

KORAH'S REBELLION -- EXCESSIVE MOURNING, ANGER AND PRIDE

Our heavenly Father we thank you for another Sabbath day and the opportunity to fellowship together and hear your words from your Torah expounded to lead us into truth and the way of everlasting life. Please bless this study, pour out your Spirit upon your people everywhere and guide, guard, direct and protect us by your power and love. Thank you for your mercy, love and kindness in calling us in this time. Establish our hearts without blemish in holiness before you, our Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints when all wrongs will be righted and all sins forgiven and your saints justified and glorified. We yield ourselves into your hands and pray for your divine guidance and blessings in the name of Yeshua, Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Today is the second day of the month of Tammuz, on the Hebrew calendar and the fourth month, according to God's calendar. The first crescent of the new moon was visually seen in Jerusalem Thursday evening, June 18, so the new moon day was Friday, June 19. This is a month of great events in the history of Israel. This was the month that Israel went up to the Holy Land soon after Pentecost and the Sinai experience. Israel sent twelve spies to search out the Promised Land in Canaan. Ten spies brought back an evil report saying there were giants there and no way would they be able to conquer the land. They felt like grasshoppers in their own sight. They forgot the power of God who called them and sent plagues on Egypt, and who led them out of Egypt through the desert and the wilderness. They forgot God who fed them manna every day with a double portion on Friday and rest from their labors on Sabbath—the 7th day. God miraculously gave them water from the Rock in the desert when they were thirsty. They forgot the Red Sea experience and the overthrowing of Pharaoh and his army.

Israel lost faith, and God was angry with the people and asked, "How long refuse you to obey my commandments?" Because Israel lacked faith and would not go up to the land God promised, but rebelled against his commandment, God said you will have to wander in the desert 40 more years and will not be allowed to enter the Promised Land. But your children will enter the Promised Land with Joshua, Caleb and their families who wholly followed the Lord faithfully. **Numbers 14** – Israel repented and said they would fight and every man girded his weapons of war ready to go up into the hill, but the Lord told Moses to tell them: "don't go or fight lest you be smitten before your enemies. I am not among you." But they willfully went anyway against God's command and they returned devastated, fleeing for their lives and weeping.

Now what was Israel to do? Here they were sitting in the desert wondering what went wrong and how did they get into this terrible situation? They complained to Moses and murmured in their tents saying "the Lord hated us and brought us out of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites." The Lord heard the words and was wrath and swore saying "there shall not one of

these men of this evil generation who will see that good land which I swore to give unto your fathers.” Moses said, “Also, the Lord was angry with me for your sakes, saying, you also shall not go in thither.”

Numbers (Hebrew—Bemidbar) **16:1-18:32** (Korach means bald/baldness) gives the account of Korah’s rebellion in the weekly Torah portion. There are 54 such *parashiyot* (plural) or parshahs (anglicized pluralization) in [Judaism](#), and the full cycle is read over the course of a Jewish year. Each weekly Torah portion takes its name from the first most distinct word in the Hebrew text of the portion in question. Torah readings mostly follow an annual cycle beginning and ending on the [Jewish holiday](#) of [Simchat Torah](#), with the divisions corresponding to the [lunar-solar Hebrew calendar](#) which contains up to 55 weeks, the exact number varying between leap years and regular years.

Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men (men of renown), and they rose up before Moses, with certain of the Israelites, 250 princes or leaders of the congregation called to the assembly, men of renown (well known and of distinction). And they gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “You take too much upon yourselves, seeing that the entire congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you lift yourselves up above the assembly of the Lord?” The men of renown had great abilities which caused them to become proud, arrogant and very self-centered. *Note:* The only other place that men of renown are mentioned in the Bible is in **Genesis 6:1-4**.

These men were actually telling the truth, because we read in **Exodus 19:4-6**—“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then **ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.**” Notice, there is something that Korah left out. God said “If you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, THEN you will be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people...a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” If Israel would have humbled themselves before God, obeyed his voice and kept his covenant, God might have changed his mind and alleviated the curse after a few years after seeing that their heart was right. They were still in a spirit of rebellion.

We don’t take it upon ourselves. Our job is to say, “Yes Lord, I will obey you and I will do whatever you say.” We should be satisfied with whatever God gives us. Serve God where you are and do what you have been called to do and not wish you were somewhere else. Korah was not happy doing the service of the tabernacle of the Lord. He wanted to be like Aaron, a high priest. **Verse 11**—“For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron that ye murmur against him?” Korah accused Aaron of taking that office upon himself. When Moses heard it, he fell on his face. God chooses whom he wants for the position he wants in working things out to suit His purpose for his kingdom’s sake. God chooses who he wants to come near him. Moses inquired of Korah if it was not enough that God had called, separated and chosen Korah to bring him near to himself to do the work in the tabernacle, but Korah also wanted the priesthood to gather glory for self. Lucifer had this same problem of wanting to gain glory for self and sought to seize God’s throne.

Numbers 16:16—“Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram to come to him and they said, ‘We will not come up to you. Moreover, you haven’t brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Do you want to treat these men like slaves? No, we will not come!’ ” Then Moses became very angry and said to the Lord, “Do not accept their offering. I have not taken so much as a donkey from them, nor have I wronged any of them.” They rejected the office of Moses and his authority as leader of the people. Moses told Korah, “You and all your company come before the Lord thou, and they, and Aaron, tomorrow: And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the Lord every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.”

Numbers 16: 18-27—“Each of them took his censer, put burning coals and incense in it, and stood with Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the tent of meeting. When Korah had gathered all his followers in opposition to them at the entrance to the tent of meeting, the glory of the Lord appeared to the entire assembly. The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘Separate yourselves from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once.’ But Moses and Aaron fell face down and cried out, ‘O God, the God who gives breath to all living things, will you be angry with the entire assembly when only one man sins?’ ”

Moses and Aaron prayed to God to forgive Israel and give them another chance and then God told Moses, tell the assembly to move away from the tents of the wicked Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. He warned the assembly, “Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins.” So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing with their wives, children and little ones at the entrances to their tents. The assembly no longer supported these men.

Verses 28-33—“Then Moses said, ‘This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea: If these men die a natural death and suffer the fate of all mankind, then the LORD has not sent me. But if the LORD brings about something totally new, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them, with everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the realm of the dead, then you will know that these men have treated the Lord with contempt.’ As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possessions. They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community. At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, ‘The earth is going to swallow us too!’ ”

Fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense, also. The Lord said to Moses, “Tell Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest, to remove the censers from the charred remains and scatter the coals some distance away, for the censers are holy— the censers of the men who sinned at the cost of their lives. Hammer the censers into sheets to overlay the altar, for they were presented before the LORD and have become holy. Let them be a sign to the Israelites. Eleazar the priest collected the bronze censers brought by those who had been burned to death, and he had them hammered out to overlay the altar, as the LORD directed him through

Moses. This was to remind the Israelites that no one except a descendant of Aaron should come to burn incense before the LORD, or he would become like Korah and his followers.”

Moses had not lifted up himself, but God sent him to do His works and gave him the power to do these works. He did not do it of himself. Korah’s children were not with him when he and his companions were killed in the earthquake. But Korah’s sons were not guilty of rebellion. They were left alive and served the Lord in the Levitical priesthood later on in the days of King David as Levites and composed many songs of beautiful spirituality. As recorded in the book of Psalms.

Lessons don’t always stick very well. Numbers 16:41-42—“The very next day the entire Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron saying they killed the Lord’s people and turned toward the tent of meeting. But when the assembly gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron and turned toward the tent of meeting, suddenly the cloud covered it and the glory of the LORD appeared. Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the tent of meeting, and the LORD said to Moses, ‘Get away from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once.’ ”

Once again Moses and Aaron fell facedown in prayer for the assembly which wasn’t worthy. “Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Take your censer and put incense in it, along with burning coals from the altar, and hurry to the assembly to make atonement for them. Wrath has come out from the Lord and the plague has started.’ So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly. The plague had already started among the people, but Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them. He *stood between the living and the dead*, and the plague stopped. But 14,700 people died from the plague, in addition to those who had died because of Korah. Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance to the tent of meeting, for the plague had stopped.” Christ died on the stake to make atonement for us and our sins, so that we can have forgiveness and stand before the Lord—clean, pure and holy— accounted righteous.

There is a prophetic lesson about Korah in this week’s parsha/ portion in 1 Samuel about King Nahash who came to fight Israel in the days of King Saul, whose name meant what he was—a snake. He attacked like a snake. This story is read along with the portion about Korah who rebels against Moses, but why was his mind so distressed along with Dathan and Abiram as well? Korah had the office of a Levite in serving the Lord. The Midrash says this was not the first time that Moses had encountered Dathan and Abiram. The story goes back to the days of the Exodus when Moses was still considered the son of Pharaoh in his youthful days. He saw an Israelite being beaten with a club by an Egyptian task master and Moses killed the Egyptian. The next day, Moses saw two Israelites fighting each other and he warned them not to fight each other because they were brothers. One of them was Dathan or Abiram who asked Moses if he was planning to kill him as he did the Egyptian the day before. This was his first encounter of attitude with these same two men.

Another lesson is found in the story of Korah. Korah is the name of a custom of shaving the hair on men’s heads found among Canaanites which is mentioned in Deuteronomy

14. The custom said, "You shall not shave your head for the dead as a sign for great grief and mourning." It was forbidden. The name Korah means great mourning or grief. Korah was very depressed. Let's take a look at the reason. Israel had just failed in their destiny to enter the Promised Land. God had consigned Israel to another forty years to wandering in the wilderness because of their disobedience and lack of faith and refusal to enter the Promised Land. Then after they were told by God not to go up and fight, they did anyway and were badly defeated. They consistently went contrary to what God commanded. No land of milk and honey, no land with blessings, doomed for 40 years more of wandering in the dessert. When people become depressed, they first deny the responsibility of what has happened and deny their part in the situation and blame someone else and do not confess their sin and that they have done something wrong—deny that they are sinners. They deny that they brought the punishment on themselves, and won't confess their sin.

The second point of grievous mourning and depression is anger. We have to learn patience and sometimes we have to suffer and wait for years to get the lesson before we bow before God and learn that lesson. The same lesson is given in **Lamentations 3:1-3**—"I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of His wrath. He has led me and made me walk in darkness and not in light. Surely He has turned his hand against me time and time again throughout the day. He has aged my flesh and my skin. He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead."

Psalms 51--David confessed his sin when he was told by the prophet Nathan that he had sinned in his adultery with Bathsheba and having Uriah her husband killed in an army attack. "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your loving kindness. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me."

Job finally saw and confessed his sin. **Job 42:5-6** "I have heard of you by my ear, but now my eye sees you. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job had only heard about God's greatness, but came to see God's magnitude, greatness, justice and integrity.

USA today (6.19. 15) eight people died (six women and three men) at the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. near the end of a Wednesday night Bible study. One person was pronounced dead upon arrival to a hospital. Among the dead was state Senator Clementa Pinckney (D) who was pastor of the church. Dylann Roof was arrested Thursday in Shelby, N.C. He is a white 21-year old high-school dropout (ninth grade) who confessed to the murders, and the owner of the 45-caliber hand gun used. Dylann is known to be a heavy drinker, enjoys smoking marijuana and has dabbled in a harder variety of drugs. In February, he was arrested at a local mall for possession of Suboxone (medication used to treat heroin addiction), because he didn't have a prescription for it, and was banned from the mall for a year. Nevertheless, he returned in April prompting another arrest and a three year ban from the

mall. Roof's website also reflects the strong influence of a white supremacist group called the Council of Conservative Citizens.

What is so remarkable to me is that the next day, although what he did was monstrous, some of the relatives of the dead victims stated they forgave this young man and held no grudge against him. Perhaps through use of drugs, alcohol, smoking pot, missing education, lack of a stable home with divorced parents and missing parental harmony to give him guidance of the right kind, he chose such a negative and horrendous path. In **Matthew 18:21** Peter came to Jesus and asked, Lord, how often shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me, and I forgive him/her? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but until seventy times seven." That is 490 times! What is the significance of that?

Well, it brings us back to Daniel 9 and the 70 weeks prophecy. Seventy weeks is 70 X 7 days a week which is 490 all together. That represents a period of time from the time of the foundation of Israel till the coming of the Messiah. What is he really saying here, when you figure out the background and the deeper meaning of Daniel 9 and what Christ said about forgiving your brother—you are to forgive them every time they sin against you until the coming of the Messiah—490 prophetic years from the foundation of Jerusalem until the second coming of Christ. Be willing to forgive. The attitude of the Christian black families toward the 21 year old Dylann Roof who killed nine members of their congregation/family was godly. It is a Christian attitude to be willing not to blame and accuse, but to forgive.

Christ said that we should have the attitude of being willing to forgive. He himself forgave all those who had him beaten, nailed to the cross and crucified. Jesus said, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Christ was willing to forgive, so that when they do learn in the future that he was the Messiah they will repent in dust and ashes with great emotional distress realizing what they have done and will come to real repentance.

There is a new game out which is like an Ouija board that consorts and plays with demons which can be bought at any store like Wal-Mart. Kids in Brazil have been playing a game with a pencil laying across another pencil on a piece of paper marked with sections like a pie saying "yes, no, yes, no". The pencil is very unstable and will point in different directions to a definite YES or a NO to the questions they ask—like a Ouija Board. Demons began to take over and the kids began to scream and flee from participating in this game that has gone viral over "U-Tube." I have noticed an increasing influence of demons on television shows and movies about covens and witchcraft. **WARNING: DO NOT PLAY THE OUIJA BOARD UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.** These boards have been used by thousands of people for a dangerous form of uncontrolled spirit communications (an ancient Occult method called "channeling" that works through your mind and body to give messages) and people are usually unaware of the dangerous communication (with evil and lying spirits—demons) they are attempting.

After the plague Israel experienced recorded in Numbers 16, **Numbers 17** clarifies who God chooses for the head of the house of Israel's fathers. "The Lord told Moses, 'Take from the children of Israel twelve rods (staves) from them, one from each leader of each of their princes according to the house of their fathers (ancestral tribes). Write the name of each man on his rod. On the staff of Levi write Aaron's name, for there must be one staff for the head of each

ancestral tribe. Place them in the tent of meeting in front of the testimony (Ark of the Covenant), where I will meet with you. The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout and I will rid myself of this constant complaining against you by the Israelites.” **Verse 7**—“Moses laid up the rods from each leader before the Lord in the tabernacle of witness and Aaron’s staff was among them. The next day Moses entered the tent and saw that Aaron’s staff, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds. Moses brought out all the staffs from the Lord’s presence to all the Israelites. They looked at them, and each of the leaders took his own staff.”

God said to Moses, “Bring Aaron’s staff again before the testimony to be kept for a sign against the rebels. This will put an end to their grumbling against me, so that they will not die. Moses did just as the Lord commanded him.” The Israelites were very fearful and, said to Moses, “Anyone who even comes near the tabernacle of the Lord will die; shall we be consumed with dying?”

Numbers 18 confirms the duties and privileges of Aaron and the Levites. The Lord said to Aaron, “You and your sons and your family are to bear the responsibility for offenses connected with the sanctuary, and you and your sons alone are to bear the responsibility for offenses connected with the Priesthood. Bring with you your fellow Levites to join and assist you when you and your sons minister before the tabernacle of witness. They are to be responsible to you and to perform all the duties of the tent, but they must not go near the furnishing of the sanctuary or the altar. Otherwise both they and you will die. They are to be responsible for the care and work at the tent—no one else may come near where you are.”

Verses 6 -7—“I myself have selected your fellow Levites from among the Israelites as a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD to do the work at the tent of meeting. ⁷ But only you and your sons may serve as priests in connection with everything at the altar and inside the curtain. I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary is to be put to death.”

We are to yield ourselves to God and do what he calls us for and what He wants us to do and have been qualified to do. **John 15:16**—“You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever you shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” **John 15:19**—“If you were of the world, the world would love his own: but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

I cannot prove this, however, I think it is true of all the twelve disciples, that Christ went and picked out each one. We have the account that Peter, James, John, Nathaniel, and Matthew that Christ picked them out (chose them) and said “follow me”. He did the choosing. The ones he didn’t call didn’t respond. There was one volunteer whose name was Judas Iscariot. He saw the signs, wonders and miracles and he wanted to be one of the disciples. He was a volunteer and turned out to be the one who betrayed Christ.

There is a saying in the military, “don’t volunteer”. When the leader/commander has his men lined up, saying there is a job to be done and asks for volunteers to step forward, the seasoned men promptly take a step backward and leave the new recruits looking like they stepped forward. My brother was in the army in Europe and had a lot of amusing stories to tell.

Because of our nation's sins and rebellion against God, we are going to be led into darkness and see affliction by the rod of God's wrath. **Lamentations 3:22-27**—"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him." "The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for man to bear the yoke in his youth." Don't dwell on your mourning and deny that you are guilty of sin and project the blame on others and get angry like Korah and curse God.

Lamentations 3:38-54—"Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that woe and well-being proceed? Why should a living man complain, for the punishment of his sins? Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord. Let us lift our hearts and hands to God in heaven." All Israel complained, but it was their sin. In the seven years ahead of us the day is coming when God will not hear the prayers of many because they are not given from the heart.

El Shadiiah Ministries (6.23.15) — President Obama's U.S. State Department argued, so the passport should say "Jerusalem" not "Israel." Congress took the opposite stand, and the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the executive branch. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Americans born in Jerusalem must not have "Israel" listed on their passports as their place of birth, saying the city remains part of disputed territory. "Not allowing to declare that Jerusalem is in Israel is a final straw of judgment for America and I'll tell you why," said Mark Biltz, pastor of El Shaddai Ministries. "There are three Jews on the Supreme Court (Elana Kagan, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer) that voted against saying Jerusalem was a part of Israel because they were afraid of the 'giants' in the political arena around the world."

Biltz finds that particularly prescient in light of the fact that this weekend's Torah reading that will be read in synagogues all over the world just so happens to be "Shelach." "This is a very short story about the spies that brought the bad report, making a false judgment call, because they feared the giants in the land," Biltz said. "God told them Israel was theirs for the taking, and it was a horrible disaster resulting in having to wander for 40 years in the desert." "I agree with Chief Justice (John) Roberts' dissenting opinion. He stated that 'Never before has this Court accepted a President's direct defiance of an Act of Congress in the field of foreign affairs.'" The Palestinian Authority hailed the decision. Saeb Erekat, chief PA negotiator, said it "sends a clear message to Israel that its policies of colonization are null and void."

Congress passed a law in 2002 (the first current Shemita year cycle), that Jerusalem was a part of Israel. as part of the "Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003". Now we are in the closing year of the Shemita cycle and will begin a new cycle this coming September. Congress said, "For purposes of the registration of birth, certification of nationality, or issuance of a passport of a United States citizen born in the city of Jerusalem, the Secretary shall, upon the request of the citizen or the citizen's legal guardian, record the place of birth as Israel," although Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama have not allowed it. Passage, of the law has never been implemented, because of opposition from Presidents Clinton, Bush, and

Obama, who view it as a Congressional infringement on the executive branch's constitutional authority over foreign policy; they have consistently claimed the presidential waiver on national security interests. A federal appeals court declared the 2002 law invalid on 23 July 2013. On June 8, 2015, the Supreme Court in a 6-3 ruling struck down Section 214(d) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY 2003, citing the law as an overreach of Congressional power into foreign policy. According to President Obama and the Supreme Court it is now U.S. foreign policy that no part of Jerusalem is part of Israel.

According to Almighty God, Israel has Jerusalem as its eternal capital. It belongs to Israel. According to Rabbi Gladerson he has found out from the Bible Codes that Obama is set to fight against Messiah. July 4 this year is also the 17 day of Tammuz, the day Israel worshipped the golden calf at the foot of Mt. Sinai. July 4, 1776 also fell on the 17th day of Tammuz. Many believe that judgment will begin on the nation of America, beginning at end of the Shemita year in September 2015 and the start of the Hebrew New Year 5776 which is the coming year of 2016 as a result of operating out of fear and rejecting that Jerusalem is a part of Israel.