanim* called "a covenant of salt"?

KASHA!

(*kasha* means "question")

How would you answer this question on the Parsha?

Farrel Werner <fwernieone@aol.com> asked:

Dear Rabbi,

What did the people mean when they told Moshe, "You killed Hashem's People?" (17:6) Obviously, Moshe didn't kill them. Korach's followers died by Divine decree: The ground swallowed some and fire from Heaven killed the others.

Dear Farrel Werner,

Those who complained reasoned as follows: Although the first-born lost their rights as *kohanim* (priests), they should retain the right to serve as *levi'im*. Thus, they felt the test Moshe had proposed, that his detractors offer incense, was unfair. The incense offering was designated specifically for *kohanim*, so it wasn't a true test for those who deserved at least to serve in the lesser capacity of *levi*.

Based on Ramban

Do you have a KASHA? Write to kasha@ohr.org.il with your questions on any Parsha!

I Did Not Know That!

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

Prepared by Ohr Somayach in Jerusalem, Israel

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Parshas **Korach** — 21 Sivan 5759 / 4 & 4 June 1999 (Inside Israel)),

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Recommended Reading List

Ramban		Sefer Hachinuch	
16:21	The Sin of the Congregation	389	Defined Roles
16:29	The Sin of Dasan and Aviram	394	Service of the Levi'im
16:30	A New Creation	395	<i>Ma'aser Rishon</i> (The First Tithe)
18:7	The Gifts of the Kehuna		
18:20	Inheritance of the Kehuna		
		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

1. 16:1 - Because they were his neighbors
2. 16:1 - Yaakov prayed that his name not be mentioned in connection with Korach's rebellion (*Bereishet* 49:6).
3. 16:1 - Korach was jealous that Elizafan ben Uziel was appointed as leader of the family of Kehat instead of himself.
4. 16:1 - They laughed.
5. 16:6 - Only one person would survive.
6. 16-6 - Yes.
7. 16:7 - That his sons would repent.
8. 16:7,3 - *Rav l'chem* appears twice in this week's Parsha. It means "much more than enough greatness have you taken for yourself (16:3)" and "It is a great thing I have said to you (16:17)."
9. 16:12 - Egypt and Canaan.
10. 16:15 - When he traveled from Midian to Egypt.
11. 16:19 - Korach went from tribe to tribe in order to rally support for himself.
12. 16:27 - They all blasphemed.
13. 16:27 - Twenty years old.
14. 17:5 - He is stricken with *tzara'at*, as was King Uziyahu (*Divrei HaYamim* II 26:16-19).
15. 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 it is sin, not incense, which causes death.
16. 17:21 - So people would not say that Aharon's staff bloomed because Moshe placed it closer to the *Shechina*.
17. 17:25 - That only Aharon and his children were selected for the *kehuna*.
18. 18:8 - Since Korach claimed the *kehuna*, the Torah emphasizes Aharon's and his descendants' rights to *kehuna* by recording the gifts given to them.
19. 18:10 - Male *kohanim* may eat them and only in the *azara* (fore-court of the *Beis Hamikdash*).
20. 18:19 - Just as salt never spoils, so this covenant will never be rescinded.