



## 16

- וַיִּקַּח קֹרַח בֶּן־יִזְחָר בֶּן־קֹהָת בֶּן־לֵוִי וְהָיוּ וְאַבְיָהִם בְּנֵי אֱלִיָּאֵב וְאֵיוֹן בֶּן־פִּלְגֵּת בְּנֵי רְאוּבֵן:
- וַיִּקְמוּ לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה וְאַנְשֵׁים מִבְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאֲתָיִם נָשִׂיאֵי עֵדָה קְרָאִי מוֹעֵד אֲנָשֵׁי־שָׁם:
- וַיִּקְהָלוּ עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֵיהֶם רַב־לָכֶם כִּי כָל־הָעֵדָה כָּלֶם קֹדְשִׁים וּבְתוֹכָם יְהוָה וּמִדּוּעַ תִּתְנַשְּׂאוּ עַל־קֹהֶל יְהוָה:
- וַיִּשְׁמַע מֹשֶׁה וַיִּפֹּל עַל־פָּנָיו:
- וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל־קֹרַח וְאֶל־כָּל־עֲדָתוֹ לֵאמֹר בֹּקֶר וַיָּלַע יְהוָה אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־לָו וְאֶת־הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְהַקְרִיב אֵלָיו וְאֶת אֲשֶׁר יִבְחָר־בּוֹ יִקְרִיב אֵלָיו:
- זֹאת עֲשׂוּ קְהִילְכֶם מִתְּחֹלֶת קֹרַח וְכָל־עֲדָתוֹ:
- וַתֵּנוּ בָהֶם אֵשׁ וְנִשְׁיִמוּ עֲלֵיהֶם וְקִטְרֶת לִפְנֵי יְהוָה מִחֹר מִחֹר הָאֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחָר יְהוָה הוּא הַקֹּדֶשׁ רַב־לָכֶם בְּנֵי לֵוִי:
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־קֹרַח שְׁמַעֲדָנָא בְנֵי לֵוִי:
- הַמַּעַט מִכֶּם כִּי־הִבְדִּיל אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתְכֶם מֵעַדָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַקְרִיב אֶתְכֶם אֵלָיו לַעֲבֹד אֶת־עֲבֹדַת מִשְׁכָּנוֹ יְהוָה וְלַעֲמֹד לִפְנֵי הָעֵדָה לְשֹׁרְתָם:
- וַיִּקְרַב אֹתָם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲחֵיר בְּנֵי־לֵוִי אֹתָם וּבִקְשׁתֶּם גִּם־כֹּהֲנָה:
- 1 Now Korah, son of Izhar son of Kohath son of Levi, betook himself, (betook himself Lit. “took”; nuance of Heb. uncertain.) along with Dathan and Abiram sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—descendants of Reuben (descendants of Reuben According to Num. 26.5, 8–9, Eliab was son of Pallu, son of Reuben.) —
- 2 to rise up against Moses, together with two hundred and fifty Israelites, chieftains of the community, chosen in the assembly, men of repute.
- 3 They combined against Moses and Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! For all the community are holy, all of them, and הוֹדִי is in their midst. Why then do you raise yourselves above הוֹדִי’s congregation?”
- 4 When Moses heard this, he fell on his face. (he fell on his face Perhaps in the sense of “his face fell.”)
- 5 Then he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, “Come morning, הוֹדִי will make known who is [God’s] and who is holy by granting direct access; the one whom [God] has chosen will be granted access.
- 6 Do this: You, Korah and all your (your Lit. “his.”) band, take fire pans,
- 7 and tomorrow put fire in them and lay incense on them before הוֹדִי. Then the candidate (candidate Lit. “participant whose involvement defines the depicted situation”; trad. “man.” See the Dictionary under ’ish.) whom הוֹדִי chooses, he shall be the holy one. You have gone too far, sons of Levi!”
- 8 Moses said further to Korah, “Hear me, sons of Levi.
- 9 Is it not enough for you that the God of Israel has set you apart from the community of Israel and given you direct access, to perform the duties of הוֹדִי’s Tabernacle and to minister to the community and serve them?
- 10 Now that [God] has advanced you and all your fellow Levites with you, do you seek the priesthood too?

[illegible]

19 All the sacred gifts that the Israelites set aside for I give to you, to your sons, and to the daughters that are with you, as a due for all time. It shall be an everlasting covenant of salt (covenant of salt See Lev. 2.13.) before you and for your offspring as well.

20 And I said to Aaron: You shall, however, have no territorial share among them or own any portion in their midst; I am your portion and your share among the Israelites.

21 And to the Levites I hereby give all the tithes in Israel as their share in return for the services that they perform, the services of the Tent of Meeting.

22 Henceforth, Israelites shall not trespass on the Tent of Meeting, and thus incur guilt and die:

23 only Levites shall perform the services of the Tent of Meeting; others (others Lit. "they.") would incur guilt. It is the law for all time throughout the ages. But they shall have no territorial share among the Israelites;

24 for it is the tithes set aside by the Israelites as a gift to me that I give to the Levites as their share. Therefore I have said concerning them: They shall have no territorial share among the Israelites.

25 I spoke to Moses, saying:

26 Speak to the Levites and say to them: When you receive from the Israelites their tithes, which I have assigned to you as your share, you shall set aside from them one-tenth of the tithe as a gift to me.

27 This shall be accounted to you as your gift. As with the new grain from the threshing floor or the flow from the vat,

28 so shall you on your part set aside a gift for me from all the tithes that you receive from the Israelites; and from them you shall bring the gift for me to Aaron the priest.

29 You shall set aside all gifts due to me from everything that is donated to you, from each thing its best portion, the part thereof that is to be consecrated.

30 Say to them further: When you have removed the best part from it, you Levites may consider it the same as the yield of threshing floor or vat.

כל ׀ תרומת הקדשים אשר ירימו בני־ישראל ליהוה נתתי לה ולבניך ולבנותיך אתה לתקיעולם בריח מלח עולם הוא לפני יהוה לה ולזרעך אתה:

וְאָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּאַרְצֶם לֹא תִחַל וְחֶלֶק לֹא־יִהְיֶה לָּךְ בְּתוֹכָם אֲנִי חֶלְקְךָ וְנִחְלַתְךָ בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

וּלְבָנֵי לִוֵּי הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי כְּלִמְעֶשֶׂר בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לְנִחְלָה חֶלֶף עֲבֹדָתָם אֲשֶׁר־הֵם עֹבְדִים אֶת־עֲבֹדַת אֱהֵל מוֹעֵד:

וְלֹא־יִקְרְבוּ עוֹד בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־אֱהֵל מוֹעֵד לְשָׂאת חֲטָא לְמוֹת:

וְעֹבֵד הַזֶּה־נָּה הוּא אֶת־עֲבֹדַת אֱהֵל מוֹעֵד וְהֵם יִשְׁאוּ עוֹנָם חֶקֶת עוֹלָם לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם וּבְתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִנְחֻלוּ נִחְלָה:

כִּי אֶת־מְעֶשֶׂר בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר יָרִימוּ לַיהוָה תְּרוֹמָה נָתַתִּי לְלוּוִים לְנִחְלָה עַל־כֵּן אִמְרַתִּי לָהֶם בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִנְחֻלוּ נִחְלָה:

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

וְאֶל־הַלוּוִים תְּדַבֵּר וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם כִּי־תִקְחוּ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַמְעֶשֶׂר אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לָכֶם מֵאִתָּם בְּנִחְלַתְכֶם וְהִרְמַתֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ תְּרוֹמַת יְהוָה מְעֶשֶׂר מִן־הַמְעֶשֶׂר:

וְנִחְשַׁב לָכֶם תְּרוֹמַתְכֶם כְּדָגֶן מִרְהֹרֹן וּכְמִלֹּאָה מִן־הַקֶּבֶב:

כֵּן תִּרְיָמוּ גַם־אִתְּם תְּרוֹמַת יְהוָה מִכָּל מַעֲשֵׂרְתֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר תִּקְחוּ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּנְתַתֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ אֶת־תְּרוֹמַת יְהוָה לְאֹהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן:

מִכָּל מַתְּנֵיכֶם תִּרְיָמוּ אֵת כָּל־תְּרוֹמַת יְהוָה מִכָּל־חִלְבוֹ אֶת־מִקְדָּשׁוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ:

וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם בְּהִרְמִיכֶם אֶת־חִלְבוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ וְנִחְשַׁב לְלוּוִים כְּתִבּוּאָת גִּרֹן וּכְתִבּוּאָת קֶבֶב:

23 spoke to Moses, saying,

24 “Speak to the community and say: Withdraw from about the abodes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.”

25 Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, the elders of Israel following him.

26 He addressed the community, saying, “Move away from the tents of these wicked men (wicked men Or “guilty parties”—alluding to the crime of insurrection, for which they are about to be punished. Cf. Exod. 2.13; Deut. 25.1; 2 Sam. 4.11. On “men,” see note at Gen. 19.5.) and touch nothing that belongs to them, lest you be wiped out for all their sins.”

27 So they withdrew from about the abodes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Now Dathan and Abiram had come out and they stood at the entrance of their tents, with their wives, their adult children, (adult children So Ibn Ezra. Lit. “children.”) and their little ones.

28 And Moses said, “By this you shall know that it was I who sent me to do all these things; that they are not of my own devising:

29 if these people’s death is that of all humankind, if their lot is humankind’s common fate, it was not I who sent me.

30 But if I brings about something unheard-of, so that the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, you shall know that those involved have spurned I.”

31 Scarcely had he finished speaking all these words when the ground under them burst asunder,

32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up with their households, all Korah’s people and all their possessions.

33 They went down alive into Sheol, with all that belonged to them; the earth closed over them and they vanished from the midst of the congregation.

34 All Israel around them fled at their shrieks, for they said, “The earth might swallow us!”

35 And a fire went forth from me and consumed the two hundred and fifty contestants (contestants Lit. “participants whose involvement defines the depicted situation.” Trad. “men.” See the Dictionary under ‘ish.) offering the incense.

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

דַּבֵּר אֶל־הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר הָעֵלּוּ מִסָּבִיב לְמִשְׁכַּן־קֹרַח הָזֶה וְאֲבִירָם:

וַיָּקָם מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־הֵתָן וְאֲבִירָם וַיִּלְכוּ אַחֲרָיו וְקָנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל־הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר סוּרוּ זֹא מֵעַל אֲהֵלֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָרָשָׁעִים הָאֵלֶּה וְאֶל־תִּנְעֻזוּ בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם כְּדֹתְסָפוֹ בְּכָל־חַטָּאתָם:

וַיָּעֵלּוּ מֵעַל מִשְׁכַּן־קֹרַח הָזֶה וְאֲבִירָם מִסָּבִיב וְהָתָן וְאֲבִירָם יָצְאוּ נִצָּבִים פָּתַח אֲהֵלֵיהֶם וּנְשֵׁיהֶם וּבְנֵיהֶם וְטַפָּם:

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה בּוֹאֵת תִּדְעוּן כִּי־יְהוָה שְׁלַח־נִי לַעֲשׂוֹת אֵת כָּל־הַמַּעֲשִׂים הָאֵלֶּה כִּי־לֹא מִלְּבִי:

אִם־כְּמוֹת כָּל־הָאָדָם יִמָּתֶנּוּ אֵלֶּה וּפְקוּדָה כָּל־יִתְאֲלֹם יִפְקֹד עֲלֵיהֶם לֹא יְהוָה שְׁלַח־נִי:

וְאִם־בִּרְיָאֵה יִבְרָא יְהוָה וּפְצָתָה הָאֲדָמָה אֶת־פִּיהָ וּבִלְעָה אֶתֶּם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם וַיִּרְדּוּ חַיִּים שְׂאֵלָה וַיִּדְעֻתֶם כִּי נֶאֱצוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה אֶת־יְהוָה:

וַיְהִי כִכְלֹו לְדַבֵּר אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַתִּבְקַע הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר תַּחְתֵּיהֶם:

וַתִּפְתַּח הָאָרֶץ אֶת־פִּיהָ וַתִּבְלַע אֹתָם וְאֶת־בֵּיתֵיהֶם וְאֵת כָּל־הָאֲדָם אֲשֶׁר לָקְרַח וְאֵת כָּל־הַרְקוּשׁ:

וַיִּרְדּוּ הֵם וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם חַיִּים שְׂאֵלָה וַתִּכַּס עֲלֵיהֶם הָאָרֶץ וַיֵּאבְדּוּ מִתוֹךְ הָעֵדָה:

וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר סָבִיבֵיהֶם נָסוּ לִקְלֹם כִּי אָמְרוּ פִּרְתַּבְלַעֲנוּ הָאָרֶץ:

וְאִשׁ יָצְאָה מֵאֵת יְהוָה וַתֹּאכַל אֵת הַחֲמִשָּׁשִׁים וּמֵאֲחֵזִים אִישׁ מִקְרִיבֵי הַקֶּטֶרֶת:



- 26 This Moses did; just as הוהי had commanded him, so he did.
- 27 But the Israelites said to Moses, “Lo, we perish! We are lost, all of us lost!
- 28 Everyone who so much as ventures near יהוה's Tabernacle must die. Alas, we are doomed to perish!”

## 18

- 1 ויאמר יהוה אלי־אהרן אתה ובניך ובית־אבירן אתך תשאון את־עון המקדש ואתה ובניך אתך תשאון את־עון כהנתכם:
- 2 You shall also associate with yourself your kinsmen the tribe of Levi, your ancestral tribe, to be attached to you and to minister to you, while you and your sons under your charge are before the Tent of the Pact. (while you and your sons ... Tent of the Pact Force of Heb. uncertain.)
- 3 They shall discharge their duties to you and to the Tent as a whole, but they must not have any contact with the furnishings of the Shrine or with the altar, lest both they and you die.
- 4 They shall be attached to you and discharge the duties of the Tent of Meeting, all the service of the Tent; but no outsider shall intrude upon you
- 5 as you discharge the duties connected with the Shrine and the altar, that wrath may not again strike the Israelites.
- 6 I hereby take your fellow Levites from among the Israelites; they are assigned to you in dedication to הוהי, to do the work of the Tent of Meeting;
- 7 while you and your sons shall be careful to perform your priestly duties in everything pertaining to the altar and to what is behind the curtain. I make your priesthood a service of dedication; any outsider who encroaches shall be put to death.
- 8 וידבר יהוה אלי־אהרן ואני הנה נתתי לך את־משמרת תרומתי לכל־קדשי בני־ישראל לך נתתים למשחה ולבגדך לחק־עולם:

- 12 Aaron took it, as Moses had ordered, and ran to the midst of the congregation, where the plague had begun among the people. He put on the incense and made expiation for the people;
- 13 he stood between the dead and the living until the plague was checked.
- 14 Those who died of the plague came to fourteen thousand and seven hundred, aside from those who died on account of Korah.
- 15 Aaron then returned to Moses at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, since the plague was checked.
- 16 (This verse constitutes 17.1 in some editions.) (This verse constitutes 17.1 in some editions.) הוהי spoke to Moses, saying:
- 17 Speak to the Israelite people and take from them—from the chieftains of their ancestral houses (of their ancestral houses I.e., of their tribes.) —one staff for each chieftain of an ancestral house: twelve staffs in all. Inscribe each one's name on his staff,
- 18 there being one staff for each head of an ancestral house; also inscribe Aaron's name on the staff of Levi.
- 19 Deposit them in the Tent of Meeting before the Pact, where I meet with you.
- 20 The staff of the candidate (candidate See note at 16.7.) whom I choose shall sprout, and I will rid (I will rid Meaning of Heb. wa-hashikkothi uncertain.) Myself of the incessant mutterings of the Israelites against you.
- 21 Moses spoke thus to the Israelites. Their chieftains gave him a staff for each chieftain of an ancestral house, twelve staffs in all; among these staffs was that of Aaron.
- 22 Moses deposited the staffs before הוהי, in the Tent of the Pact.
- 23 The next day Moses entered the Tent of the Pact, and there the staff of Aaron of the house of Levi had sprouted: it had brought forth sprouts, produced blossoms, and borne almonds.
- 24 Moses then brought out all the staffs from before הוהי to all the Israelites; each identified and recovered his staff.
- 25 הוהי said to Moses, “Put Aaron's staff back before the Pact, to be kept as a lesson to rebels, so that their mutterings against Me may cease, lest they die.”

- וילח אהרן כאשר | דבר משה וירץ אלי־תוך הקהל והנה החל הנגף בעם ויחל את־הקטלרת ויכפר עליה־עם:
- ויעמד ביר־המתים ובין החיים ותעצר המגפה:
- ויהיו המתים במגפה ארבעה עשר אלה ושבע מאות מלבד המתים על־דבר־קרח:
- ונשב אהרן אלי־משה אליפתח אהל מועד והמגפה נעצרה:
- וידבר יהוה אלי־משה לאמר:
- דבר | אליבני ישראל וקח מאתם מטה מטה לבית אב מאת כל־נשיאיהם לבית אבתם שנים עשר מטות איש את־שמו תכתב על־מטהו:
- ואת שם אהרן תכתב על־מטה לוי כי מטה אהרן לראש בית אבותם:
- והנחתם באהל מועד לפני העדות אשר אועד לכם שמה:
- והיה האיש אשר אכתריבו מטהו יפרח והשכתי מעלי את־חלגות בני ישראל אשר הם מלינם עליכם:
- וידבר משה אליבני ישראל ויחנו אליו | כל־נשיאיהם מטה לנשיא אהרן מטה לנשיא אהרן לבית אבתם שנים עשר מטות ומטה אהרן בתוך מטותם:
- וינח משה את־המטות לפני יהוה באהל העדות:
- ויהי מחרת ויבא משה אלי־אהל העדות והנה פרח מטה־אהרן לבית לוי ויצא פרח ויצץ ציץ ויגמל שקדים:
- ויצא משה את־כל־המטות מלפני יהוה אליב־בני ישראל ויחאו ויקחו איש מטתו:
- ויאמר יהוה אלי־משה השב את־מטה אהרן לפני העדות למשמרת לאות לבני־ימרי וחקל תלונתם מעלי ולא ימתו: