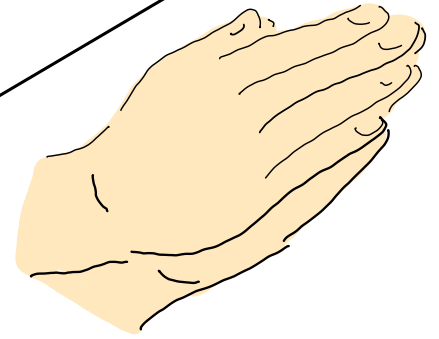
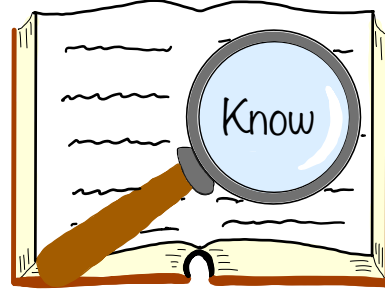


# Korach

# קֹרַח

“Korah”



And Korah gathered all the congregation against them at the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.

Numbers 16:9

## Numbers 16:1-18:32

In this week's Torah portion Moshe (Moses) and Aharon (Aaron) were challenged by the congregation of Yisra'el (Israel), regarding their God-given role of leadership. As a result of this rebellion, many people died.

Following God's judgment of this rebellion, He extended His grace by way of commandments given to Moshe and Aharon for guarding their position and His Holy Tabernacle. These commandments made God's way for salvation known. They provided the way for people to worship and dwell with Him. They also served to protect unclean people from death in the presence of the Righteous God.

In Numbers 16:1-2 we learn that Korah, who was from the tribe of Levi and family of Kohath, together with Dathan and Abiram, who were from the tribe of Reuben, incited 250 leaders from the congregation of Yisra'el to challenge the God-given positions and authority of Moshe and Aharon. Do you remember where and with whom the tribe of Reuben and Levi family of Kohath camped in relation to the Tabernacle of Meeting in the wilderness (Numbers 2:1-29 & 3:6-38)? See if you can correctly label the wilderness encampment on the next page.

### Pray First

Father God,

Thank You for Your righteous judgment against all who attempt to come into Your presence by their own strength and determination. Please help us to submit to the order for salvation and worship You have established. Please give us wisdom not to follow leadership that does not line up with Your Word and grant us courage to speak against such leadership.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen.

### Read Next

Numbers 16:1-18:32

12 Tribes of Yisra'el

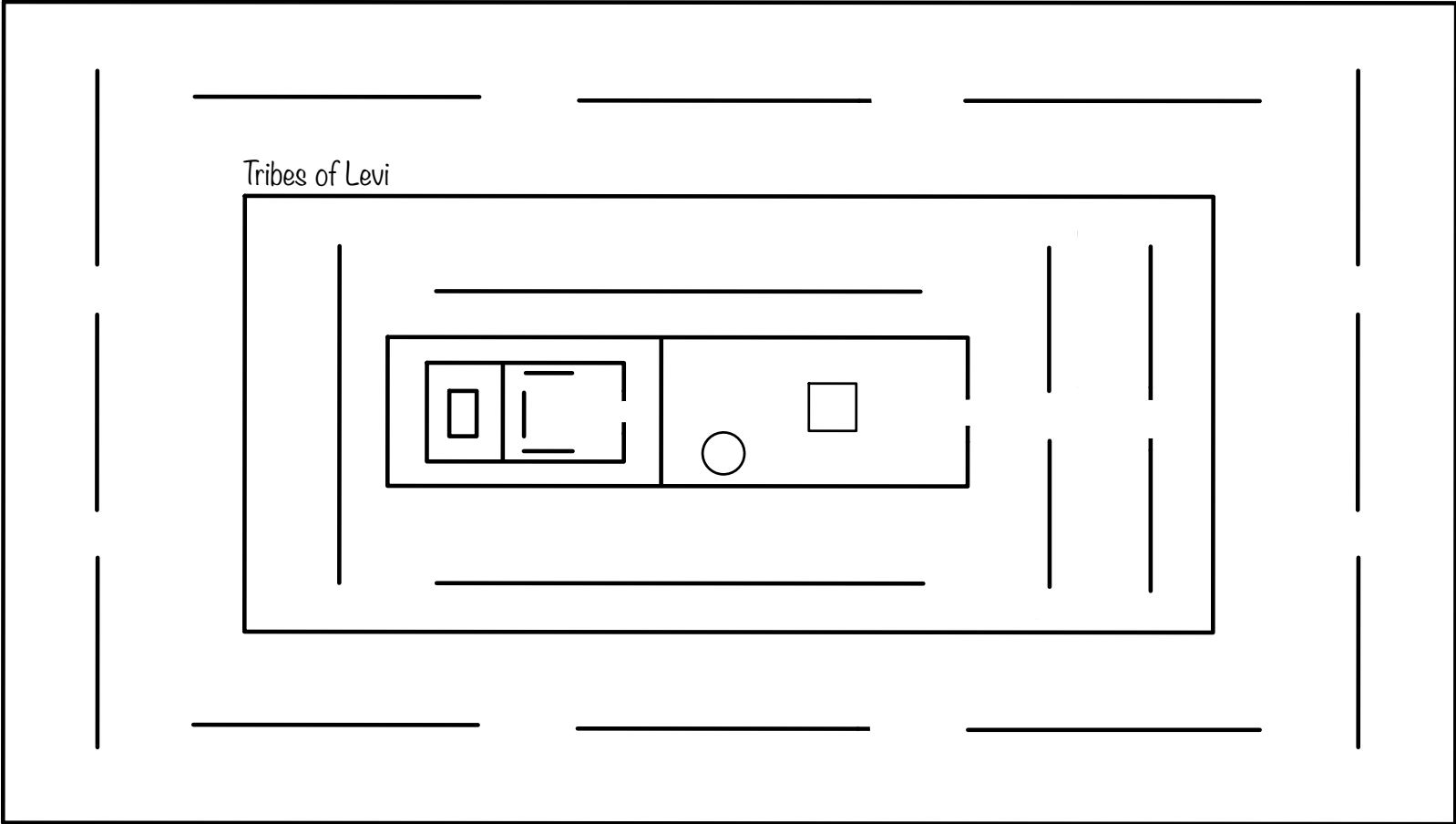
N

W

E

S

Tribes of Levi



- |          |         |       |         |          |          |          |         |         |        |
|----------|---------|-------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|--------|
| Benjamin | Dan     | Gad   | Ephraim | Issachar | Judah    | Reuben   | Zebulun | Asher   |        |
| Aharon   | Gershon | Moshe | Merari  | Ithamar  | Manasseh | Naphtali | Kohath  | Eleazar | Simeon |

# ~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~

## Numbers 16:1-17:11

God called Moshe to lead the people into the Land of Promise, and Moshe had obeyed all of God's commandments. In Numbers 15:37-40 we learn that God commanded Moshe to have the Children of Yisra'el make tassels to wear on the corners of their garments daily to help them remember and do all His commandments. Obeying the commandments of God demonstrates submission to His authority and a desire to be set apart for His purposes. It does not mean one has achieved a higher status before God nor does it mean one can determine for themselves how to worship and serve God. Perhaps this was what Korah, Dathan and Abiram chose to believe and taught others.

In Numbers 16:3 we learn that Korah, Dathan and Abiram along with 250 representatives of the congregation gathered together against Moshe and Aharon saying these words to them: "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?"

In the wilderness God had chosen the tribe of Levi to serve Him in a special way instead of the firstborn sons of Yisra'el. Maybe the tribe of Reuben, the firstborn son of Ya'kov (Yisra'el), resented being replaced by the Levites for special service to God. Following the death of Ya'kov's beloved wife, Rachel, Reuben committed adultery with Rachel's maidservant, Bilhah (Genesis 35:22,49:3-4). This was an act of rebellion against his father, and perhaps this rebellious spirit had continued within the tribe of Reuben for generations.

No matter the rationale of Korah, Dathan and Abiram the actions of these men from the tribes of Levi and Reuben serve to teach us that we must always choose to agree with God. Any time we act in our will or follow the leadership of man instead of the leadership of God we are rebelling against God and will suffer the consequences.

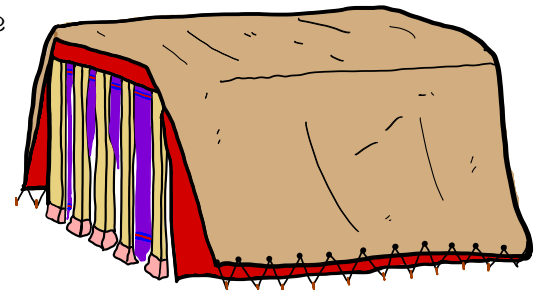
In Numbers 16:4 we learn how Moshe immediately responded to the accusations of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. He fell on his face before God in humble submission to His will and purposes. Whenever we encounter opposition by those who have been redeemed, we should immediately humble ourselves before God. Only after we have submitted our will to the will of God can we effectively be used by Him. Moshe's humility before the LORD demonstrated his greatest desire was for God's will to be done.

In Numbers 16:5 we learn Moshe spoke to Korah and all his company, stating that the next morning the LORD would clearly decide who He had set apart as holy to come near to Him and cause him to come near to Him. The matter would be settled by the Word of God.

In Numbers 16:6-17 we learn Moshe gave instructions for the following day. He told Korah and all his company of 250 leaders to take their censers and put fire and incense in them to offer before the LORD alongside Aharon at the Tabernacle of Meeting. Moshe reminded Korah and the sons of Levi that it was no small thing that the God of Yisra'el had separated them from the congregation to serve Him. He challenged them to consider if it was right to question God's authority by demanding the priesthood also.

It would have been good for Korah to remember and apply to his heart God's judgment of the two sons of Aharon when they offered strange fire before the LORD in a manner God had not authorized (Leviticus 10:1-3). Everyone who comes into the presence of God must respect His righteousness and come in the way He has established.

Unfortunately, Korah and his entire company boldly prepared to appear before the LORD with unauthorized fire. Dathan and Abiram refused to come up from their tents to the Tabernacle of Meeting. None of the 253 men fell on their face in humility to agree with God or seek forgiveness for their sin of rebellion against Him.



In Numbers 16:18-35 we learn that Korah and the leaders appeared with their censers at the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting and stood there with Moshe and Aharon. Additionally, Korah gathered all the congregation of Yisra'el in his support at the door of the Tabernacle. So, the entire congregation of Yisra'el stood in support of Korah's rebellion against Moshe and Aharon, the two servants of God.

When we ignore the truth of God written in Scripture, it is easy to be led astray by false leadership. When we align ourselves with false teachings, we cannot know or agree with God. This is what the 250 men who supported Korah, Dathan and Abriam had done, and this small group influenced the entire congregation of Yisra'el.

Moshe and Aharon were standing together against the congregation, but they were not alone. The glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation and spoke directly to Moshe and Aharon.

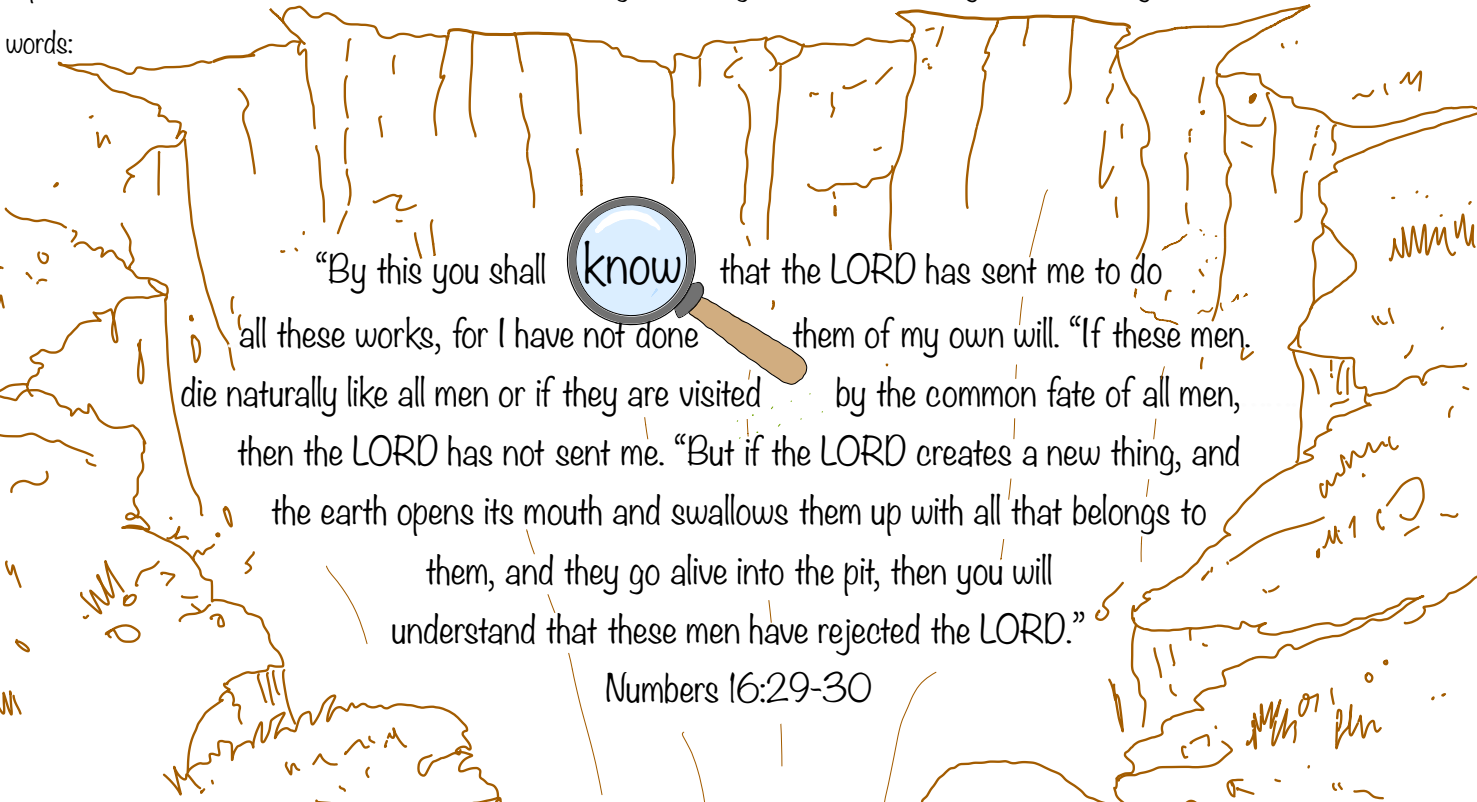
This serves to teach us when we follow the order of God in humble submission to Him, we are never alone. God is with us. We should have no fear of man when we are demonstrating our fear of God by submitting to Him and obeying His commands.

The LORD told Moshe and Aharon to separate themselves from the congregation so that He could consume them for their sin of complicity in this rebellious act against Him. The entire congregation was guilty before God because they were rather ignorant of His word or knew it but failed to defend it.

When we believe the lies of false teachers, we are led astray and joined with them against the truth of God. As a redeemed child of God, it is very important to spend time prayerfully studying His Word so that we are sure to know His truth. If we know the truth of Scripture but remain silent and do not speak out against false teachers, we are guilty with them.

Moshe and Aharon once again fell humbly on their faces before the LORD and requested His mercy for the congregation who had been corrupted by ungodly leadership. The LORD granted their request and spared the lives of the congregation but commanded that everyone get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram in order to escape His righteous judgment.

Moshe rose up and went to Dathan and Abiram. All the elders of Yisrael including Korah followed him. He warned the congregation to depart from the tents of these wicked men and touch nothing that belonged to them unless they be consumed by God. Then Moshe said these words:



"By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. "If these men die naturally like all men or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me. "But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD."

Numbers 16:29-30

From the phrases below underline the one that describes a “new thing” that would demonstrate God’s judgment.

Destroy the earth with water

Death to the first born in Egypt

Confuse the peoples language

Three days of darkness

Ban entrance to the Garden of Eden

Plague of frogs

Earth opens and swallows people

Consuming fire from the altar

Just as Moshe finished speaking these words, the ground split apart, and the earth swallowed Dathan and Abiram. Their entire households went down into the pit alive with Korah and all the men with him including all their possessions. At this time fire also came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering incense at the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting. Everyone who continued in their rebellion of God was consumed, but everyone who separated themselves from these evil men were saved from the judgment of God.

In Numbers 16:36-40 we learn that the LORD commanded Moshe to tell Aharon’s son, Eleazar, to gather the censers of the men who sinned against their own souls and scatter the strange fire and incense a distance away. Eleazar was commanded to hammer the censers into plates as a covering on the altar. This served as a reminder to the Children of Yisra’el that no one can come safely into the LORD’s presence with a rebellious heart. Anyone who rebels against God by attempting to come into the LORD’s presence in an unauthorized way will suffer the same fate as the 250 leaders who followed false leadership.

In Numbers 16:41-50 we learn that the very next day following God’s judgment the entire congregation of the Children of Yisra’el complained against Moshe and Aharon saying:

“You have killed the people of the LORD.”

When the congregation gathered against Moshe and Aharon, they turned toward the Tabernacle of Meeting. Suddenly, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them all. The LORD spoke to Moshe, telling him to get away from the congregation because in a moment He would consume them.


God was comforted after He judged the sin of Korah, Dathan, Abriam and the 250 leaders and offered His Grace to the congregation who had been led astray by these false teachers. Unfortunately, the entire congregation of the redeemed continued to exalt their reasoning above the Word of God.



Moshe and Aharon, once again, humbly fell on their faces. Moshe instructed Aharon to take his censer, put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it and quickly take it to the congregation to make atonement for them because the judgment of God had gone out against them. The plague of death from God had begun.

Aharon obeyed the instructions he was given and ran into the midst of the congregation to make atonement for the people. He stood between the dead and the living that day, so the plague was stopped.

The number of those who died before atonement was made was 14,700. Once the atonement for sin had been made the plague of death was stopped, and Aharon returned to the Tabernacle of Meeting.



And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom;  
thus I will rid myself of the murmurings of the Children of Yisrael,  
which they murmur against you.

Numbers 17:5



In Numbers 17:1-3 the LORD commanded Moshe to speak to the Children of Yisra'el and obtain a rod from each leader of the twelve tribes of Yisra'el. Upon each rod the leader's name was written to identify who the rods belonged to. The LORD commanded Moshe to write Aharon's name on the rod of Levi.

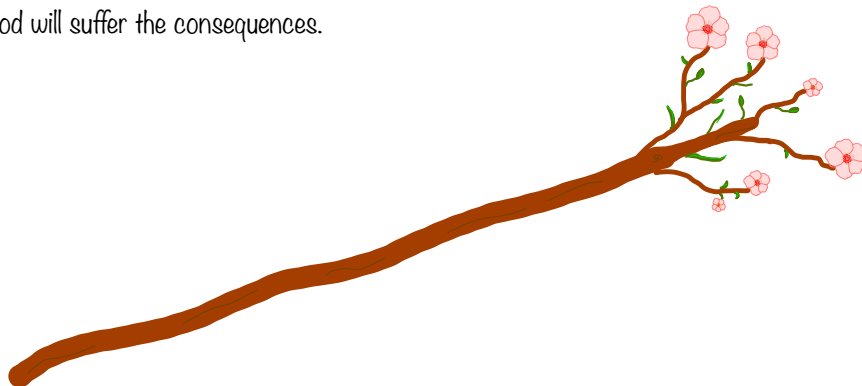
In Numbers 17:4-6 the LORD commanded Moshe to take the twelve rods into the Tabernacle of Meeting and place them in front of the Ark of the Testimony, where the presence of God dwelt in a unique way. The LORD told Moshe that He would cause the rod of the man He had chosen to blossom. He explained He would do this to put an end to the murmurings of the Children of Yisra'el against Himself as they murmured against Moshe.

In Numbers 17:7-9 we learn that Moshe gathered the twelve rods and placed them just as the LORD commanded him. The following day when Moshe went into the Tabernacle the rod of Aharon from the house of Levi had sprouted, put forth buds, produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds.

Moshe brought the rods from before the LORD to all the Children of Yisra'el, and each man took his rod identified by his name. They all witnessed that the LORD had caused Aharon's dead rod to become alive again and produce fruit.

In Numbers 17:10-11 we learn that the LORD commanded Moshe to bring Aharon's rod back before the Testimony to be kept as a sign against rebellion. Moshe obeyed the LORD and did all he was commanded to do.

These events serve to teach us that the congregation of the redeemed must follow the word of God instead of the word of man. Anyone who follows man instead of God will suffer the consequences.



Can you label the rods below according to the twelve tribes of Yisra'el in the order of their birth?  
Genesis 29:32-30:24 & 35:18



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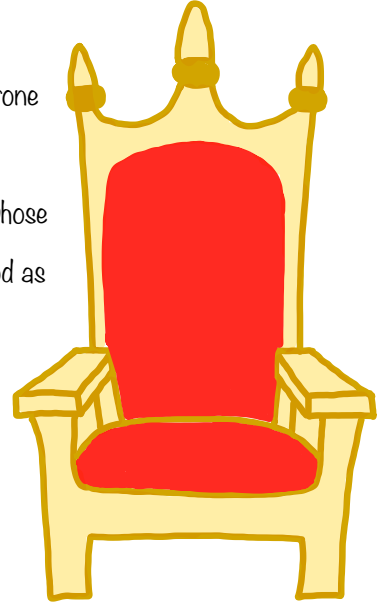
## ~ Haftarah: 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22 ~

In this week's Haftarah God had delivered the descendants of Yisra'el out of the wilderness where their fathers had wandered for forty years due to their rebellion against God. Moshe and Aharon were not allowed to enter the Promised Land, and Joshua was chosen by God to lead the Children of Yisra'el into the Land of Promise.

The nation of Yisrael had been established in the Promised Land with God as their King, ruling from His throne in heaven for approximately 410 years. God raised up many successive judges within the nation to proclaim His righteous judgment on His people for their sins and lead them back to follow Him through repentance. Samuel, whose name literally means "God has heard," was chosen by God at a very young age to hear His voice. He served God as the last judge of Yisra'el and the first prophet of God in the land of Yisra'el, following the redemption.

Samuel was called to these positions of authority and leadership by God. He obediently led and judged the people by the truthful word of God since the day he was called. However, the people desired to be like the other nations around them with an earthly king, rejecting God Who Himself had saved them out of all adversities and tribulation.

In 1 Samuel 12:3-5 Samuel challenged the nation of Yisra'el to accuse him of any way he had dealt dishonestly with the people during his service to God and man. He stated he had never taken an ox or donkey from the people. He had never oppressed the people or taken a bribe. All the people agreed that Samuel's leadership had been one of honesty and integrity. As God's faithful servant, Samuel was also being rejected by the people with their request for a king. They were rebelling against God and His choice of leadership. They wanted to be like the other nations instead of being set apart for the purposes of God. Samuel had them state they had found no evil cause against him in the presence of God and before the now anointed king of Yisra'el, King Saul.



And when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, "No, but a king shall reign over us," when the LORD your God was your king.

1 Samuel 12:12



In 1 Samuel 12:6-12 Samuel reminded the people of all the great things God their King had done for them from His throne in heaven. This testimony from Samuel served to convict them of their evil demand for another king.



Read 1 Samuel 12:6-12 and put the things God had done for them in order.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD delivered them into the Land of Promise making them dwell in the land flowing with milk and honey.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD raised up Moshe and Aharon to redeem them from slavery.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD brought their fathers up from the land of Egypt.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD sent warriors to deliver them out of the hand of all their enemies on every side.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD caused them to dwell in the land in safety when they followed His order and obeyed His judges.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD rescued them from the hands of the Philistines.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD rescued them from the hand of the king of Moab.

In 1 Samuel 12:13-15 Samuel presented King Saul to them as the king they had chosen and desired instead of God. He proclaimed that at their request the LORD had set King Saul over them. He then commanded them saying these words:

“If you fear the LORD and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God. However, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers.”

1 Samuel 12:14-15

This serves to teach those who have been redeemed what we must do when we have sinned and fallen under ungodly leadership. We must fear the LORD and serve Him only. We must know and obey the Word of the LORD, and we must not rebel against His commandments. If we do these things, then God will continue to bless us under human leadership, but if we do not do these things, the hand of the LORD will be against us. This is why it is so important to know the truth of God’s Word and follow leadership that lines up with Scripture. If we sin by not appointing such leadership, it is crucial that we fear God over man and stand up for what is right in the sight of God.

In 1 Samuel 12:16-19 Samuel announced to the people they should stand and see God's judgment of their evil desire. Samuel called to the LORD Who sent thunder and rain at the time of the wheat harvest. This was the physical judgment of the people's great wickedness of placing their trust in a man rather than God. This destruction of the harvest would lead to famine in the land. All the people asked Samuel to pray for them, so they might not die for committing this great sin of asking for a human king.

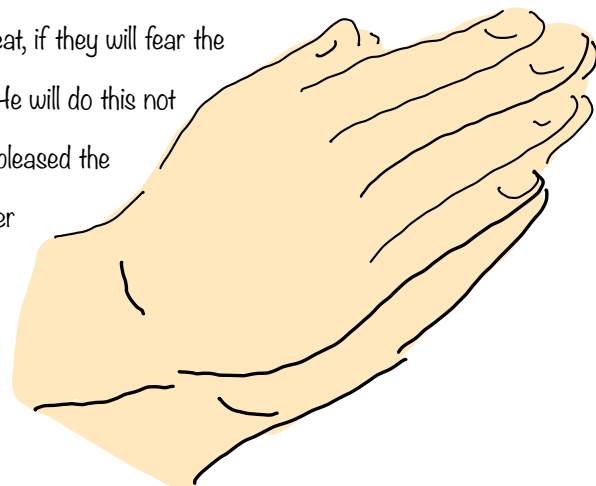
Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth  
with all your heart; for consider what great  
things He has done for you.

1 Samuel 12:24

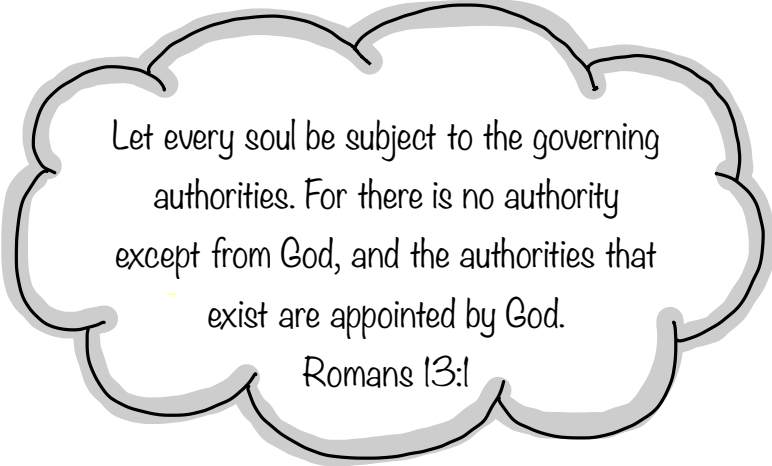
But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept  
away, both you and your king.

1 Samuel 12:25

In 1 Samuel 12:20-25 Samuel reassured the people that even though their sin is great, if they will fear the LORD, return to follow Him and serve Him with all their heart, He will not forsake them. He will do this not because they deserve His grace but for His great Name's sake. Samuel explained that it pleased the LORD to redeem the people and make them His people. Therefore, they should not go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver them because the things of the world amount to nothing. Those who continue to act wickedly in rebellion to God, following corrupt leadership will be swept away.



## ~ New Testament: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 ~



Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Romans 13:1

In today's New Testament Scripture the Apostle Paul is addressing those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God, Messiah Yeshua, who live in Rome. These people had received new life, having been saved from the judgment of their sins through the work of redemption. They were now able to worship God and serve Him as He dwelt with them in a unique way through the indwelling Holy Spirit. This was possible because of the cleansing atonement made for them by the High Priest of God, Yeshua, Who is the Son of God and our King.

The authority of the Son of God and the Holy Spirit of God to accomplish these things for the believer come from God the Father. They are the only authorities that exist to accomplish these things for the believer, and they alone are appointed by God to do so forever.

In Romans 13:1 Paul explained this truth to the new believers in Rome. He explained that there is only one Way to come into God's presence. That Way is through the authorities God has put in place for this purpose. Anyone who attempts to come into the presence of God by any other way will subject his soul to the same judgment of God that Korah, Dathan, Abriam and the 250 leaders of Yisra'el did.

In Romans 13:2 Paul explained that whoever rebels against the authority God has established to come into His presence will bring judgment upon themselves. This was firmly established under the old covenant in the days of Moshe, and it is firmly established today under the new covenant of Messiah Yeshua.

In Romans 13:3 Paul explained these authorities were established by God not to punish those who do good but to judge those who do evil. Anytime we do not follow God's authority and order we are working against Him and this is evil. Paul also explained that if one follows the order and authority of God He has no judgment of God to fear. That one is considered in the will of God doing good and will receive His praise.

In Romans 13:4 Paul explained that God's authorities have been set in place by Him to minister good to those who submit to them. However, those who rebel against them should be afraid because God will judge with His consuming wrath through the same authorities He has put in place to save. Anyone who does not follow God's Way to salvation and life through the authorities He has established will perish.

In Romans 13:5-7 Paul explained that believers are to respect and follow all leadership that lines up with the Word of God. Paul gives examples of such support for Godly leadership among men to include paying taxes and abiding by the customs of leadership.

Just as in the days of Korah it is very important today for the believer to prayerfully study the Scriptures, so we can the truth of God. Knowing God's truth and diligently applying it to our lives will give us the discernment needed to not obey evil leadership or believe false teachings. We should never assume all leadership is pleasing to God and must be followed. If that were true, why did God judge the leadership of Korah and his men? We must know God's truth to identify Godly leadership and only follow those who are in line with the will of God. Ungodly leaders will be judged by God along with all those who obeyed them whether out of ignorance or arrogance.



Just as in the days of Samuel, it is very important today for the believer to understand that God gives us ungodly leadership due to the sinful desires of our hearts. When this occurs, believers must repent and align themselves with the order and truth of God. God will have mercy on the repentant believer for the sake of His Name. We should never believe all leadership is pleasing to God and must be followed. If that were true, why did God judge the people for desiring a man to be their king? As believers we must know the Truth of Scripture and live by it to have Godly leadership. If we have fallen under ungodly leadership, it is the result of our sin and we must repent and do what is right in the sight of God.

God will perform all His promises for the sake of His Name. We must stand against ungodly leadership or we will be swept away with it by God's judgment.

We must know God's Word to identify Godly leadership and only follow those who are in agreement with Him. Ungodly leadership will be judged by God along with all those who followed it whether out of ignorance or fear of man.

# Recap Review Fun

Directions: Mark each statement below (T) true or (F) false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Korah was from the tribe of Issachar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Moshe and Aharon were from the tribe of Levi.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Dathan and Abriam were from the tribe of Dan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. When someone is set apart as holy, they are equal to God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Moshe and Aharon always agreed with God and humbled themselves before Him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The ground opened and swallowed Korah and all those attached to him alive.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Fire rained down from heaven and destroyed the 250 men with strange fire in their censers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. When we do not know or ignore the truth of Scripture it is easy to disagree with God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. We should obey all leaders because they are appointed by God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. When we fear God and submit to His order, He is always with us.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. God will greatly reward everyone who believes false teaching.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. When we disagree with God, we are rebelling against Him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. When Aharon put fire from the altar in his censer and made atonement for the congregation, the plague of death sent from God was stopped.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. God distinguished Aharon's rod from the others by breaking it in two pieces.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Aharon's rod was kept before the Ark of the Testimony as a reminder that there is only one way to come safely into God's presence.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Approximately 410 years after God delivered the Children of Yisrael into the Land of Promise they demanded a human king.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. God gave the people what they asked for by commanding Samuel to anoint Saul as the first human king of Yisrael.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. After Saul was anointed the first king of Yisrael God judged the nation by making all the first born in the land die.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. God punished the nation of Yisrael for desiring the things of the world more than the things of the Kingdom of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Following God's judgment of thunder and rain destroying the wheat harvest the people laughed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Samuel instructed the people who had rebelled against God's leadership to fear God and serve Him in truth with all their heart while considering the great things He had done for them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Samuel warned the people not to continue to rebel against God or they and their king would be swept away.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. We are honoring God when we obey false leadership.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. Only when leadership agrees with the order and truth of God should it be followed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. Ungodly leaders will be judged by God along with all who follow them