

Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

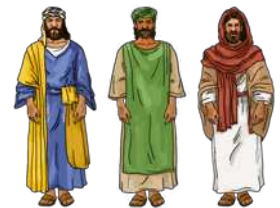
Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Num. 16:1-22	The rebellion of Qorah, Dathan and Abiram and the 250 tribal leaders
Tuesday:	Num. 16:23-50	The punishment of the rebels; The plague upon Yisra'el for grumbling
Wednesday:	Num. 17	The budding of Aharon's rod
Thursday:	Num. 18:1-19	The duties of the priesthood and Lewites; The offerings for the priests
Friday:	Num. 18:20-32	The Torah regarding land inheritance; Tithes for the priests and Lewites

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will continue on our journey in the wilderness with the children of Yisra'el. Here we will learn about a Qehathite named Qorah and his cohorts of the tribe of Re'uben, who coveted different positions from the ones Yahweh had appointed for their tribes. We will witness their anger against Mosheh and the tragic outcome of their rebellion. Now, let's read Num. 16.

PARSHA POINTS

- These are the men who rose up before Mosheh (16:1-2):
 - Qorah, son of Yitshar, son of Qehath, son of Lewi
 - Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliyab and On, sons of Peleth, sons of Re'uben
 - 250 (**matayim chamishim**) men of name, tribal leaders in the congregation (**edah**)



- These men assembled against Mosheh and Aharon and declared, "Enough of you!" - 16:3
- They declared that they were also set-apart, and demanded to know why Mosheh and Aharon elevated themselves above the assembly - 16:3
- Upon hearing their accusation, Mosheh immediately fell on his face - 16:4
- Mosheh then challenged these men to inquire of Yahweh who He had truly set-apart to Himself, and that His answer might be made known to everyone - 16:5
- Mosheh told the angry men that on the following day they were to take fire holders and put fire in them, along with incense, and to bring them before Yahweh - 16:6-7



- Mosheh then took the same statement that they had flung at him and turned it back on them, saying, "Enough of you, sons of Lewi!" - 16:7
- Mosheh reminded these sons of Lewi of the privileged, set-apart status that Yahweh had given them, and confronted them with the following questions (16:8-11):
 - *Isn't it enough* (too little a thing) that Yahweh separated you from the congregation of Yisra'el for the duty of the Dwelling Place, to stand before the entire congregation to serve Him?
 - *Isn't it enough* that He has brought you near to Himself, yet you also seek the priesthood (**kehunah**)?
 - Why are you picking on Aharon by grumbling against him?
- Mosheh sternly alerted them to the fact that they had set themselves against Yahweh Himself - 16:11
- Mosheh sent for Dathan and Abiram, but they refused his summons and challenged Mosheh with these words (16:12-14):
 - *Isn't it enough* (too little a thing) that you have failed to bring us into the land of milk and honey?
 - Do you plan to kill us in the wilderness, in order to take total rule over us?
 - *Isn't it enough* that you haven't given us our promised inheritance of fields and vineyards?
 - Are you going to now bore out our eyes (idiom for 'pull the wool over our eyes') ?
- Dathan and Abiram repeated their refusal to go to Mosheh - 16:14
- Mosheh was upset with their decision, and asked Yahweh to take his side, knowing that he was innocent of their accusations - 16:15
- Mosheh commanded Qorah and his company, along with Aharon, to appear before Yahweh on the following day - 16:16
- They were each to take their fire holders, put fire in them, with incense laid on the fire, and appear before Yahweh at the door of the Tent of Meeting - 16:17
- Qorah and his men assembled the entire congregation against Mosheh and Aharon, and came boldly to the door of the Tent of Meeting - 16:19
- Yahweh's esteem then appeared to all the congregation. Yahweh warned Mosheh and Aharon to back away, because He intended to kill them all - 16:19-21
- Mosheh and Aharon fell on their faces, pleading with Yahweh to refrain from punishing the whole congregation for the sins of a few men - 16:22
- Yahweh then commanded the children of Yisra'el to move away from the tents of Qorah, Dathan, and Abiram - 16:23-24
- Mosheh and the elders went to the tents of Abiram and Dathan and commanded the congregation to turn away from the tents of these wrong men. He told the people not to touch anything belonging to them, lest they be consumed in the sins of the rebels - 16:26



- Mosheh laid before the congregation the proof that Yahweh would now give, to show that Yahweh had sent him to do His works. He said that the ground (**adamah**) would open up and swallow these men alive who had scorned Yahweh, along with all that belonged to them - 16:28-30



- Just as Mosheh finished speaking, the earth opened up and swallowed up all the men who rebelled, with all their households and all their goods, and they went down into She'ol (grave/pit) - 16:31-33
- The children of Yisra'el were terrified when they saw this, and fled from the scene, so as to not be swallowed up as well - 16:34
- At the Tent of Meeting, as the 250 men were trying to offer up incense as a test to see whom Yahweh had chosen, fire come down from Yahweh and consumed them as well - 16:35

- Yahweh asked that El'azar, son of Aharon, take the fire holders out of the blaze because they were set-apart. They were to beat them into a covering for the altar, as a sign to the children of Yisra'el - 16:36-39



- The covering made from the beaten fire holders was to be a visible reminder that no stranger (no one outside of the line of Aharon) must ever come near to offer incense before Yahweh - 16:40
- The children of Yisra'el grumbled against Mosheh and Aharon, accusing them of killing the people of Yahweh - 16:41

- Yahweh's esteem then descended in the cloud over the Tent of Meeting, and Yahweh claimed that He intended to consume the children of Yisra'el - 16:42-45

- Once again, Mosheh and Aharon fell on their faces before Yahweh. Mosheh directed his brother Aharon to take his fire holder and offer incense to Yahweh (prayers) to atone for the congregation, because a plague from Yahweh had begun to strike the people down - 16:45-46



- Aharon hurried to make atonement for the people, for he saw that the plague had already broken out among them. He positioned himself between those that were living and those who had died, and the plague stopped - 16:47-48

- Those who had already died in the plague were 14,700, in addition to those who had died on account of Qorah's rebellion - 16:49



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Go to parsha Bemidbar and research where Qorah, Dathan and Abiram's tents stood in relationship to each other. Did their placement give them easier access to talk and grumble with each other? (Num. 2:10; 3:29)
- Qorah had the most prestigious of the duties of the tribe of Lewi. Why do you think Qorah was not satisfied with his position (Num. 3:29-32; 4:15-16)? Could he have been jealous of Aharon's sons - especially as they had El'azar overseeing all their duties (Num. 3:32; 4:16)?
- Yahweh had recently given Yisra'el the instruction regarding tzitziyot - a sign to show that they were all set-apart to Him. Do you think Qorah felt equal to Mosheh and Aharon as a result of this? (Num. 15:40)
- Why do you think Dathan and Abiram took part in the rebellion? Since they were from the tribe of Re'uben, the firstborn, might they have resented that they were bypassed for temple service in favor of the Lewites?
- When Dathan and Abiram refused to come to Mosheh, were they sending a message that they did not accept his authority any longer?
- When they claimed that Mosheh was pulling the wool over their eyes, do you think they felt they were truly misled by Mosheh or were they trying to plant doubt in others?
- What is She'ol? (Num. 16:30, 33)

