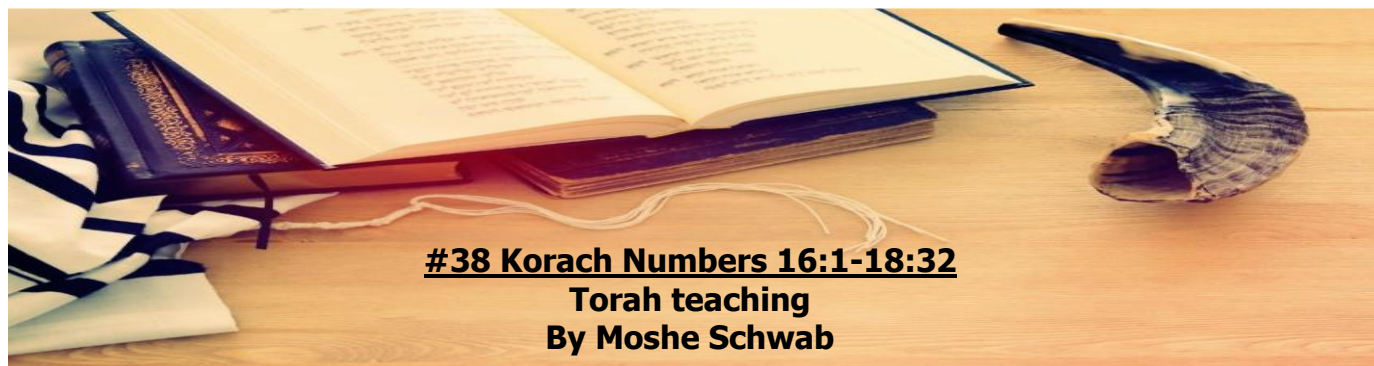




#38 Korach Numbers 16:1-18:32

**Torah teaching
By Moshe Schwab**

Names

Kefa – Peter
Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ
in the Greek means to be smudged
Mishkan – Tent of Meeting in the desert
Moshe – Moses
Shaul – Paul
Yeshua – Jesus' real name
Yĕhōvāh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)
Yochanan – John

Terms

Haftarah – reading from the prophets
Menorah – 7 candle Israelite lamp
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
Mishkan – tent of meeting in the desert
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah
(There are also transliterations from Hebrew)

The name of this portion is Korach in Hebrew. It is the name, "Korah" and means, "baldness, ice, hail, or frost."¹ In the previous portion Israel sinned through unbelief in God because of the negative report of the spies. In this portion, we see some Israelites led by Korach believe that they should be the ones to lead Israel and Korach apparently wants to be the High Priest. Moshe tells them they are rebelling against God in Numbers 16:11.

The pagan religion that was passed down to us.

In the same way, Christianity was taken over by the pagan Roman Empire, and they decided they did not need God's commandments and feasts and made up their own system that is only partly what God and the Messiah taught. That is the rebellion that we inherited and that is the rebellion that has been being passed down through Christianity until this day. Many Messianic believers have left this false system. I was introduced to the Messiah Yeshua through this false system, but eventually, I realized that they do not keep what the Bible says to keep. My family has decided to do what Bible says to do and what the Messiah Yeshua taught.

I share these things to help people to do what God says to do. God has good intentions for us, and I want you to receive God's good blessings and eternal life in God's future glorious kingdom.

Only a few Israelites rebelled in this portion, but it seems that most of Christianity has decided to continue to follow a Gentile god instead of the God of the Bible and our Messiah. Christianity for the most part does not understand that they do not follow the Messiah the way they should, they are following man-made doctrines. They are satisfied with made up rules and religious philosophy. They have rejected the commandments of God in the Old Testament portion that the Bible says are "right and good." This often-quoted scripture is a key scripture to remember.

¹ Definition from Wikipedia.

Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and **His statutes which He has commanded** you. And **you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you.**"

Some say that that the Old Testament portion is for the Jews or that it has been done away with. It says we are to diligently keep God's commandments because they are "**right and good.**" Notice that it says they are commandments of God, "**His statutes,**" and not just Jewish commandments. It says that God gave us these commandments for our good, "**that it may be well with you.**" Don't people want to have what is best in life instead of made-up theology? Also, there are more than 10 commandments. All of God's commandments are God's commandments. I shouldn't need to say that. It is my hope that people will come to know the truth and experience the goodness of God in their life.

It is God who keeps the universe going. Nehemiah 9:6 NKJV You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You. People in their defiance towards God live by their own heart instead of the best way to live. Instead, many people feel as though they must make up a way to live. They do not consider that God designed this world so that we could provide for ourselves and gave us good commandments to help us in life.

Let's talk about Psalms 19 from the NKJV:

Psalms 19:1-4a NKJV says:

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

The sky at night reveals to us the greatness of God. But how does it reveal knowledge? The names of the stars tell us a story that begins with the constellation Virgo and ends in the constellation Leo. Did you ever wonder how they could have formed pictures that are not so obvious to our eyes? It is because a story was told through the constellations. This is not about astronomy or astrology.

For example, in Virgo's right hand is a branch which refers to the **righteous branch**, namely the Messiah.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 NKJV says,

"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a **Branch of righteousness**; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Notice that a child is to be born from the line of David and is to be the LORD. The word LORD in all capital letters is the exclusive name for God. A descendent of David is to be born who is God.

The ancient name for the next constellation is Coma which means desired. It was a woman with a child on her lap (It was later changed to a head of hair). So, the ancient story begins with a woman bearing the righteous branch, the future messianic king. Josephus refers to this story and Bullinger wrote a book about it showing how the ancient constellations told a story. His book is called The Witness of the Stars. The reason we do not know the story is because it has stopped being told.

The next verses are an example of God's provision. This concept of God being our provider is seen throughout the Bible.

Psalms 19:4b-6 NKJV says,

In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

God set all in place including the Sun which gives us light to be able to take care of ourselves and light for plants to grow. The word tabernacle is the word tent which refers to a place, that is where the Sun was placed.

We should understand that there is a provider from how all of creation provides for every living creature. Also, God's Old Testament Law is intended to provide for us, to help us in life.

Psalms 19:7-11 NKJV says,

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

The Law is perfect and helps turn our lives back to the true God. Through God's Law we are made wise, we do what is right, it causes us to rejoice because we have God's good law. Respecting God for who He is helps us to be pure. God's commandments are forever and are true. It makes sense that since God's commandments are truths to live by that they are truths forever. Since they are eternal truths, God's commandments are more to be desired than gold or riches or those things we most value in life. God's law is to be desired, warns us about following false ideas or ideals, and helps us prosper in life.

It is God's Law that helps us to live a more abundant life. Joshua 1:8 NKJV says, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. **For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.** That is why Yeshua taught us to keep God's eternal Law. It helps us to have a more abundant life.

Matthew 5:17-18 NKJV says,

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

The heavens and earth have not passed away yet and not all has been fulfilled yet. The future kingdom of God has not come yet.

This next section encourages us to keep God's good commandments and have a heart that wants to learn the Law, so we do not live in error.

Proverbs 19:12-14 NKJV says,

Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

The word secret could be translated as hidden. We do not want to live in error. Presumptuous means to act with pride and do things our own way. We do not want to be headstrong and allow wrong concepts to lead us in life. We want what God wants for us. God cares about us. The word redeemer refers to a relative that helps us in life, namely, someone who would restore us in life. Strong's Dictionary says the primitive Hebrew root of the word redeemer refers to the ancient law of kinship where a relative would buy back a person's land for them. So, God's law restores us to the person we should be, it is the good and best way to live. The Bible says over and over that God gave us His Law to help us. Deuteronomy 5:33 NKJV says, "Walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you" The word walk is an idiom that means to keep God's Old Testament Law.

People put up buildings as a way to make a living. That is their way to enjoy the fruits of life. The fruit of our life is more than what we produce to make a living. The fruit of our lives also includes doing things God's way and keeping His eternal law. His eternal law is God's good heart for mankind. Psalms 33:11 NKJV says, "The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Isn't God wonderful?"

We need God's truths for life just as much as we need the other things of life. Deuteronomy 8:2-3 NKJV says, "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, **whether you would keep His commandments** or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, **that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.**" We are also in a time of testing. God has given those who believe in the Messiah Yeshua the Holy Spirit unconditionally. Will you pass the test and keep God's commandments?

Those who sell out to sin will not be in God's future kingdom.

Hebrews 12:14-17 NKJV says,

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone **fall short of the grace of God**; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food

sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

When you stand before God at judgment time, sorrow and tears will not get you into the future kingdom of God if you do not repent in the present. So, do not fall short of the grace of God.

Live the narrow way of this life. God has provided a way for us to live. The worldly visible things of life is not all there is to life. Yeshua tells us that narrow is the way to a future life in God's eternal kingdom.

Matthew 7:13-16 NKJV says,

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.

Those who do not teach us to keep God's good law are leading us astray. The way to God's future kingdom is not the wide way as some say, but it is through doing what is "right and good," (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). The Bible says it is not difficult. Deuteronomy 30:11 NIV says, "Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach." It is not difficult because it is the way the creator God designed us to live.

God has prepared a place for those who are willing to respect God.

What does respect mean? According to Wiki, "Respect, also called esteem, is a positive feeling or deferential action shown towards someone or something considered important or held in high esteem or regard. It conveys a sense of admiration for good or valuable qualities. It is also the process of honoring someone by exhibiting care, concern, or consideration for their needs or feelings." The Bible talks about us fearing God. Fearing God conveys the idea of deep respect for who God is, our good creator and provider.

Psalms 111:7-10 NKJV says,

The works of His hands are verity and justice; **all His precepts are sure. They stand fast forever and ever**, and are done in truth and uprightness. He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: holy and awesome is His name. **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments.** His praise endures forever.

Again, we see that God's Old Testament commandments are given to us to redeem us from the ways of the world. The fear, the respect we should have for the creator helps us to have the wisdom that comes with keeping God's commandments.

God will also redeem those who follow Him and the Messiah from the power of the grave. There is a future Messianic kingdom to come. Psalms 49:15 NKJV says, "God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me."

This scripture in Isaiah talks about a future era and is referred to in Revelation 21. Isaiah 60:20-21 NKJV says, "Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the

LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended. Also your people shall all be righteous; they shall inherit the land forever." Won't you decide to be part of God's future kingdom. God has given us the instruction manual for life. Just like following the directions on how to operate our car or something else, our lives operate at their best by following the directions of life's creator. Living how God tells us to live is not out of our reach. Again, it is not difficult because we were designed by God and God knows how we best operate; God is our maker and creator.

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 NKJV says,

Now **what I am commanding** you today **is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach**. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart **so you may obey it**.

So, keep God's good Law. Proverbs 4:2-3 NKJV says, "For I give you good doctrine: do not forsake my law. Perhaps you have been given other doctrines instead of how God says to live. Be holy and keep God's commandments. We will have everlasting joy in His future kingdom; the Bible says that, "Gladness and joy will overtake them." I have this mental picture of myself in the future kingdom being overcome with joy with a smile on my face. Gladness and joy will overtake us!

Isaiah 35:8-10 NIV says,

A highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Here is more to consider.

Reality comes from God's truths in the Bible. That is where we find sure footing for life. We are then situated above the turmoils and false ideals that surround us.

God is the creator, and He gave us His good commandments and He continues to preserve the earth at His discretion. Again, Nehemiah 9:6 NKJV says, "You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all." Psalms 33:6 NKJV says, "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth." As humans, we cannot understand everything, but God knows all. God does not become weary like we do. Isaiah 40:28 NKJV says, "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable." Also, God is not like mankind and does not lie. Numbers 23:19 NKJV says, "God is not a man, that He should lie."

God is the eternal all-knowing God who wants what is best for us, He gave us His commandments to help mankind. Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NKJV says, "Fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good." We should have a deep respect for our creator God, after all, He is the creator. Walking in His ways refers to how we are to show our thankfulness and love towards God and refers to keeping God's commandments. We keep His commandments which demonstrates our gratitude for God's good commandments, His grace through His commandments that God gave us for our own good.

At God's discretion He can intervene in life and help those who appreciate Him. Psalms 18:20-21 NKJV says, "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God." People often do not understand all that God has done for mankind. God did not leave us to figure out things for ourselves and so is a gracious and good God. Also, most people do not understand that to not keep God's commandments is to do evil, to wickedly depart from how God wants us to live.

Take for instance the commandment to not commit murder. It should be easy to understand that committing murder not only hurts that person, but everyone who has suffered loss due to the murder, and also to the people connected to the murderer. The person who gets murdered also cannot contribute to the good of this world. Committing murder is evil. Genesis 9:5-6 NKJV says, "Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man." God must judge those who do evil; God will require a reckoning and will question the intentions of these people. There will be no excuses for committing murder, supporting murder, or evil intentions or thoughts about murder. God cannot be fooled. Remember, murderers will end up in the lake of fire and brimstone (see Revelation 21:8).

Choose the right direction in life in all you do.

Do not do things your own way, but God's way. Proverbs 3:5-8 NKJV says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones." We are to fear the creator God, we are to deeply respect God for who He is. Also, our God is a good and caring God. Deuteronomy 5:29 NKJV says, "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!" God begs us to do what is right and keep His good commandments.

We should value the good commandments that God has given us and appreciate them. Is God's law your delight? Psalms 119:172-174 NKJV says, "My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness. Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts. I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight." Every opportunity can be an opportunity to do what is "right and good." Be humble towards God and

His commandments. Take time to think and make the right choices in life. Do not react, stay calm, and pray about life's situations.

Be committed and be at peace in God's ways.

God is looking for good people to follow Him and His commandments. God is not detached and distant. God always knows what is going on and wants what is best for us, 'that it may be well with us.' Psalms 101:6 NKJV says, "My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in a perfect way, he shall serve me." Follow God with your heart. 1 Samuel 12:24 NKJV says, "Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you." We are to love God with our whole heart. Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJV says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." The Bible tells us that to love God is to follow His good commandments for life. Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV says, "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." We are not only to appreciate who God is but act accordingly.

God cares about us and if we follow God with our whole heart, He is merciful towards us. Deuteronomy 7:9 NKJV says, "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments." Following God's commandments helps us in life and gives us peace. Psalms 29:11 NKJV says, "The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace." Even the earth rejoices at those who follow God. Isaiah 55:12 NKJV says, "For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Perhaps we could say that because of our goodness, we bless the ground we stand on. With the works of the law comes peace. Isaiah 32:17 NKJV says, "The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."

Learn and keep God's commandments for your own good. Proverbs 3:1-4 NKJV says, "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man." Be ready to keep God's commandments by having them readily at hand in your heart. They are God's mercy and truth towards mankind. They can add to your days and give you peace in life.

This is our Torah study for today.

Korach is the name, "Korah" and means, "baldness, ice, hail, or frost."² In the previous portion Israel sinned through unbelief in God because of the negative report of the spies and they now have to spend 40 years in the wilderness (38 more years). In this portion, we see some Israelites who are led by Korach believe they should be the ones to lead Israel and Korach apparently wants to be the High Priest. Perhaps they were power hungry or perhaps they thought they could do a better job. Moshe was following what God told him to do. Korach could not have done any better than that. Also, Korach refers to Egypt as the land of milk and honey

² [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korach_\(parsha\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korach_(parsha))

and that God led them into the desert. If successful, Korach would have led Israel back to Egypt and we would have no Bible or Messiah, and mankind would end up dying in sin. How devastating that would have been for mankind. Korach was being led only by what he could see and not what was going on spiritually. He saw that God had led them into a barren and dry land and not the blessings and goodness that God was trying to impart into the lives of the people.

Perhaps this should remind us that we can do no better than follow the spiritual verities of life from our good God. God's commandments and the leading of the Holy Spirit give us life. His commandments give us the wisdom and understanding we need for life the Bible says.

Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "**Be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" This is an important scripture.

Since God's commandments give us wisdom and understanding, deciding to do things our own way falls short of what God wants for His believers. God wants us to be a people who have this wisdom and understanding. We are God's holy (separate) people when we keep His commandments. Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways." Some think that people automatically become God's holy people by just believing in God but that is not correct. The New Testament also asserts that those who do not act holy will not be in God's future kingdom. Hebrews 12:14-15 NKJV says, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: **looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God.**" Those who do not keep God's commandments will fall short of the grace of God.

The pagan religion that was passed down to Christianity.

Korach wanted to lead the people in rebellion against God and in a different direction in life. In the same way, Christianity was taken over by the pagan Roman Empire, and they decided they did not need God's commandments and God's feasts and made up their own system that is only partly what God and the Messiah taught. That is the rebellion that we inherited and that is the rebellion that has been being passed down through Christianity until this day. Many Messianic believers have left this false system. I was introduced to the Messiah Yeshua through this false system, but eventually, I realized that they do not keep what the Bible says to keep. My family has decided to do what Bible says to do and what the Messiah Yeshua taught.

I share these things to help people to do what God says to do. God has good intentions for us, and I want you to receive God's good blessings and eternal life in God's future kingdom.

Only a few Israelites rebelled in this portion, but it seems that most of Christianity has decided to continue to follow a Gentile god instead of the God of the Bible and our Messiah. Christianity for the most part does not understand that they do not follow the Messiah the way they should, they are following man-made doctrines. They are satisfied with made up rules and religious philosophy. They have rejected the commandments of God in the Old Testament portion that the Bible says are "right and good." This often-quoted scripture is a key scripture to remember. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, " You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD

your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you."

Some say that that the Old Testament portion is for the Jews or that it has been done away with. It says we are to diligently keep God's commandments because they are right and good. And, it says they are commandments of God and not just Jewish commandments. Also, there are more than 10 commandments. All God's commandments are God's commandments. Some commandments apply to men only, some apply to women only, some apply to farmers, some apply to the priests and Levites, and so forth. Also, man-made commandments are not God's commandments. Some additional applications of the commandment can be understood from the original commandment. I do not know how God will judge those who do not keep His commandments properly, but God did not tolerate the rebellion of Korach. It is my hope that you will come to a knowledge of the truth and desire to follow God the way you should.

Outside of God's commandments is bondage.

We can either choose God's ways or some other way. Yeshua tells us that those who choose sin are slaves to sin. John 8:34 NKJV says, "Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin." Perhaps you never thought that leading a sinful life causes a person to be a slave to that behavior. When I was a young child, I would sometimes exaggerate what happened to get people to laugh. When I realized that exaggerating was a form of lying, I decided to stop doing that and I had to make an effort to make sure I did not do that anymore. I came to understand that we can develop bad and even sinful habits. I had to get into the habit of thinking through what happened and reporting what happened without any additional or misleading information. I also decided that anytime that I made a mistake in what I said that I would correct myself even if I was innocent of trying to change any facts.

The Bible talks about demonic spiritual influences and that we are not to give into them. They often take the form of accepting anything that contradicts how God says to live. Not keeping God's commandments is called sin. James 4:7-8 NKJV says, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." We are to resist sinful influences and thoughts that contradict God's commandments. Sinful thoughts are often called temptations. We are to resist temptations.

Where did these devil spirits come from? Isaiah talks about a spiritual being that rebelled against God and wanted to be like God. Lucifer and his followers are responsible for weakening the nations. God created a good world. In rebellion, devil spirits want to destroy God's creation, and they tempt people to do things contrary to how they were designed by God. This causes trouble in the life of people around the world.

Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJV says,

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, **you who weakened the nations!** For you have said in your heart: "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.

The best explanation as to where devil spirits come from is that this fallen angel referred to in Isaiah took 1/3 of the angels from heaven (see Revelation 12:1) and they were cast to earth, and they became our nemesis to try to incite rebellion against God. They are often called devil spirits in the Bible, but they are also called other names such as the enemy, dragon, destroyer, liar, murderer, Belial, the serpent, and so forth.

In the Garden of Eden, Eve encountered a temptation from a devil spirit or perhaps even Lucifer himself who spoke through a snake. This story teaches us how these devil spirits tempt mankind. It is not a made-up story, an account of folklore, or a fable. It is in the Bible to teach us lesson on how to resist the suggestions of evil devil spirits that are against mankind. It is not a ridiculous story about a talking snake.

Genesis 3:1-5 NKJV says,

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So, what happened there? The devil questioned what God said and then Eve responds by adding to God's words with "nor shall you touch it," and by saying, "lest," namely, perhaps you will die. Then the devil contradicts what God told Adam and Eve to do. God said in Genesis 2:17, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." Adam and Eve disobey God, and it appears they repent. They must leave their privileged life though and eventually die. From then on, people must make up their own mind whether they will follow our good God or follow the rebellion that Lucifer began. It will not be good for those who follow Lucifer's rebellion. Revelation 20:10 NKJV says, "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

I might add that this teaching from Genesis is a typical rabbinical teaching that I read many years ago. Somehow in our modern time, many Jews have lost a proper understanding of this teaching. Eve changed what God said so she did not have the truth anymore. The devil questioned what God said and then said what God said is not true. We should be careful not to change God's commandments. Some say there will be no consequences, but that is not true. Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever." Sometime in the future there will be a judgment for all the people who have ever lived. Some will be punished for their evil behaviors and those who follow God's truths for life will be rewarded for following God's good commandments.

How are we tempted at times? Things have not changed much since the Garden of Eden. The devil will put a thought into someone's mind and then answer the question. The person thinks it

is their thought. Perhaps the devil will say, "Is there a God?" The devil will then tell the person, "There is no God." If they have not committed themselves to God, then perhaps they will accept this lie. The devil will try to tempt people with any number of false statements that contradict the Bible and God's commandments. People that comply with these false ideas and ideals are in opposition towards God and are therefore rebelling against God. We should be careful to follow God and not our own ideas or that which is suggested by these devil spirits. It is important that we know how God has instructed us, so we know how to do what is "right and good."

God opens up the earth and destroys Korach and those associated with his rebellion. The 250 people who were being negative towards the authority of Moshe and Aharon were burned up (a fire came down from God and consumed them). Hebrews 10:30-31 NKJV says, "The LORD will judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." I do not think some people take this very seriously or they would not be living a sinful life.

The Bible teaches us not to commit lashon harah (we are not to speak evil about others). Instead, we should have good thoughts (ayin tovah which means a good eye) and be humble and not greedy (we are to be lowly). Pirke Avot 5:22 talks about this. Pirke Avot is a Jewish commentary. Remember, commentary is not the same as God's word but can be helpful at times. Shaul also taught "ayin tovah (a good eye)." Philippians 4:8 NKJV says, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things."

A number of people had just committed the sin of the 10 spies in the previous portion when they were filled with fear and a lack of trust in God. They should have known better than to have a bad attitude again. Some people were angry about God's rebuke in this portion, so God responds by sending a plague, but Aharon offers up incense to stop the plague. How ironic; the one they wanted to do away with helps them. Aharon's staff buds so designating him as High Priest. Some of the people were unhappy and afraid of God. They should have been grateful for all that God had done for them. They were in the desert. God not only set them free from the severe oppression of the Egyptians, but supplied their needs in a barren desert.

Only the Levi'im (the Levites) were to help with the work of the Mishkan (the Tabernacle in the desert). God chose the descendants of Aharon and the Levi'im (the Levites) to serve Him and receive support from the offerings. The Levi'im were to also give from the offerings they received, and they were not to profane the holy things of God at the Mishkan. The people were to give a little over 10% per year, but the rabbis made the people give more than 20%. Certain years they were to give 10% to the Temple in Jerusalem, every third year they were to give 10% to the Levites and the poor.

Deuteronomy 14:28-29 NKJV says,

At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates. And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

Note that giving also involves helping the poor. They were also to leave the corners of their field for the poor and the stranger (see Leviticus 23:22).

Korach did not understand that God had chosen Moshe and Aharon to lead Israel. It is perhaps a picture of the need for us to accept that God chose the Jews, and the commandments God gave them, and they are God's commandments and God's commandments for everyone. Also, God chose Yeshua to be the Messiah. God gave us His good commandments that give us wisdom and understanding, and we are to receive and use His good gift of the Holy Spirit.

God chose Yeshua (Jesus) as His anointed Messiah who is both God and King (see Jeremiah 23:5-6). God chose to come as a man in the form of Yeshua to die for our sins and rise from the dead (as prophesied in Isaiah 53); God can do what He wants and just as He chose Moshe and Aharon, Yeshua was the Messiah that God chose for mankind and not any other. Yeshua said in Mark 13:22 CJB, "There will appear false Messiahs and false prophets performing signs and wonders for the purpose, if possible, of misleading the chosen." The false teachings handed down to us by the pagan Roman Empire have led many astray.

Also, do not believe in psychics, fortune tellers, astrology (not to be confused with astronomy), ESP, giving yourself over to being possessed through meditation, (the Bible says that there are devil spirits that want to deceive us), or any of the other curious arts which are devil spirit backed signs. The Bible says there are people who believe in and produce false signs. Ephesians 6:11NKJV says, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." We are in a spiritual battle (not a physical battle), and we need to protect our mind against these false signs and wonders that are produced by devil spirits.³

The Bible says there are other beings (devil spirits) that are against us. Yeshua talks about the **Roman leaders of Israel** (the leadership of Israel was picked by Rome; they are the ones who had Yeshua murdered).⁴ The Roman appointed leaders of his time were thieves who were filled with the demonic. John 10:10 NKJV says, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." The devil and those influenced by the devil will take away your life and keep you from God and from eternal life. Those who operate the demonic arts are focused on their power and do not lead us to the true God. Yeshua came to help us receive the abundant goodness of God.

Just as Aharon was eager to bring deliverance to Israel from the plague, Yeshua was zealous to bring deliverance to Israel and the blessings of God to the whole world. We should remember that God chooses those who serve Him and their spiritual gifting. We should give them the encouragement, honor, and financial support that they deserve. 1 Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV says, "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer is worthy of his wages.'"

³ There are books that cover spiritual warfare and devil spirits. One free resource is at: <https://drlestersumrall.com/books/101-questions-and-answers/>

⁴ Herod was given the position by the Roman Empire as was the chief priest. Yeshua said the Gentiles would put Him to death. A squad of Roman soldiers arrested Yeshua. The Roman leadership put anyone to death who they thought could be a threat.

Shaul quotes this from the Old Testament portion to substantiate what he is saying.

If these so-called teachers do not believe in the Old Testament, you do not have to give to them, right? They just pick and choose what they want to believe. We need to believe in the whole Bible; it is the word of God. The Old Testament is God's word.

The Head of the believers is the Messiah Yeshua (Jesus). He does not lead a worldly organization. Those that Yeshua chooses to lead serve under Him and are chosen by Him. Ephesians 1:22-23 NKJV says about Yeshua, "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

The present-day leadership that are chosen by Yeshua are chosen because of their zealousness for the things of God just as Aharon was zealous to follow God. Willingness to serve, learn, teach, teach God's commandments, follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, integrity, purity, and other godly characteristics are things God requires of leadership. The Bible says leaders will be judged more strictly (see James 3:1).

There are false leaders out there the Bible says. Some leaders are self-appointed leaders and have not been chosen by Yeshua. If they are not teaching you to follow God's commandments, they are false teachers. 2 Peter 2:4 NKJV says, "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment." Do not follow them to the lake of fire. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone," God opened up the earth and destroyed Korach and those who organized the rebellion and then burned up the other 250 rebellious people who followed them. If you are living in sin or think sin is okay, then you are being rebellious.

The Haftarah for Korach is 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22. In the Haftarah portion Israel defeats the Ammonites and Shaul is made king. God was Israel's King, but they still wanted an earthly king. Shmuel (Samuel) tells them to continue to follow Yĕhōvāh (the name of the true God, see Exodus 3:15); Yĕhōvāh desires a people for Himself. He reached out to man in Old Testament times, and He continues to reach out to man in the present and through the Messiah, Yeshua HaMashiach.

**Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts.
(We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)**

They were to guard God's holy place, the Mishkan, and the Levites were to do their work and the Kohen his work. Those of other tribes were not to do the work of the Mishkan. Numbers 18:4

A first-born male son and animals can be redeemed. The first born of a kosher animal is to be sacrificed. Numbers 18:5, 17.

The Levites are not given an area of land to rule. On the assigned years they are to be given the 1/10 tithe. They were to tithe from the tithe they received. Numbers 18:26, Deuteronomy 14:28-29.

The Aaronic Blessing.

ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God, which is pronounced, Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,521 times in the Old Testament portion according to Strong's Dictionary. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name. So, why not use God's real name? According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. In that verse and everywhere we see a name for God in all capitals (in some of our Bibles) it is this exclusive name for God, Yě-hō-váh. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah which means to exist. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. He is our eternal God and creator. I want to honor God's name. Will you also honor God's name?

Some people call God Hashem which means "the name." They dishonor God's name by not using His name. When we honor someone, we use their name in an appropriate way. Christians for the most part do not use the true name of God. Why not begin using His true name and honor Him? Do not be afraid to use God's real name with respect. I say this in order to encourage you to use God's real name because it points to God being our eternal creator.

The ancient rabbis say that is God's name. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh. I have seen God's name pointed as Yě-hō-váh in the Aleppo Codex. Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה).

Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people. So, let's put God's name on his people.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶּךָ יְהוָה, וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ
יְאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיַחַנֶּנֶךָ
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיִשָּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.