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Parashat Korach - קֹרַח

"Korah"

**Torah portion:**

Numbers 16:1 - 18:32

**Haftarah portion:**

1 Samuel 11:14 - 12:24

**Brit Chadashah/New Testament portion:**

Romans 13:1-7

We often read surrounding N.T. scripture because it is such a blessing to do so.

### **The Big Kehunnah**

After God's sudden judgment on Korah, Dathan and Abiram (Num.16:31), the 250 men that offered incense (Num. 16:35) and the congregation of Israel (by plague Num.16:47), the remaining congregation of Israel were "all undone" concerning drawing near to the Tabernacle **of Jehovah**. Jehovah then dictates that indeed only Aaron's house would minister in the Tabernacle, and that the Levites would minister to Aaron's house. What a contrast to the relationship with YHVH that he provides us in his New Covenant! Compare the New Covenant HOPE in Jesus! Now the sanctuary of the God is in (among) the believers (1Cor.3:16). That veil was rent (Matt.27:51). NOW New Testament believers have access to the Holy of Holies (Heb.10:19-20). NOW we are priests in God's kingdom (Rev1:6). Praise Yah!

**Revelation 1:6** "And he-made us (a) kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to-him the glory and the might with-reference-to the ages of-the ages: Amen."

And this can be read/understood as "*he made us kingdom priests*" also, as the Greek text does not have punctuation (e.g. commas) or an indefinite article "a". **This is the Melchi-zedek priesthood** (Heb. ch7&8).

And that is The Big Kehunnah.

Yet these things that occurred to Israel under the Old Covenant & Law are patterns for our learning, so we don't get high-minded of our state of grace as opposed to many current Jew's bondage to the Mosaic law. They will (future) have more fullness than us. Perhaps a "pattern" to keep in mind is Korah's high-mindedness. Gentile Christians should accept their "place" **among** the trusting remnant of Israel with hopeful joy...Romans ch.11.

**Numbers 17:12** And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, **we perish, we are undone, we are all undone.**

**13 Every one that cometh near, that cometh near unto the tabernacle of Jehovah, dieth: shall we perish all of us?**

**Numbers 18:1** And Jehovah said unto Aaron, **Thou and thy sons and thy fathers' house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary; and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.**

Note: The English word "priesthood" translates the Hebrew word **כֹּהֲנָה** *kəhunnah* (Strong's H3550).

**2 And thy brethren also, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou near with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall be before the tent of the testimony.**

3 And they shall keep thy charge, and the charge of all the Tent: only they shall not come nigh unto the vessels of the sanctuary and unto the altar, that they die not, neither they, nor ye.

4 And they shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tent of meeting, for all the service of the Tent: and a **stranger** shall not come nigh unto you.

5 And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar; that there be wrath no more upon the children of Israel.

6 And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you they are a gift, given unto Jehovah, to do the service of the tent of meeting.

7 And thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priesthood for everything of the altar, and for that within the veil; and ye shall serve: I give you the priesthood as a service of gift: and **the stranger** that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

Note "stranger" in 18:4&7 is the same Hebrew word as in Nu.16:40; **זֵר** *tzur*, (Strong's H2114). While it can have the meaning of "stranger" as in of another nation, verse 40 shows that these "strangers" were members of the tribes of Israel including those of the tribe of Levi that were not of the seed of Aaron:

**Numbers 16:35** And fire came forth from Jehovah, and devoured the two hundred and fifty men that offered the incense.

36 And **Jehovah spake unto Moses**, saying,

37 Speak unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, that he take up the censers out of the burning, and scatter thou the fire yonder; for they are holy,

38 even the censers of these sinners against their own lives; and let them be made beaten plates for a covering of the altar: for they offered them before Jehovah; therefore they are holy; and they shall be a sign unto the children of Israel.

39 And Eleazar the priest took the brazen censers, which they that were burnt had offered; and they beat them out for a covering of the altar,

40 to be a memorial unto the children of Israel, to the end that **no stranger**, that is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to burn incense before Jehovah; that he be not **as Korah, and as his company**: as Jehovah spake unto him by Moses.

**Korah then, was a stranger to God.**

Note that while Moses is NOT of the seed of Aaron, he IS still allowed in the presence of YHVH, and in fact YHVH speaks directly to Moses. Moses prophesied that Jesus would be a prophet like him (like Moses - Deut.18:15). Through the rent veil - Jesus' flesh - those trusting in him have access to the holy of holies not made by hands (Matt. 27:51; Heb. 9:11,24; Heb.10:19-20). This occurs "outside" the Levitical service and/or Aaronic priesthood (Heb.5:6).

This priesthood "after the order of Melchizedek", with Jesus as our **High Priest** (Heb.7:11-17), really is **the Big Kehunna...**

**Romans 13:1** Let every soul be-subjecting-himself-to-superior authorities. For there-is not authority unless from God, but **the authorities** being, are **having-been-and-still-are-assigned** by the God.

"the authorities" - - the present authorities in Rome.

v2 So-that the (one) arraying-himself-against **the authority** has-withstood-and-still-is-withstanding to-the order-of-the God; but the (ones) having-withstood-and-still-withstanding will-take (a) sentence to-themselves.

**Note the perfect tenses.**

v3 For the rulers are not (a) fear to-the good work BUT to-the bad. But are-you-willing to-be not fearing **the authority**? You-be-doing the good-thing and you-will-have laudation out-of it;

**Note: "the authority" is singular. Satan's authority was unified under Rome, the 6th world power.**

v4 For **he**-is (a) minister of-God to-you with-reference-to the good-(thing). But if you-might-be-doing the bad-(thing), of-fear; for he-is not wearing the dagger at-random; for he-is (a) minister of-God, (an) avenger with-reference-to wrath to-the (one) **practising the bad-(thing)**.

"He" = Caesar, who wore the dagger. This was before Rome's persecution of Christians. Note in Acts 25:8-12 that Paul preferred to be judged by the Romans - and called upon Caesar to hear his case: Paul was afraid of the Jews! - At this time the Roman government was - not perfect or Godly - but more honest than the Sanhedrin!

v5 On-this-account (it-is-a) necessity to-be-subjecting oneself, not only because-of the wrath BUT also because-of the conscience.

v6 For because-of this YOU-are also finishing tributes; for they-are public-ministers of-God enduring-steadfastly with-reference-to this-thing itself.

v7 YOU-give-back the obligations to-all, to-the (one) (owed) the tribute (give) the tribute, to-the (one) (owed) the tax (give) the tax, to-the (one) (owed) the fear (give) the fear, to-the (one) (owed) the honor (give) the honor.

"YOU", plural; the people Paul was writing to.

v8 YOU-be being-indebted to-no-one (for) not-one-thing, unless to-be-cherishing one-another; for the (one) cherishing the different (one) has-and-is-still-fulfilling law.

v9 For the, you-shall not **commit-adultery**, you-shall not **murder**, you-shall not **steal**, you-shall not **bear-false-witness**, you-shall not **desire**, and if any different commandment, it-is-being-summed-up in this the word, in the (word) **you-shall-cherish your neighbor as yourself**.

"you-shall not commit-adultery" - remember, as this is to Roman Christians, it is speaking primarily of spiritual adultery (Romans 7:1-6. Remember how Jesus changed these commandments; "no murder" to "no anger", etc., and Paul (Holy Spirit) is confirming the Word of Jesus here with ", **it-is-being-summed-up in this the word, in the (word) you-shall-cherish your neighbor as yourself.**" (Matthew 5:21-22; Mark 12:29, 30; 1John 3:22-23).

v10 **The charity** is not working bad for-the neighbor; therefore **the charity (is) fulness of-law**.

v11 And (do) this, knowing-absolutely the season, that (an) hour (is) already, (for) us to-be-raised out-of slumber: for now our **salvation** (is) nearer than when we-**trusted**.

v12 The night progressed, but **the day has-drawn-near-and-is-still-near**. Therefore let-us-place-off-for-ourselves the works of-the darkness, but let-us-clothe-ourselves-in the weapons of-the light.

v13 As in day let-us-walk-around decently, not in **revels** and **drunkennesses**, not in-**conjugal-beds** and **wantonnesses**, not in-**quarrel(ing)** and **jealousy**;

v14 BUT **YOU-clothe-yourselves-in the Lord Jesus Messiah**, and **YOU-be not making-for-yourselves provision of-the flesh** with-reference-to desires.

This was written to Romans in Rome. Note the perfect tenses. Remember Satan's authority over the inhabited-earth (see *Babylon* and or *Apologetics 23 Satan goes Underground* by R.H. Mount).

**Luke 2:1** "But it-came-to-pass in those days (a) decree went-out from Caesar Augustus, all the inhabited-earth to-be-being-registered;"

"Inhabited-earth" is from the Greek word οἰκουμένην, a form of *oikoumenē* (pronunciation: oi-kū-me'-nā) , (*Strong's G3625*).. Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Vol.5, p.159: "*There is within the NT no disputing of the political οἰκουμένην understanding of the Roman Empire, not even in Rev.*"

click to read: [Excerpt from Ralph Mount's course "To Romans", pp172-175. \(PDF\):](#)

[www.Cotopaxi-Colorado.com/BIBLE/MOUNT/To-Romans-pp153-A-D.pdf](http://www.Cotopaxi-Colorado.com/BIBLE/MOUNT/To-Romans-pp153-A-D.pdf)

*"I conclude this passage applies to Rome, power #6, and is not a general instruction."*

It would not make sense to be told on the one hand to come out from Babylon (Roman Catholic Church, (Rev.18:4; Prov.6:24, **2Cor.6:17**), and on the other hand to call Hitler a minister of God. So we use some God-given common sense here. Then, as now, we should pay our taxes or we face civil penalties. Yes, much general instruction may be gleaned from Rom.13 by the entire assembly (body of Messiah); however, it was written to *Roman* Christians.

(Aside: Remember! In the USA, We the People rule constitutionally...although it is headed towards mob rule But really, this fits within the **Laodicea** church period...Laodicea has the meanings "*people's opinions*", "*people's rights*", or "*people's judgment.*" See *Apologetics 25,pp 16*).

**Romans 1:1** Paul (a) slave of-Messiah Jesus, (a) called apostle having-been-and-still-severed with-reference-to good-news of-God.

v2 Which [good-news] he-promised-before through his prophets in (the) holy scriptures

v3 Concerning his son namely-the (one) having-become out-of seed of-David according-to flesh,

v4 Namely-the (one) having-been-appointed Son of-God in power according-to spirit of-holy-quality out-of (a) resurrection of-dead-ones, Jesus Messiah our Lord.

v5 Through whom we-took favor and apostleship with-reference-to obedience of-trust among all the Gentiles in-behalf-of his name,

v6 Among whom YOU yourselves are also called (ones) of-Jesus Messiah.

**1:7** To-all the cherished of-God being in Rome, called holy (ones); favor to-YOU and peace from God our Father and Jehovah Jesus Messiah.

v8 First on-the-one-hand I-am-giving-thanks to my God through Jesus Messiah concerning YOU all, because YOUR trust is-being-proclaimed in the total world.

Note that the trust of the Romans in Rome, which was in the inhabited earth (*oikoumenē*), was being proclaimed even further to "the total world" (ὅλω *holo* - *total*) (κόσμω *kosmo* - *world*). Different Greek words given by the Holy Spirit and thus different meanings.

## How Big Kehunnah?

*To-all the cherished of-God called holy (ones),  
favor to-YOU and peace from God our Father and Jehovah Jesus Messiah.*

Korah had a position within the Levitical priesthood, but he blew it. Note we are only told that Korah and his troop "perished from among the assembly"...they went alive to sheol (Num.16:33). Yet there is even hope in the Big Kehunnah - Jesus Christ's priesthood, for at the resurrection, even others will look on him whom they pierced and mourn/repent. The 250 men were consumed by fire from YHVH (16:35), in which they might be seen as a sacrifice as seen with other sacrifices from time to time in the O.T. As Christians, we consider a coming refining fire an act of lovingkindness by YHVH (1Cor. 3:12-14), so why not here also?

## How Great Lovingkindness?

**1 Samuel 12:19** And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto Jehovah thy God, that we die not; for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king. **20** And Samuel said unto the people, **Fear not: ye have indeed done all this evil; yet turn not aside from following Jehovah, but serve Jehovah with all your heart:** **21** and turn ye not aside; for then would ye go after vain things which cannot profit nor deliver, for they are vain. **22** **For Jehovah will not forsake his people for his great name's sake, because it hath pleased Jehovah to make you a people unto himself.**

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