

Congregation T'shuvat Yisrael – www.Yeshuati.com

Rabbi Bob Benbow

For those who do not know, the Portion name comes from the first word or words of the portion in Torah. This week the name of the Torah portion is Korach and is translated as “Korah” Moses’ cousin.

The Torah Commentary:

*And Moses said to Korah, Hear, I pray you, you sons of Levi: a small thing to you, that the God of Israel has separated you from the Congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself to do the service of the Tabernacle of YHVH, and to stand before the Congregation to minister to them? And he has brought you near, and all your brethren the sons of Levi with you: and seek you the priesthood also? For which cause you and all your company gathered together against YHVH: and what Aaron, that you murmur against him? And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up: And Korah gathered all the Congregation against them to the door of the Tabernacle of the Congregation: and the glory of YHVH appeared to all the Congregation. And YHVH spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, Separate yourselves from among this Congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. And they fell upon their faces, and said, **O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and will You be wroth with all the Congregation?** And YHVH spoke to Moses saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle/tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. And Moses rose up and went to Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. And he spoke to the Congregation, saying, **Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins.** (Num. 16:8-12, 19-26)*

And YHVH God formed man the dust of ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And YHVH God took Adam, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And YHVH God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the Garden you may freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die. (Gen. 2:7,8,15-17) For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree good for food, and that it pleasant / a desire to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also to her husband with her; and he did eat. And YHVH

God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: Therefore YHWH God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. (Gen. 3:5,6,22,23) And YHWH said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years. And God saw that the wickedness of man great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart evil continually. And it repented YHWH that he had man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart. But Noah found grace in the eyes of YHWH. These the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man perfect in his generations, Noah walked with God. (Gen. 6:3,5-9)

What do the above verses have in common? Do you notice a theme in them? One man's acts can bring life or death to himself and others. The sin of Adam brought death upon all mankind. The wickedness of the people brought the wrath of YHWH upon them, and they were destroyed in the Flood. Noah's obedience and walking with God brought him and his family life. Moses was chosen by YHWH for His plans of deliverance, along with Aaron. Look at Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. They had an honored position, but it was not enough for them. One starts talking, and it leads to others talking and then before you know it, there were 250. The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life lead to the downfall of man. *And He said to them, Full well you reject/frustrate the commandment of God, that you may keep your own traditions. ...Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which you have delivered: and many such like things you do. And He said, That which comes out of the man, that defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. (Mark 7:9,13,20-23)*

This applies to one man, and it applies to those who act in a group as one man, for good or for evil. *And YHWH said to him, Surely I will be with you, and you shall smite the Midianites as one man. (Judg. 6:16) So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man. (Judg. 20:11)* One man, an individual or a group. *If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against YHWH, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not to the voice of their father, because YHWH would slay them. (1 Sam. 2:25) O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man for his neighbor. (Job 16:21) Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? (Pv. 20:6) But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eats the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge. (Jer. 31:30)*

The Torah of YHWH, was to be one law for both the natural born and the stranger who joins himself to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Yeshua, One Man, God and Man, One man to fulfill God's plan. *Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Yeshua did, believed on Him. But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Yeshua had done. Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? For this man does many miracles. If we let Him thus alone, all will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said to*

them, You know nothing at all, nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spoke he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Yeshua should die for that nation; and not for that nation only, but that also He should gather together in one the Children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put Him to death. (John 11:45-53) One man, joining together with others can set events in place for life or death. Yeshua was born to die. *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Messiah died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.* (Rom. 5:6-9) Wrath came on Korah and company because of lust and pride. What of us today? Do we have the same tendencies? Will there be a different result for those who stray from what God has given them? Be content and grateful for what God has given you, give Him praise.