



#38 Korach Numbers 16:1-18:32

Torah teaching and teaching, Do Not Get Off Track 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
 Yĕhōvâh – 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)

We live in this world and sometimes experience the things of the world to come. Hebrews 6:4-5 NKJV, "Those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come." This scripture says that we have received the heavenly gift of the Holy Spirit and that we experience to some extent the "powers of the age to come."

Of course, those who minimize what God has given us and deny the working and gifts of the Holy Spirit are not going to experience what God wants for us, but we are those who seek holiness both through God's commandments and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Some people also minimize their commitment to God. and perhaps they even say everything will be okay. Esau was an evil corrupt man who relied on his own efforts. Perhaps he even said that he believed in God. Ya'akov said in James 2:19 NKJV, "Even the demons believe—and tremble!" The Bible says that those who live in sin will end up in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8). There is a hell even if someone told you there isn't.

We are not like Esau who lived after the things of this world and expected that everything will turn out just fine.

Hebrews 12:14-17 NKJV

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.

We are to be firm in our commitment to follow God's commandments; we are to bravely move forward in life as God's holy people with the help of the Holy Spirit. Some teach that we are holy without acting holy; that is not true; what they say doesn't even make any sense. We are to be strong and not weak. 1 Corinthians 16:13 NKJV, "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

It's not all about rules; God is a personal and interactive God. God's power is big enough to reach any and all who desire to be His people. For example, as Yeshua was walking along, a blind man understood that Yeshua was in fact the Messianic King of Israel and kept calling out to Him.

Luke 18:35-43 NKJV

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it gave praise to God."

Perhaps with each declaration, the blind man believed more and more. Our confession can be powerful. I remember years ago praying for some dense fog to lift and I kept asking God out loud over and over for the fog to lift. Thinking about it now amazes me. After perhaps 5 or 6 times the fog lifted! God told Naaman through Elisha the prophet to wash in the Jordan 7 times and he was healed. 2 Kings 5:9-10 NKJV, "Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

We do not always understand why God will answer some prayers and not others. The blind man had faith it says. Perhaps Naaman finally had the faith to be healed after He washed the 7th time. Yeshua tells us to keep asking; He will hear our cries just like He heard the cries of the blind man.

Luke 18:1-5 NKJV

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"

God can and will heal, so keep asking and praying. Yeshua went to synagogue and then afterwards healed Simon's mother and then towards evening, He healed everyone that came to Him. Some say that they want to be like Yeshua, so why don't they follow His example and go to Messianic synagogue and keep the day of rest that God instituted at the time of creation. Genesis 2:3 NKJV says, "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." When you keep Shabbat, you honor the creator. Here is one of the stories of Yeshua healing everyone.

Luke 4:38-40 NKJV

Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them. When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

Isn't that wonderful! Yeshua has such compassion on mankind. God cares about us so remain strong in Him and encourage one another in the truth. Find ways to do that. We need encouragement to stay in the truth because of the pervasive evil religious systems that are out there.

For example, in this portion for today, Korach leads a rebellion. Perhaps he thought that he should be the High Priest because he was a first born; perhaps he thought it was a matter of privilege. Or perhaps he thought he could do a better job, or he just wanted to be in control. God opened up the earth and Korach and those who followed him died. We do not want to mess with God, but people continue to think they can do things their own way. They do not consider that God must be just and **there are consequences for not doing what is right**. There can be double consequences; those that are incurred by doing evil and those that they incur before our Examiner, God. They often believe that they must be in control instead of accepting the goodness and blessings from God.

Continuing on with that thought, just like Korach led a rebellion, the Roman Empire perhaps thought that since they were in control of their kingdom, they should be in control of Christianity. Maybe they thought they could do a better job, or they just wanted to exert control. So instead of doing things God's way, they made up their own system of religion with their own rules instead of God's rules. They chose their own priests instead of the priests that God has chosen.

Constantine made a day of rest to **the pagan sun god** which is Sunday. They detested the people who valued the Bible (the Jews), so they made up their own anti-Jewish Bible and hunted down and killed anyone that had the Hebrew scriptures of the New Testament. The first New Testament included the Hebrew scriptures of the New Testament around 150 AD. For example, their Greek text in John 1:11 NKJV says, "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." This implies that God is done with the Jews. The translation from the Hebrew manuscript of John says, '**the world did not receive Yeshua.**'

The Greek manuscripts have some heretical elements added

They then made it illegal to keep God's feasts under penalty of death ("The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts;" Leviticus 23:2 NKJV.) They are not Jewish feasts; they are God's feasts. Somehow, they decided that a nonbiblical Christianity would be better than the one set up by Jesus Christ and the true God.

Now that they were in control, they could establish their own false priesthood made up by a false hierarchy. Their priests became informants for the empire. Peter was not the first leader of Christianity. Ya'akov was (James) the first leader of Christianity after Yeshua's resurrection. Ya'akov was his real name. We see Ya'akov making the final decisions in Acts 15: "James answered, saying;" Acts 15:13 NKJV.

Not only that, Ya'akov implies that the Gentiles were to learn and follow the Torah. The context deals with the Gentiles. Acts 15:21 NKJV, "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath." Therefore, it is no aberration that in the Hebrew manuscript of James (Ya'akov) that we read in James 1:25, "But anyone who observes himself by the whole Torah, which is the instruction of the Examiner, and stands in Torah, not hearing it [the Torah] in forgetfulness, for if he works the work, his happiness is in his actions."¹ Ya'akov not only says the Gentiles are to learn and keep the Torah, but says we will be judged by God and the Torah in his epistle (Epistle of James).²

Going back to the false hierarchy that they established. They say they are descended from the 12 apostles. The word apostle means sent one and Shaul (Paul) says it is a common ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJV says, "He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry." There have been perhaps millions of sent ones (apostles).

The Lutherans and other denominations have joined the false doctrine of the 12 apostle decent doctrine madness in order to seem legitimate. All the while they hang onto the rebellious doctrine of the Roman Empire. God gave Yeshua, "Head over all things to the church, which is His body;" Ephesians 1:22-23 NKJV. **They are not in charge** and God is the judge. There were 12 apostles that were originally commissioned, but the Bible tells us there are many more sent ones. Also being a teacher or sent one is not to be used as a matter of pride. Perhaps it was Korach's pride that brought him down.

Will you continue to follow this false system that was passed down to us? Since God sent the rebellious Korach and his followers into the earth, what will He do to those who continue living in and pushing this false rebellious system? They say they bring many to God. There are perhaps millions of people who believed and followed God, but some who think they will be in the future kingdom will instead be in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8). It says all "liars" will be in the lake of fire; does that also refer to those who continue to teach the false doctrine passed down to us?

¹ Dr. Miles Jones, [The Epistle of James \(Ya'akov\) a Translation from the Hebrew](#), p. 24.

² The Hebrew says we will be judged by the Torah, but heretics changed the Greek in James 1:25 to say "law of liberty." Anyone who would change the Bible for their own purposes would be a heretic.

Each group of believers can be a glory to God. Seek God's blessings and start doing what is "right and good;" Deuteronomy 6 :18 NKJV. That's right, God's commandments are "right and good." Staying faithful will bring God's blessings and recognition from God. What is more important than that? Some of these false teachers are leading people to the lake of fire for eternity. The Bible says that God does not want anyone to miss out on His future kingdom. Like I have said before. What makes people think that if they do not follow our God and King in this life, they will be in the future kingdom of our God and King? They have declared that God is not their King by the way they live.

2 Chronicles 16:9 NKJV says, "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars." When people do not follow God properly, they bring evil into their lives. The Romans Empire killed true believers in order to push their false doctrine onto the empire. Psalms 33:18 NKJV, "Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy." This Old Testament scripture lets us know that God looks out and cares for His people and His people will be with Him in the future eternal kingdom.

Torah Study

Korach is the name, "Korah" and means, "baldness, ice, hail, or frost."³ In the previous portion Israel sinned through unbelief in God because of the negative report of the spies and now have to spend 40 years in the wilderness (38 more years). In this portion, we see some Israelites 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.

Perhaps this should remind us that we can do no better than follow God's commandments and the leading of the Holy Spirit. His commandments give us wisdom and understanding. 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.'"

God opens up the earth and destroys these rebellious people who were being negative toward the authority of Moshe and Aharon. The Bible teaches us not to commit lashon harah (do not speak evil about others). Instead, we should have good thoughts (ayin tovah) and be humble and not greedy (be lowly).⁴ They had just rebelled in the previous portion in the Bible and God stopped them; they should have known better than to do that again. The people were angry about God's rebuke and 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.

³ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korach_\(parsha\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korach_(parsha))

⁴ Pirke Avot 5:22 is a Jewish commentary on this. 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 4:8-9.

Only the Levi'im (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 (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, other years they were to give 10% to the Levites and the poor. Note that giving also involves helping the poor. They were also to leave the corners of their field for the poor and widows.

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 also who God chose to be the Messiah. God also gave us His good commandments that give us wisdom and understanding, and we are to receive and use the gift of the Holy Spirit.

God chose Yeshua (Jesus) as His anointed Messiah who is both God and King (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, "There will appear false Messiahs and false prophets performing signs and wonders for the purpose, if possible, of misleading the chosen;" Mark 13:22 CJB. 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, believing in extraterrestrial beings (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.⁵

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 killed).⁶ The Roman appointed leaders of his time were thieves who were filled with the demonic. "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." John 10:10 NKJV. 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

⁵ There are books that cover spiritual warfare and devil spirits. One free resource is at: <https://drlestersumrall.com/books/101-questions-and-answers/>

⁶ 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.

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.'"

Shaul quotes 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. They just pick and choose what they want to believe. We need to believe the 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 zealotness 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 stringently.

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. "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;" 2 Peter 2:4 NKJV. Do not follow them to the lake of fire. "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;" Revelation 21:8 NKJV. God opened up the earth and destroyed Korach and the rebellious people who followed him. 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, 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.

Teaching, "Do Not Get Off Track" begins on the next page.

Do Not Get Off Track **(A teaching to accompany the Torah teaching.)**

God's plan for us is to keep His commandments

It is like an agreement; we do our part and then things are settled at the end. There are a lot of things that can go through our head in any season of life. Perhaps we are seeking truth and why not a truth that teaches us to do what is good so we will have a better life. God is the creator of all beings, and He wants us to keep His commandments; it is not a bad plan when we consider how out of control some people's minds can get. So, get yourself under control.

We do not know what will happen in the present or in the future unless God tells us; God knows what will happen and what is best for mankind. God wants what is best for us. He rewards those who had the good sense to do what is right and keep His commandments. It is not true we just say a prayer or receive the Holy Spirit and then we are okay with God. The Bible says that without holiness, "No one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14 NKJV. Yeshua said the Holy Spirit is our helper; the Holy Spirit is not a sign of eternal security; that is not biblical. Accepting the Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit is only the first step in a lifelong pursuit of living right.

God tells us what is going to happen at the end of time. Those who keep His commandments will receive eternal blessings from an all good God. Those who decide to do evil will go to the lake of fire for all eternity. We know that anyone who holds back the truth is a liar. If Bible teachers have been holding back the truth, they are liars. What did it say Revelation? "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone;" Revelation 21:8 NKJV. Not teaching people about the lake of fire is wrong. I do not want to be a liar; how about you?

Life goes by fast; one thing leads to another; it's important to listen to God so we stay in the right direction or we will find ourselves heading in the wrong direction.

Shaul (Paul) said, "Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived;" 2 Timothy 3:13 NKJV. Of course, the most basic way to follow God is to keep His commandments. In this portion, someone who was filled with pride thought he could do a better job than Moshe and Aharon. The people rebelled, a plague ensued because of their wrong thinking and guess who stops the plague? Aharon, the person they wanted to replace stops the plague. If he wasn't around, maybe they all would have died. Some atheists out there say we do not need God. If God left us on our own, maybe no one would be around to complain. It is God that cares about life and wants us to treat each other right.

We do not serve money or custom, or the work of mankind.

Some think that money will give us resources and power. Some think that controlling what others think will make everything fall in line (in order). Some think that the ingenuity of man, our ability to make things and be creative, and the things we develop will be the salvation of society. You can have huge sums of money and not be happy; everyone having the same philosophy of life is a pipe dream because mankind is constantly in rebellion and pride like Korach caused the rebellion in the Torah portion that we have talked about today; ingenuity and things often do not give us long lasting satisfaction. My experience is these people who want riches, those who think controlling is the answer, or those who rely on science and

ingenuity just become selfish and self-centered. I have 4 college degrees and worked towards a doctorate, but the most important thing in my life is my relationship with God.

Serving God is the best way to live. Isn't that what God did for Israel. God set them free so they could serve Him instead of Pharaoh and his lies and false gods. So be set free and serve God. The Torah talks about keeping God's commandments in nearly every portion; there is value in doing what is right. So, we need to hear about following God's commandments frequently. Why follow lies and only live for the things that will someday be worth nothing. Kefa (Peter) said:
2 Peter 3:10-13 NKJV

"The heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

One of my hobbies is the science of astronomy (not astrology which is backed by demons). One of the scientific theories of the end time is that the universe will contract and everything will be destroyed. This fits right in with that scripture we just read in 2 Peter. Isn't that interesting. In these verses, it sounds like God will initiate the end time just like He initiated His creation. He is God; He can do that. We cannot take anything with us after death; neither will anything that exists survive forever. Perhaps the Pharaohs thought their tombs would last forever, but that is not true. When everything on earth is destroyed, everything on Mars and Lyra will be destroyed too (according to NASA, Kepler-62 is a 5-planet system with two planets in the habitable zone in the constellation Lyra)⁷.

A relationship with God brings peace, rest, and contentment.

I have seen the power of God at work in amazing ways. My friend was talking to someone about Yeshua years ago and he asked God to part the clouds for the person as proof that God existed. Amazingly, the clouds parted as straight as a ruler right down the middle of the sky! This is not the normal way God encounters us, but do not minimize what He is able to do. Most of the time, we experience great personal intrinsic riches from God in our lives.

I have great contentment knowing that I know truth and the true God. 1 Timothy 6:6 NKJV says, "Now godliness with contentment is great gain." Godliness means to be devoted and have a high regard for the things of God. Even a believer in the true God can make a mountain out of a mole hill. Why not be content? What amazing truths we have. We know the truths of the universe. Science cannot come to understand them because they are limited in their scope of understanding (pun intended). After all, God is the creator and He knows everything; that includes how the universe will come to an end.

Romans 1:20 NKJV says, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." No one has an excuse because God is revealed in creation. God

⁷ <https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/resources/124/kepler-62-and-the-solar-system/>

formed the world and has been around longer than us. Psalms 90:2 NKJV says, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

How amazing is it that God would have anything to do with mankind. Yet, God cares about us and wants us to know the truth and to do what is right and good. Isaiah 66:2 says, "'For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,' Says the LORD. 'But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.'" Do not have a big ego, be someone who is open to God; a person who respects God and what God says in His word, the Bible.

Korach tried to assume leadership of Israel. Perhaps he was filled with pride and thought things would be better if he were in control. God opened up the earth and destroyed these rebellious people. Perhaps this as a picture of the judgment of God when he sends those who refuse to do what is right to the lake of fire.

God gave us His commands to help us; God cares about us. God wants a people who do what is right and spiritual leaders who are dedicated to keep God's commandments and to teach all of God's truths including God's Old Testament commandments, God's judgment, and the lake of fire. Our spiritual life is important and we don't want to get off track. God is more important than money and all the workings of mankind. We can experience God's amazing works, but most of all, God's peace and contentment can give us a rich and rewarding life.