

- 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 הוהי is in their midst. Why then do you raise yourselves above הוהי’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, הוהי 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 הוהי. Then the candidate*candidate Lit. “participant whose involvement defines the depicted situation”; trad. “man.” See the Dictionary under ‘ish. whom הוהי 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 הוהי’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?
- בְּרִלְנִי וְהָיוּ וְאִבְיָאִים בְּנֵי אֱלִיָּאָב וְאִזָּחַר בְּרִדְפָלֶת בְּנֵי רְאוּבֵן:
וַיִּקַּח קֹרַח קֹרַח בְּרִדְפָלֶת בְּרִדְפָלֶת
- חֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאתַיִם נָשִׂאִי עִדָּה קְרָאִי מוֹעֵד אֲנִישֵׁשׁ:
וַיִּקְמֹד לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה וְאֲנָשִׁים מִבְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
- כֻּלָּם קִדְשִׁים וּבְחֻרָם יְהוָה וּמִדּוּעַ תִּתְנַשְּׂאוּ עֲלֵיקֹהֶל יְהוָה:
עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם רַב־לָכֶם כִּי כָל־הָעֵדָה
וַיִּקְהָלוּ
- וַיִּשְׁמַע מֹשֶׁה וַיִּפֹּל עַל־פָּנָיו:
- וְאֶת־הַקִּדּוֹשׁ וְהַקְרִיב אֵלָיו וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר יִבְחָר־בוּ יִקְרִיב אֵלָיו:
אֶל־קֹרַח וְאֶל־כָּל־עֹדְתּוֹ לֵאמֹר בֹּקֶר וַיֵּדַע יְהוָה אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־לֵוִי
וַיִּדְבֹּר
- זֹאת עֲשׂוּ קְחוּ־לָכֶם מִחֹלֹת קֹרַח וְכָל־עֹדְתּוֹ:
- וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחַר יְהוָה הוּא הַקִּדּוֹשׁ רַב־לָכֶם בְּנֵי לֵוִי:
וְהָיוּ בָהֶן אִשׁ וְשִׁמּוֹ עֲלֵיהֶן וְקִטְרֹת לִפְנֵי יְהוָה מִתָּר
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־קֹרַח שְׁמַע־נָא בְנֵי לֵוִי:
- אֵלָיו לַעֲבֹד אֶת־עֲבֹדַת מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה וְלַעֲמֹד לִפְנֵי הָעֵדָה לְשִׁרְתָּם:
כִּי־הִבְדִּיל אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתְכֶם מִעַדְת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַקְרִיב אֶתְכֶם
הַמִּעֻט מִכֶּם
- וַיִּקְרַב אֹתָם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲחֵיהֶם בְּנֵי־לֵוִי אֹתָם וּבִקְשִׁתֶּם גִּם־כֹּהֲנָה:

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 יהוה from all the tithes that you receive from the Israelites; and from them you shall bring the gift for יהוה to Aaron the priest.

29 You shall set aside all gifts due to יהוה 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 of the threshing floor or vat.

31 You and your households may eat it anywhere, for it is your recompense for your services in the Tent of Meeting.

32 You will incur no guilt through it, once you have removed the best part from it; but you must not profane the sacred donations of the Israelites, lest you die.

1 True, it is against יהוה that you and all your company have banded together. For who is Aaron that you should rail against him?"

12 Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab; but they said, "We will not come!

13 Is it not enough that you brought us from a land flowing with milk and honey to have us die in the wilderness, that you would also lord it over us?

14 Even if you had "Even if you had Lit. "You have not even," brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and given us possession of fields and vineyards, should you gouge out the eyes of those involved? gouge out the eyes of those involved Gouging out the eyes was punishment for runaway slaves and rebellious vassals; cf. 2 Kings 25.4-7; Jer. 39.4-7; 52.7-11. "Those involved" (NJPS "those men"; see the Dictionary under 'ish) is a euphemism for self-reference; cf. 1 Sam. 29.4. We will not come!"

15 Moses was much aggrieved and he said to יהוה, "Pay no regard to their oblation. I have not taken the ass of any one of them, nor have I wronged any one of them."

16 And Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company appear before יהוה, you and they and Aaron also [bring] your fire pans."

18 They each took their fire pan, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and took a place at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, as did Moses and Aaron.

19 Korah gathered the whole community against them at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.

20 and יהוה spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "Stand back from this community that I may annihilate them in an instant!"

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לכל־בשר האִישׁ אחד וְחָטָא וְעַל כִּלְהֵעֲדָה תִּקְצָרְוּ: וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵל אֱלֹהֵי הָרוּחַת	22 But they fell on their faces and said, “O God, Source*Source Lit. “God.” of the breath of all flesh! When one member*member Lit. “participant whose involvement defines the depicted situation.” Trad. “man.” See the Dictionary under ‘ish. sins, will You be wrathful with the whole community?”	16 Take as their redemption price,*their redemption price I.e., for human first-born; cf. Num. 3.44ff. For animals see Exod. 34.19–20. from the age of one month up, the money equivalent of five shekels by the sanctuary weight, which is twenty gerahs.
וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:	23 He addressed the community, saying,	17 But the firstlings of cattle, sheep, or goats may not be redeemed; they are consecrated. You shall dash their blood against the altar, and turn their fat into smoke as an offering by fire for a pleasing odor to יהוה.
הִבֵּר אֶל־הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר הָעֵלּוּ מִסָּבִיב לְמִשְׁכַּבְרִקְרָח וְהָיוּ וְאַבִּירָם:	24 “Speak to the community and say: Withdraw from about the abodes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.”	18 But their meat shall be yours: it shall be yours like the breast of elevation offering and like the right thigh.
וַיָּקָם מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־הֵדָתָם וְאַבִּירָם וַיִּלְכוּ אַחֲרָיו וְקָנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל:	25 Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, the elders of Israel following him.	19 All the sacred gifts that the Israelites set aside for יהוה 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 יהוה for you and for your offspring as well.
הָאֵלֶּה וְאֵל־תַּנְצִיּוֹ בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם פְּרִת־סִפּוֹ בְּכָל־חַטָּאתָם: וַיִּדְבֹר אֶל־הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר סוּרוּ זֶא מֵעַל אֶהְיִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הַרְשָׁעִים	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.”	20 And יהוה 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.
וְאַבִּירָם יֵצְאוּ נֹצְעִים פֶּתַח אֹהֶל־הָעֵדָה וְנִשְׁתַּחֲוּ וּבְנֵיהֶם וְנָטְפִים: וַיִּעֲלוּ מֵעַל מִשְׁכַּבְרִקְרָח וְהָיוּ וְאַבִּירָם מִסָּבִיב וְהָיוּ	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.	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.
כִּי־יִהְיֶה שְׁלַחְנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת כִּלְהֵמַעֲשִׂים הָאֵלֶּה כִּי־לֹא מִלְכִּי: וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה בּוֹאֵת תִּדְעוּן	28 And Moses said, “By this you shall know that it was יהוה who sent me to do all these things; that they are not of my own devising:	22 Henceforth, Israelites shall not trespass on the Tent of Meeting, and thus incur guilt and die:
יִמְתְּנוּ אֵלֶּה וּפְקֻדַּת כִּלְהֵאֲלֵם יִפְקֹד עֲלֵיהֶם לֹא יִהְיֶה שְׁלַחְנִי: אִם־כְּמוֹת כִּלְהֵאֲלֵם	29 if these people’s death is that of all humankind, if their lot is humankind’s common fate, it was not יהוה who sent me.	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;
וַיִּרְדּוּ חַיִּים שְׂאֵלָה וַיִּדְעֻהֶם כִּי נֹאצְיוֹ הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה אֶת־יְהוָה: יִהְיֶה וּפְצֻלָּה הָאֲדָמָה אֶת־יִפְיֹה וּבִלְעָה אֹתָם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם וְאִם־בִּרְיָאָה יִבְרָא	30 But if יהוה 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 יהוה.”	24 for it is the tithes set aside by the Israelites as a gift to יהוה that I give to the Levites as their share. Therefore I have said concerning them: They shall have no territorial share among the Israelites.
לִדְבֹר אֶת כִּלְהֵדְבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְתִבְקַע הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר תַּחְתֵּיהֶם: וַיְהִי כְכֹלָהּ	31 Scarcely had he finished speaking all these words when the ground under them burst asunder,	25 וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:
אֹתָם וְאֹת־בֵּיתֵיהֶם וְאֹת כִּלְהֵאֲדָם אֲשֶׁר לָקְחוּ וְאֹת כִּלְהֵרְכּוּשׁ: וְתִפְתַּח הָאָרֶץ אֶת־יִפְיָהּ וְתִבְלַע	32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up with their households, all Korah’s people and all their possessions.	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 יהוה.

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 the Tent to all the Israelites; each identified and recovered his staff.

25 Aaron said to Moses, “Put Aaron’s staff back before the Tent, to be kept as a lesson to rebels, so that their mutterings against Me may cease, lest they die.”

26 This Moses did; just as Aaron 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 the Tent of the Pact must die. Alas, we are doomed to perish!”

18

1 Aaron said to Aaron: You and your sons and the ancestral house under your charge shall bear any guilt connected with the sanctuary; you and your sons alone shall bear any guilt connected with your priesthood.

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 do the work of the Tent of Meeting;

9 וידבר יהוה אל־משה לאמר:

10 הֲרִמּוּ מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה הַזֹּאת וְאִכְלָה אֹתָם כְּרָגָע וְיָפְלוּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם:

11 אֲלֵהֶעָרָה וְכִפֹּר עֲלֵיהֶם כִּי־יֵצֵא הַקֶּצֶף מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה הַתֵּל הַהֶנָּה: וְתַרְעִילֶיהָ אֵשׁ מִעַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְשִׁים קִטְרֶת וְהוֹלֵךְ מִהֶרָה וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן קַח אֶת־הַמִּחְתָּה

12 הַקֹּהֶל וְהֵנָּה הַתֵּל הַהֶנָּה בְּעֵם וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־הַקִּטְרֶת וַיִּכְפֹּר עַל־הָעָם: וַיֵּלַח אַהֲרֹן בְּאֶשֶׁר ׀ הִבֵּר מִשָּׁה וַיִּרָץ אֶל־תּוֹךְ

13 וַיַּעֲמֵד בֵּין־הַמֵּתִים וּבֵין הַחַיִּים וַתַּעֲצֹר הַמִּגְפָּה:

14 אַרְבַּעַה עָשָׂר אֶלֶף וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת מַלְכֵי הַמֵּתִים עַל־דִּבְר־קֶרֶחַ: וַיְהִי הַמֵּתִים בַּמִּגְפָּה

15 וַיֵּשֶׁב אַהֲרֹן אֶל־מִשְׁה אֶל־פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְהַמִּגְפָּה נִעְצְרָה:

16 וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

17 לְבֵית אֲבֹתָם שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר מֵטוֹת אִישׁ אֶת־שְׁמוֹ תִּכְתֹּב עַל־מִטָּהוּ: יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכָח מֵאֹתָם מִטָּה מִטָּה לְבֵית אָב מֵאֹת כְּלִישִׁיָּאָהֶם הִבֵּר ׀ אֶל־בְּנֵי

18 אַהֲרֹן תִּכְתֹּב עַל־מִטָּה לְנִי כִי מִטָּה אֶחָד לְרֹאשׁ בֵּית אֲבוֹתָם: וְאֵת שֵׁם

19 וְהַנּוֹתֵם בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לִפְנֵי הָעֵדוּת אֲשֶׁר אֲנִיעַד לָכֶם שְׁמָה:

20 וְהַשְׁכַּחְתִּי מִעָלַי אֶת־תְּלִנּוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֵם מַלְיָנִים עָלֵיכֶם: וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר אֲבָת־רִבּוֹ מִטָּהוּ יִפְרָח

21 לְבֵית אֲבֹתָם שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר מֵטוֹת וּמִטָּה אַהֲרֹן בְּתוֹךְ מִטּוֹתָם: אֶלְיוֹ ׀ כְּלִישִׁיָּאָהֶם מִטָּה לְנִשְׂאִי אֶחָד מִטָּה לְנִשְׂאִי אֶחָד וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתְּנוּ

22 וַיִּנָּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הַמִּטָּה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה בְּאֹהֶל הָעֵדוּת:

פרח מטה־אהרן לבית לוי ויצא פרחו ונצץ ציץ ויגמל שקדים: ויהי ממתלות ויבא משה אל־אהל העדות והנה

מלפני יהוה אל־כל־בני ישראל ויראו ויִּקְחוּ אִישׁ מִטָּהוּ: ויצא משה את־כל־המטות

למשמרת לאות לבני־מרי ותכל תלונתם מעלי ולא ימתו: ויאמר יהוה אל־משה השב את־מטה אהרן לפני העדות

וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֹתוֹ כֹּן עֲשֵׂה:

בני ישראל אל־משה לאמר הֵן נָנֻעַנו אֲבָדְנוּ כָלִנּוּ אֲבָדְנוּ: ויאמרו

הַקֶּרֶב ׀ הַקֶּרֶב אֶל־מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה יָמוּת הָאָם תָּמְנוּ לָגוֹעַ: כָּל

אֶת־עֲנֹן הַמִּקְדָּשׁ וְאֹתוֹ וּבְנָיו אֹתָךְ תִּשְׂאוּ אֶת־עֲנֹן כְּהֻנָּתָם: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן אֹתָךְ וּבְנֵיךְ וּבְיַת־אֲבִיךָ אֹתָךְ תִּשְׂאוּ

אֹתָךְ וְלָלוּ עִלְיָךְ וַיִּשְׁרְתוּךָ וְאֹתָךְ וּבְנֵיךְ אֹתָךְ לִפְנֵי אֹהֶל הָעֵדוּת: וְגַם אֶת־אֲחִיךָ מִטָּה לְנִי שִׁבְט אֲבִיךָ הַקֶּרֶב

הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְאֶל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ לֹא יִקְרְבוּ וְלֹא־יָמוּתוּ גַם־הֵם גַּם־אֹתָם: וְשָׁמְרוּ מִשְׁמֹרֶתָךְ וּמִשְׁמֶרֶת כְּלִי־הָאֹהֶל אֶךְ אֶל־כִּלָּי

אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לְכָל עֲבֹדַת הָאֹהֶל וְזָר לֹא־יִקְרַב אֲלֵיכֶם: וְלָלוּ עִלְיָךְ וְשָׁמְרוּ אֶת־מִשְׁמֶרֶת

וְאֵת מִשְׁמֶרֶת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה עוֹד קֶצֶף עַל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וּשְׁמֹרָתָם אֵת מִשְׁמֶרֶת הַקֹּדֶשׁ

יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכֶם מִתְּנִים לַיהוָה לַעֲבֹד אֶת־עֲבֹדַת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד: וְאֵלֶּי הֵנָּה לְקַחְתִּי אֶת־אֲחֵיכֶם הַלְוִיִּם מִתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי