

The book of Numbers

Korach - קרח



Destruction of Korah Dathan and Abiram (illustration from the 1890 Holman Bible)

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Korach is the 38th weekly Torah portion (פְּרָשָׁה, parashah) in the annual Jewish cycle of Torah reading and the fifth in the Book of Numbers. It tells of Korach's failed attempt to overthrow Moses.

It constitutes Numbers 16:1–18:32. The parashah is made up of 5,325 Hebrew letters, 1,409 Hebrew words, 95 verses, and 184 lines in a Torah Scroll (סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה, Sefer Torah). Jews generally read it in June or July.

 **Aliya: Kohen-Chessed-Abraham** 

In the first reading (עלייה, aliyah), the Levite Korah son of Izhar joined with the Reubenites Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On, son of Peleth and 250 chieftains of the Israelite community to rise up against Moses. Korah and his band asked Moses and Aaron why they placed themselves above the rest of the community, for the entire congregation is holy. Moses told Korah and his band to take their fire pans and put fire and incense on them before God. Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, but they refused to come.

Chapter: 16

1. וַיִּקְוּ קָרוֹחַ בֶּן-יִצְחָר בֶּן-קָהָת בֶּן-לֵוִי וְדָתָן וַאֲבִירָם בְּנֵי אֶלְיָאֵב וְאֹן בֶּן-פַּלְתִּי בְּנֵי רְאוּבֵן:

1. Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Pallu, the son of Reuben, made themselves ready,
2. וַיָּקָמוּ לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה וְאַנְשֵׁים מִבְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל זֹמְשִׁים וּמְאִתָּיִם נְשִׂאֵי עֲדָה קְרָאִי מוֹעֵד אֲנָשֵׁי-שֵׁם:

2. And came before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty chiefs of the people, men of good name who had a place in the meeting of the people.
3. וַיִּקְהָלוּ עַל-מֹשֶׁה וְעַל-אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם רַב-לָכֶם ֹ כִּי כָל-הָעֵדָה כָּלָם קְדָשִׁים וּבְתוֹכְכֶם יְהוָה וּבְמִדּוּעַ תִּתְנַשְּׂאוּ עַל-קָהָל יְהוָה:

3. They came together against Moses and against Aaron, and said to them, You take overmuch on yourselves, seeing that all the people are holy, every one of them, and YHVH is among them; why then have you put yourselves in authority over the people of the Lord?

4. וישמע בנשה ויפל על-פניו:

4. And Moses, hearing this, went down on his face;

5. וידבר אל-קרוז ואל-כל-עדתו לאמר בקר וידע יהוה את-אשר-לו

ואת-הקדוש והקריב אליו ואת אשר יבזר-בו יקריב אליו:

5. And he said to Korah and his band, In the morning YHVH will make clear who are his, and who is holy, and who may come near him: the man of his selection will be caused to come near him.

6. ואת עשו קוזו-לכם מוזותות קרוז וכל-עדתו:

6. So do this: let Korah and all his band take vessels for burning perfumes;

7. ותנו בהן אש ושיבו עליהן קטרת לפני יהוה מוזר והיה האיש אשר-

יבזר יהוה הוא הקדוש רב-לכם בני לוי:

7. And put spices on the fire in them before YHVH tomorrow; then the man marked out by YHVH will be holy: you take overmuch on yourselves, you sons of Levi.

8. ויאמר בנשה אל-קרוז שמעו-נא בני לוי:

8. And Moses said to Korah, Give ear now, you sons of Levi:

9. המעט מכם פי-הבדיל אלהי ישראל אתכם מעדת ישראל להקריב

אתכם אליו לעבד את-עבדת משכן יהוה ולעמד לפני העדה לשרתם:

9. Does it seem only a small thing to you that the God of Israel has made you separate from the rest of Israel, letting you come near himself to do the work of the House of the Lord, and to take your place before the people to do what has to be done for them;

10. ויקרב אתה ואת-כל-אזיך בני-לוי אתה ובקשתם גם-כהנה:

10. Letting you, and all your brothers the sons of Levi, come near to him? and would you now be priests?

11. לכן אתה וכל-עדתך הנערים על-יהוה ואהרן מה-הוא פי (תלונז)

תלונז עליו:

11. So you and all your band have come together against the Lord; and Aaron, who is he, that you are crying out against him?

12. וישלז בנשה לקרא לדתן ולאבירם בני אביאב ויאמרו לא נעלה:

12. Then Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: and they said, We will not come up:

13. הַבְּעֵט כִּי הֶעֱלִיתֵנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ זָבֹת וְזֹלָב וְדָבַשׁ לְהַמִּיתֵנוּ בְּמִדְבָּר כִּי-

תִּשְׁתַּרְר עָלֵינוּ זֶם-הַשְּׂתַרְר: (ס)

13. Is it not enough that you have taken us from a land flowing with milk and honey, to put us to death in the waste land, but now you are desiring to make yourself a chief over us?



In the second reading (עליה, aliyah), the next day, Korah and his band took their fire pans and gathered the whole community against Moses and Aaron at the entrance of the Tabernacle.

14. אֵף לֹא אֵל-אֶרֶץ זָבֹת וְזֹלָב וְדָבַשׁ הֵבִיאָתֵנוּ וְתִתֵּן-לָנוּ נְזֻלָּת שְׂדֵה וְכַרְם

הָעֵינִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָהֵם תִּנָּקֵר לֹא נַעֲלֶה:

14. And more than this, you have not taken us into a land flowing with milk and honey, or given us a heritage of fields and vine-gardens: will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up.

15. וַיִּזְזַר לְבוֹשֶׁה בְּמַד וַיֹּאמֶר אֵל-יְהוָה אֵל-תִּפְּן אֵל-מִנְזוֹתָם לֹא זִמְזֹר אֲזוֹר

מֵהֶם נִשְׂאתִי וְלֹא הִרְעֵתִי אֶת-אֲזוֹר מֵהֶם:

15. Then Moses was very angry, and said to the Lord, Give no attention to their offering: not one of their asses have I taken, or done wrong to any of them.

16. וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֵל-קְרוּז אֶתְה וְכָל-עַרְתְּךָ הֵיוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֶתְה וְהֵם וְאֶהָרֹן

בְּזוֹר:

16. And Moses said to Korah, You and all your band are to come before YHVH tomorrow, you and they and Aaron:

17. וְקָזָוּ | אִישׁ בְּמוֹזָתָתוֹ וַנִּתְּתָם עֲלֵיהֶם קְטֹרֶת וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אִישׁ
בְּמוֹזָתָתוֹ זֹבְשִׁים וּבְמֵאתִים בְּמוֹזָתָת וְאַתָּה וְאַהֲרֹן אִישׁ בְּמוֹזָתָתוֹ:

17. And let every man take a vessel for burning perfumes, and put sweet spices in them; let every man take his vessel before the Lord, two hundred and fifty vessels; you and Aaron and everyone with his vessel.

18. וַיִּקְזָוּ אִישׁ בְּמוֹזָתָתוֹ וַיִּתְּנוּ עֲלֵיהֶם אֵשׁ וַיִּשְׂבְּנוּ עֲלֵיהֶם קְטֹרֶת וַיַּעֲבְדוּ פֶתוּז
אֹהֶל בִּזְעֵר וּבִשְׂרָף וְאַהֲרֹן:

18. So every man took his vessel and they put fire in them, with spices, and came to the door of the Tent of meeting with Moses and Aaron.

19. וַיִּקְהַל עֲלֵיהֶם קָרוֹז אֶת-כָּל-הָעֵדָה אֶל-פֶּתוּז אֹהֶל בִּזְעֵר וַיֵּרָא כְבוֹד-
יְהוָה אֶל-כָּל-הָעֵדָה:

19. And Korah made all the people come together against them to the door of the Tent of meeting; and the glory of YHVH was seen by all the people.

—  Aliya: Third-Tiferet-Jacob  —

In the third reading (עליה, aliyah), the Presence of the Lord appeared to the whole community, and God told Moses and Aaron to stand back so that God could annihilate the others. Moses and Aaron fell on their faces and implored God not to punish the whole community. God told Moses to instruct the community to move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and they did so, while Dathan, Abiram, and their families stood at the entrance of their tents. Moses told the Israelites that if these men were to die of natural causes, then God did not send Moses, but if God caused the earth to swallow them up, then these men had spurned God. Just as Moses finished speaking, the earth opened and swallowed them, their households, and all Korah's people, and the Israelites fled in terror. And a fire consumed the 250 men offering the incense. God told Moses to order Eleazar the priest to remove the fire pans — as they had become sacred — and have them made into plating for the altar to remind the Israelites that no one other than Aaron's offspring should presume to offer incense to God. The next day, the whole Israelite community railed against Moses and Aaron for bringing death upon God's people. A cloud covered the Tabernacle and the God's Presence appeared.

20. וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר:

20. And YHVH said to Moses and Aaron,

21. הִבְדְּלוּ מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה הַזֹּאת וְאֲכַלְתֶּם כְּרָעָע:

21. Come out from among this people, so that I may send sudden destruction on them.

22. וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל-פְּנֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵל אֱלֹהֵי הָרוּחֹת לְכֹל-בָּשָׂר הָאִישׁ אֶחָד יוֹזֵטָא

וְעַל כָּל-הָעֵדָה תִּקְצֹף: (ס)

22. Then falling down on their faces they said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, because of one man's sin will your wrath be moved against all the people?

23. וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

23. And YHVH said to Moses,

24. דַּבֵּר אֶל-הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר הָעֲלוּ מִסִּבֵּיב לְמִשְׁכַּן-קְרוֹז דָּתָן וְאַבִּירָם:

24. Say to the people, Come away from the tent of Korah Dathan, and Abiram.

25. וַיָּקָם מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל-דָּתָן וְאַבִּירָם וַיִּלְכוּ אֲזוּרָיו וְקָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

25. So Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the responsible men of Israel went with him.

26. וַיִּדְבֹר אֶל-הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר סוּרוּ זֶא מֵעַל אֹהֲלֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָרָשָׁעִים הָאֵלֶּה

וְאֶל-תְּזַעְוּ בְּכֹל-אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם פֶּן-תִּסָּפוּ בְּכֹל-זוֹטֵאתָם:

26. And he said to the people, Come away now from the tents of these evil men, without touching anything of theirs, or you may be taken in the punishment of their sins.

27. וַיַּעֲלוּ מֵעַל מִשְׁכַּן-קְרוֹז דָּתָן וְאַבִּירָם מִסִּבֵּיב וְדָתָן וְאַבִּירָם יָצְאוּ נְעֻבִים

פְּתוּז אֹהֲלֵיהֶם וּנְשֵׁיהֶם וּבְנֵיהֶם וְטַפָּם:

27. So on every side they went away from the tent of Korah Dathan, and Abiram: and Dathan and Abiram came out to the door of their tents, with their wives and their sons and their little ones.

28. וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה בְּזֹאת תִּדְעוּן כִּי-יְהוָה שְׁלָחוּנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת כָּל-הַמַּעֲשִׂים
הָאֵלֶּה כִּי-לֹא מִלְּבִי:

28. And Moses said, Now you will see that YHVH has sent me to do all these works, and I have not done them of myself.

29. אִם-כַּמּוֹת כָּל-הָאָדָם יִמְתּוּן אֵלֶּה וּפְקַדְתָּ כָּל-הָאָדָם יִפְקַד עֲלֵיהֶם לֹא
יְהוָה שְׁלָחוּנִי:

29. If these men have the common death of men, or if the natural fate of all men overtakes them, then YHVH has not sent me.

30. וְאִם-בְּרִיאָה יִבְרָא יְהוָה וּפְעָתָהּ הָאֲדָמָה אֶת-פִּיהָ וּבָלְעָה אֶתְּם וְאֶת-
כָּל-אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם וַיִּרְדּוּ זַוִּים שְׂאֵלָה וַיִּדְעֶתֶם כִּי נִאֲצוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה אֶת-
יְהוָה:

30. But if YHVH does something new, opening the earth to take them in, with everything which is theirs, and they go down living into the underworld, then it will be clear to you that YHVH has not been honoured by these men.

31. וַיְהִי כַכֵּלְתּוֹ לְדַבֵּר אֶת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַתִּבָּקַע הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר
תַּזּוּתִיהֶם:

31. And while these words were on his lips, the earth under them was parted in two;

32. וַתִּפְתְּזוּ הָאָרֶץ אֶת-פִּיהָ וַתִּבְלַע אֶתְּם וְאֶת-בְּתִיחֶם וְאֶת כָּל-הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר
לְקָרוֹ וְאֶת כָּל-הָרְכוּשׁ:

32. And the earth, opening her mouth, took them in, with their families, and all the men who were joined to Korah, and their goods.

33. וַיִּרְדּוּ הֵם וְכָל-אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם זַוִּים שְׂאֵלָה וַתִּכָּס עֲלֵיהֶם הָאָרֶץ וַיִּאֲבְדּוּ
מִתּוֹךְ הַקָּהָל:

33. So they and all theirs went down living into the underworld, and the earth was shut over them, and they were cut off from among the meeting of the people.

34. וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר סָבִיבִתִּיהֶם נָסוּ לְקֶלֶם כִּי אָמְרוּ פֶן-תִּבְלַעֵנוּ הָאָרֶץ:

34. And all Israel round about them went in flight at their cry, For fear, said they, that we go down into the heart of the earth.

35. וְאֵשׁ יֵצְאָה מֵאֵת יְהוָה וְתֹאכַל אֶת הַזּוֹבְשִׁים וּבְמֵאֲתֵיבם אִישׁ מִקְרִיבֵי

הַקְטֹרֶת: (ס)

35. Then fire came out from the Lord, burning up the two hundred and fifty men who were offering the perfume.

Chapter: 17

1. וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

1. And YHVH said to Moses,

2. אָמַר אֶל-אַלְעָזָר בֶּן-אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן וְיָרָם אֶת-הַמּוֹזוֹתוֹת מִבֵּין הַשְּׂרָפָה וְאֶת-

הָאֵשׁ זָרָה-הַלָּאָה כִּי קָדְשׁוֹ:

2. Say to the children of Israel that they are to give you rods, one for every family, for every chief, the head of his father's house, making twelve rods; let every man's name be placed on his rod.

3. אֵת מוֹזוֹתוֹת הַזּוֹטָאִים הָאֵלֶּה בְּנִפְשֵׁיכֶם וַעֲשׂוּ אֹתָם רִקְעֵי פְּזוּזִים צְפוּי

לְמוֹזָבוֹן כִּי-הִקְרִיבֶם לִפְנֵי-יְהוָה וַיְקַדְּשׁוּ וַיְהִיו לְאוֹת לְבִנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

3. And let Aaron's name be placed on the rod of Levi: for there is to be one rod for the head of every family.

4. וַיִּקְחוּ אַלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן אֵת מוֹזוֹתוֹת הַזּוֹזֵשֶׁת אֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיבוּ הַשְּׂרָפִים וַיִּרְקְעוּם

צְפוּי לְמוֹזָבוֹן:

4. And let them be stored up in the Tent of meeting, in front of the ark of witness where I come to you.

5. זָכְרוֹן לְבִנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִקְרַב אִישׁ זָר אֲשֶׁר לֹא מִזֵּרַע אַהֲרֹן

הוּא לְהִקְטִיר קְטֹרֶת לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וְלֹא-יִהְיֶה כְּקִרְוֹן וּכְעֵדֻתוֹ כְּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה

בְּיַד-מֹשֶׁה לֹא: (פ)

5. And the rod of that man who is marked out by me for myself will have buds on it; so I will put a stop to the outcries which the children of Israel make to me against you.

6. וילָנוּ כָּל-עַדְת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל בַּמּוֹזוֹת עַל-מִשְׁנֵה וְעַל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר אַתֶּם הַמְתֵּם אֶת-עַם יְהוָה:

6. So Moses gave these orders to the children of Israel, and all their chiefs gave him rods, one for the head of every family, making twelve rods: and Aaron's rod was among them.

7. וַיְהִי בַּהֲקָהֵל הָעֵדוּת עַל-מִשְׁנֵה וְעַל-אַהֲרֹן וַיִּפְנוּ אֶל-אַהֲל מוֹעֵד וְהָגִה כִּסֵּהוּ הָעֵנָן וַיֵּרָא כְבוֹד יְהוָה:

7. And Moses put the rods before YHVH in the Tent of witness.

8. וַיָּבֵא מִשְׁנֵה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶל-פְּנֵי אַהֲל מוֹעֵד: (ס)

8. Now on the day after, Moses went into the Tent of witness; and he saw that Aaron's rod, the rod of the house of Levi, had put out buds, and was covered with buds and flowers and fruit.

 **Aliya: Fourth-Netzach-Moses** 

In the fourth reading (עלייה, aliyah), God told Moses to remove himself and Aaron from the community, so that God might annihilate them, and they fell on their faces. Moses told Aaron to take the fire pan, put fire from the altar and incense on it, and take it to the community to make expiation for them and to stop a plague that had begun, and Aaron did so. Aaron stood between the dead and the living and halted the plague, but not before 14,700 had died. Fifth reading — Numbers 17:16–24

9. וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה אֶל-מִשְׁנֵה לֵאמֹר:

9. Then Moses took out all the rods from before the Lord, and gave them back to the children of Israel: and they saw them, and every man took his rod.

10. הֲרַמּוּ מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדוּת הַזֹּאת וְאַכְלָה אֹתָם כְּרָגַע וַיִּפְלוּ עַל-פְּנֵיהֶם:

10. And YHVH said to Moses, Put Aaron's rod back in front of the ark of witness, to be kept for a sign against this false-hearted people, so that you may put a stop to their outcries against me, and death may not overtake them.

11. וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-אַהֲרֹן קוּזוּ אֶת-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְתִן-עָלֶיָּהּ אֵשׁ מֵעַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
וְשִׂימ קִטְרֹת וְהוֹלֵךְ מִהֲרָה אֶל-הָעֵדָה וְכַפֵּר עֲלֵיהֶם כִּי-יֵצֵא הַקֶּצֶף מִלִּפְנֵי
יְהוָה הַזֶּה הַנִּגָּף:

11. This Moses did: as YHVH gave orders, so he did.

12. וַיִּקְוּ אַהֲרֹן כְּאֲשֶׁר | דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה וַיִּרְץ אֶל-תּוֹךְ הַקְּהָל וְהִנֵּה הַזֶּה הַנִּגָּף
בָּעַם וַיִּתֵּן אֶת-הַקִּטְרֹת וַיְכַפֵּר עַל-הָעָם:

12. And the children of Israel said to Moses, Truly, destruction has
come on us; an evil fate has overtaken us all.

13. וַיַּעֲבֹד בֵּין-הַמִּוֹתָיִם וּבֵין הַזֹּזִיִּים וַתִּעָצֵר הַמַּגֵּפָה:

13. Death will overtake everyone who comes near, who comes near
the House of the Lord: are we all to come to destruction?

14. וַיְהִיו הַמִּוֹתָיִם בַּמַּגֵּפָה אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר אֶלֶף וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת מִקְבַּר הַמִּוֹתָיִם
עַל-דִּבְרֵי-קָרוֹז:

14.

15. וַיֵּשֶׁב אַהֲרֹן אֶל-מִשְׁחֵה אֶל-פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְהַמַּגֵּפָה נִעְצְרָה: (פ)

15.

 Aliya: Fifth-Hod-Aaron 

In the fifth reading (עלייה, aliyah), God told Moses to collect a staff from the chieftain of each of the 12 tribes, inscribe each man's name on his staff, inscribe Aaron's name on the staff of Levi, and deposit the staffs in the Tent of Meeting. The next day, Moses entered the Tent and Aaron's staff had sprouted, blossomed, and borne almonds.

16. וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

16.

17. דַּבֵּר | אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקוּזוּ מֵאֲתֵם מִטֵּה מִטֵּה לְבַיִת אָב מֵאֵת כָּל-

זְשִׁיאָהֶם לְבַיִת אֲבֹתָם עֲנִיִּים עֲשֶׂה מִטּוֹת אִישׁ אֶת-שְׂמוֹ תִּכְתֹּב עַל-מִטְּהוֹ:

17.

18. וְאֵת שֵׁם אֶהְרֹן תִּכְתֹּב עַל-מִטָּה לְוִי כִּי מִטָּה אֲזוּד לְרֹאשׁ בַּיִת אֲבוֹתָם:

18.

19. וְהִזְזוּתָם בְּאֵהֶל מוֹעֵד לִפְנֵי הָעֵדוּת אֲשֶׁר אֲוַעֵד לָכֶם שָׁמָּה:

19.

20. וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר אֲבַזֵּז-בּוֹ מִטָּהוּ יִפְרוּז וְהִשְׁכַּחְתִּי בְּמַעַלִי אֶת-תְּלַזּוֹת בְּנֵי

יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֵם מִכִּינֹם עֲלֵיכֶם:

20.

21. וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתְּנוּ אֹלְיוֹ | כָּל-זֶשִׁי אִיהֶם מִטָּה לְזַשִׁיא

אֲזוּד מִטָּה לְזַשִׁיא אֲזוּד לְבַיִת אֲבֹתָם שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר מִטּוֹת וּמִטָּה אֶהְרֹן בְּתוֹךְ

מִטּוֹתָם:

21.

22. וַיִּנְזַז מֹשֶׁה אֶת-הַמִּטָּה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה בְּאֵהֶל הָעֵדוּת:

22.

23. וַיְהִי בַּמּוֹזָזוֹת וַיָּבֵא מֹשֶׁה אֶל-אֵהֶל הָעֵדוּת וַהֲגִיחַ פְּרוּז מִטָּה-אֶהְרֹן לְבַיִת

לְוִי וַיֵּצֵא פְרוּז וַיֵּצֵן צִיץ וַיִּגְמַל שְׁקָדִים:

23.

24. וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה אֶת-כָּל-הַמִּטָּה בְּמִלְפָּנֵי יְהוָה אֶל-כָּל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּרְאוּ וַיִּקְזְזוּ

אִישׁ בְּמִטָּהוּ: (פ)

24.



Main article: Priestly covenant

In the sixth reading (עלייה, aliyah), God instructed Moses to put Aaron's staff before the Ark of the Covenant to be kept as a lesson to rebels to end their mutterings against God. But the Israelites cried to Moses, "We are doomed to perish!" God spoke to Aaron and said that he and his dynasty would be responsible for the Tent of Meeting and the priesthood and accountable for anything which went wrong in the performance of their priestly duties. God assigned the Levites to Aaron to aid in the performance of these duties. God prohibited any outsider from intruding on the priests as they discharged the duties connected with the Shrine, on pain of death. And God gave Aaron and the priests all the sacred donations and first fruits as a perquisite for all time for them and their families to eat. And God gave them the oil, wine, grain. God's covenant with the Aaronic priesthood was described as a 'covenant of salt', but God also told Aaron that the priests would have no territorial share among the Israelites, as God was their portion and their share.

25. וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה הָשִׁיב אֶת-בַּמִּטָּה אֲהָרֹן לִפְנֵי הָעֵדוּת לְבוֹשֵׁיבֹרַת
לְאֹת לְבָנֵי-מִרְי וְתִכַּל תִּכְלוּנְתֶם מִעָלַי וְלֹא יָבוֹתוּ:

25.

26. וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֹתוֹ כֵּן עָשָׂה: (פ)

26.

27. וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר הֲיֵן עֲוֹנֵנו אֲבִדְנוּ כִכְלָנוּ אֲבִדְנוּ:

27.

28. כָּל הַקָּרֵב | הַקָּרֵב אֶל-מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה יָמוּת הָאֵם תָּבוֹנוּ לְזֹעֵ: (ס)

28.

Chapter: 18

1. וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-אֲהָרֹן אַתָּה וּבָנֶיךָ וּבֵית-אָבִיךָ אַתָּה תִשָּׂאוּ אֶת-עֹון
הַמִּקְדָּשׁ וְאַתָּה וּבָנֶיךָ אַתָּה תִשָּׂאוּ אֶת-עֹון כְּהֵנְתְּכֶם:

1. And YHVH said to Aaron, You and your sons and your father's family are to be responsible for all wrongdoing in relation to the holy place: and you and your sons are to be responsible for the errors which come about in your work as priests.

2. וְגַם אֶת-אֹזֵיךָ מִטָּה לִי שֹׁבֵט אֲבִיךָ הִקְרַב אֹתָךְ וְיָלְכוּ עִלְיָךְ וְיִשְׁרְתוּךָ
וְאֶתְהָ וּבְנֵיךָ אֹתָךְ לְפָנַי אֶהְלֵ הָעֵדוּת:

2. Let your brothers, the family of Levi, come near with you, so that they may be joined with you and be your servants: but you and your sons with you are to go in before the ark of witness.

3. וְשָׂמְרוּ בְּשִׁמְרַתְךָ וּבְשִׁמְרַת כָּל-הָאֱהֹל אֲךָ אֶל-כָּלִי הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְאֶל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
לֹא יִקְרְבוּ וְלֹא-יָמוּתוּ עִם-הֵם עִם-אֲתָם:

3. They are to do your orders and be responsible for the work of the Tent; but they may not come near the vessels of the holy place or the altar, so that death may not overtake them or you.

4. וְיָלְכוּ עִלְיָךְ וְשָׂמְרוּ אֶת-בְּשִׁמְרַת אֱהֹל מוֹעֵד לְכָל עֲבֹדַת הָאֱהֹל וְיָר לֹא-
יִקְרַב אֲלֵיכֶם:

4. They are to be joined with you in the care of the Tent of meeting, doing whatever is needed for the Tent: and no one of any other family may come near you.

5. וְשִׁמְרַתֶם אֶת בְּשִׁמְרַת הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְאֶת בְּשִׁמְרַת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְלֹא-יִהְיֶה עוֹד קֶצֶף
עָל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

5. You are to be responsible for the holy place and the altar, so that wrath may never again come on the children of Israel.

6. וְאַנִּי הִנֵּה לְקֹדְשִׁי אֶת-אֹזֵיכֶם הַלְוִיִּם מִתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְכֶם מִתְּנָה זְתָנִים
לְיִהוָה לְעֹבֵד אֶת-עֲבֹדַת אֱהֹל מוֹעֵד:

6. Now, see, I have taken your brothers the Levites from among the children of Israel: they are given to you and to the Lord, to do the work of the Tent of meeting.

7. וְאֶתְהָ וּבְנֵיךָ אֹתָךְ תִּשְׁמְרוּ אֶת-כְּהֻנַּתְכֶם לְכָל-דְּבַר הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וּלְמִבְּיַת
לְפָרֶכֶת וְעֲבֹדְתֶם עֲבֹדַת מִתְּנָה אֶתֶן אֶת-כְּהֻנַּתְכֶם וְהָיָה הִקְרַב יוֹמֵת: (פ)

7. And you and your sons with you are to be responsible as priests for the altar and everything on it, and everything inside the veil; you are to do the work of priests; I have given you your position as priests; and any other man who comes near will be put to death.

8. וַיִּדְבַר יְהוָה אֶל-אַהֲרֹן וְאָמַר הִנֵּה נֹתַתִּי לְךָ אֶת-מִשְׁמַרְתַּי תְּרֹמֹתַי לְכָל-
קֹדְשֵׁי בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל לְךָ נֹתַתִּים לְמִשְׁוֹזָה וּלְבִגְיָה לְזֶכֶךָ-עֹלָם:

8. And YHVH said to Aaron, See, I have given into your care my lifted offerings; even all the holy things of the children of Israel I have given to you and to your sons as your right for ever, because you have been marked with the holy oil.

9. וְזֶה-יְהִיֶה לְךָ מִקֹּדְשֵׁי הַקֹּדְשִׁים מִן-הָאֵשׁ כָּל-קָרְבָּנָם לְכָל-מִנְזוֹתָם
וּלְכָל-זוּטָאתָם וּלְכָל-אֲשָׁמָם אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשׂוּ לִי קֹדֵשׁ קֹדְשִׁים לְךָ הוּא וּלְבִגְיָה:

9. This is to be yours of the most holy things, out of the fire offerings; every offering of theirs, every meal offering and sin-offering, and every offering which they make on account of error, is to be most holy for you and your sons.

10. בְּקֹדֵשׁ הַקֹּדְשִׁים תֹּאכְלֵנּוּ כָּל-זָכָר יֹאכַל אֹתוֹ קֹדֵשׁ יְהִיֶה-לְךָ:

10. As most holy things they are to be your food: let every male have them for food; it is to be holy to you.

11. וְזֶה-לְךָ תְּרֹמֹת מִתְּנָם לְכָל-תְּנוּפֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְךָ נֹתַתִּים וּלְבִגְיָה
וּלְבִגְיָה אֲתָךְ לְזֶכֶךָ-עֹלָם כָּל-טָהוֹר בְּבֵיתְךָ יֹאכַל אֹתוֹ:

11. And this is yours: the lifted offering which they give and all the wave offerings of the children of Israel I have given to you and to your sons and to your daughters as your right for ever: everyone in your house who is clean may have them for food.

12. כָּל זָוַלֵּב יִצְהָר וְכָל-זָוַלֵּב תִּירוֹשׁ וְדַגָּן רֵאשִׁיתָם אֲשֶׁר-יִתְּנוּ לַיהוָה לְךָ
נֹתַתִּים:

12. All the best of the oil and the wine and the grain, the first-fruits of them which they give to the Lord, to you have I given them.

13. בְּכוֹרֵי כָּל-אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶצָם אֲשֶׁר-יִבְיֵאוּ לַיהוָה לְךָ יְהִיֶה כָּל-טָהוֹר
בְּבֵיתְךָ יֹאכְלֵנּוּ:

13. The earliest produce from their land which they take to YHVH is to be yours; everyone in your house who is clean may have it for his food.

14. כל-זָוָרִים בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לַיהוָה יִהְיֶה:

14. Everything given by oath to YHVH in Israel is to be yours.

15. כל-בְּטֵר רְזוּם לְכָל-בָּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר-יִקְרִיבוּ לַיהוָה בְּאֲרָם וּבְבִהְמָה יִהְיֶה-

לָךְ אָךְ | פְּדֹה תִפְדֶּה אֶת בְּכוֹר הָאָרֶם וְאֶת בְּכוֹר-הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּמֵאָה תִפְדֶּה:

15. The first birth of every living thing which is offered to the Lord, of man or beast, is to be yours; but for the first sons of man payment is to be made, and for the first young of unclean beasts.

16. וּפְדוּיוֹ מִבֶּן-זֶדֶד תִּפְדֶּה בְּעֶרְכָּךְ כֶּסֶף זָזִמְשֵׁת שְׁקָלִים בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ

עֲשִׂרִים גֵּרָה הוּא:

16. Payment is to be made for these when they are a month old, at the value fixed by you, a price of five shekels by the scale of the holy place, that is, twenty gerahs to the shekel.

17. אָךְ בְּכוֹר-שׂוֹר אִו-בְּכוֹר כֶּשֶׁב אִו-בְּכוֹר עֹז לֹא תִפְדֶּה קֹדֶשׁ הֵם אֶת-

דָּמָם תִּזְרַק עַל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת-זֶלְבָם תִּקְטֹר אֲשֶׁה לְרִיזֵי גִיזוֹן לַיהוָה:

17. But no such payment may be made for the first birth of an ox or a sheep or a goat; these are holy: their blood is to be dropped on the altar, and their fat burned for an offering made by fire, a sweet smell to the Lord.

18. וּבְשָׂרָם יִהְיֶה-לָךְ כְּזֹזָה הַתְּנוּפָה וּכְשׂוֹק הַיָּמִין לַיהוָה יִהְיֶה:

18. Their flesh is to be yours; like the breast of the wave offering and the right leg, it is to be yours.

19. כָּל | תְּרוּמֹת הַקֹּדֶשִׁים אֲשֶׁר יָרִימוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל לַיהוָה נָתַתִּי לָךְ וּלְבָנֶיךָ

וּלְבָנֹתֶיךָ אֲתֶרָ לְזֶכֶךְ-עוֹלָם בְּרִית בְּלֹו עוֹלָם הוּא לְפָנַי יִהְיֶה לָךְ וּלְאֲרָעָךְ

אֲתֶרָ:

19. All the lifted offerings of the holy things which the children of Israel give to the Lord, I have given to you and to your sons and to your daughters as a right for ever. This is an agreement made with salt before the Lord, to you and to your seed for ever.

20. וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-אַהֲרֹן בְּאֶרְצָם לֹא תִנְזֹל וְזֹלְקָ לֹא-יְהִיָּה לְךָ בְּתוֹכָם
אֲנִי זֹלְקֶךָ וְנִזְזַלְתָּ בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ס)

20. And YHVH said to Aaron, You will have no heritage in their land, or any part among them; I am your part and your heritage among the children of Israel.

 Aliya: Seventh-Malchut-King David 

In the seventh reading (עליה, aliyah), God gave the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their share in return for the services of the Tent of Meeting, but they too would have no territorial share among the Israelites. God told Moses to instruct the Levites to set aside one-tenth of the tithes they received as a gift to God.

21. וְלִבְנֵי לֵוִי הֵנָּה נָתַתִּי כָּל-מַעֲשֵׂי כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל לְנִזְזֹלָה זֹלְקָ עֲבַדְתָּם אֲשֶׁר-
הֵם עֲבָדִים אֶת-עֲבַדְתָּ אֱהֵל מוֹעֵד:

21. And to the children of Levi I have given as their heritage all the tenths offered in Israel, as payment for the work they do, the work of the Tent of meeting.

22. וְלֹא-יִקְרְבוּ עוֹד בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-אֱהֵל מוֹעֵד לְשֵׂאת זִמָּה לְבוֹת:

22. In future the children of Israel are not to come near the Tent of meeting, so that death may not come to them because of sin.

23. וְעֶבֶד הַלְוִי הוּא אֶת-עֲבַדְתָּ אֱהֵל מוֹעֵד וְהֵם יִשְׂאוּ עוֹנָם זֹקֶת עוֹלָם
לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם וּבְתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִנְזָלוּ גִזְזֹלָה:

23. But the Levites are to do the work of the Tent of meeting, and be responsible for errors in connection with it: this is a law for ever through all your generations; and among the children of Israel they will have no heritage.

24. כִּי אֶת-מַעֲשֵׂי בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר יִרְיֹמוּ לְיְהוָה תְּרוֹמָה נָתַתִּי לְכוֹלֵם
לְנִזְזֹלָה עַל-כֵּן אֲמַרְתִּי לָהֶם בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִנְזָלוּ גִזְזֹלָה: (פ)

24. For the tenths which the children of Israel give as a lifted offering to YHVH I have given to the Levites as their heritage. and so I have said to them, Among the children of Israel they will have no heritage.

25. וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

25. And YHVH said to Moses,

26. וְאֶל-הַלְוִיִּם תִּדְבֹר וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם ֹ כִי-תִקְוֹזוּ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-

הַמַּעֲשֵׂר אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לָכֶם מֵאֵתֶם בְּנִזְוֹלַתְכֶם וְהִרְמוֹתֶם מִמֶּנּוּ תְרוּמוֹת יְהוָה

מֵעֵשֶׂר בֵּין-הַמַּעֲשֵׂר:

26. Say to the Levites, When you take from the children of Israel the tenth which I have given to you from them as your heritage, a tenth part of that tenth is to be offered as an offering lifted up before the Lord.

27. וְנִזְוָשְׁב לָכֶם תְּרוּמוֹתֵיכֶם כַּדָּגָן בֵּין-הַגֶּרֶן וְכַמֶּלֶאָה בֵּין-הַיֶּקֶב:

27. And this lifted offering is to be put to your credit as if it was grain from the grain-floor and wine from the vines.

28. כֵּן תִרְיִמוּ גַם-אֶתֶם תְּרוּמוֹת יְהוָה מִכֹּל מַעֲשֵׂרְתֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר תִּקְוֹזוּ מֵאֵת

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְנָתַתֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ אֶת-תְּרוּמוֹת יְהוָה לְאַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן:

28. So you are to make an offering lifted up to YHVH from all the tenths which you get from the children of Israel, giving out of it the Lord's lifted offering to Aaron the priest.

29. מִכֹּל מִתְּנַתֵּיכֶם תִרְיִמוּ אֶת כָּל-תְּרוּמוֹת יְהוָה מִכֹּל-זֹלְבֹו אֶת-מִקְדָּשׁוֹ

בְּמִנְעֹו:

29. From everything given to you, let the best of it, the holy part of it, be offered as a lifted offering to the Lord.

Aliya: Maftir

30. וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם בְּהִרְיָמְכֶם אֶת-זֹלְבֹו מִמֶּנּוּ וְנִזְוָשְׁב לְלוִוִּים כְּתִבוֹאת גֶּרֶן

וְכְתִבוֹאת יֶקֶב:

30. Say to them, then, When the best of it is lifted up on high, it is to be put to the account of the Levites as the increase of the grain-floor and of the place where the grapes are crushed.

31. וְאֶכְלֹתֶם אֹתוֹ בְּכָל-מְקוֹם אַתֶּם וּבְיַתְכֶם כִּי-שֹׁכֵר הוּא לָכֶם וְזֶכֶף

עֲבַדְתֶּם בְּאֵהָל מוֹעֵד:

31. It is to be your food, for you and your families in every place: it is your reward for your work in the Tent of meeting.

32. וְלֹא-תִשְׂאוּ עָלַי זֹטָא בְּהַרְיִמְכֶם אֶת-זֹלְבֹו מִמֶּנּוּ וְאֶת-קֹדְשֵׁי בְנֵי-

יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא תִזְלְלוּ וְלֹא תָמוּתוּ:

32. And no sin will be yours on account of it, when the best of it has been lifted up on high; you are not to make a wrong use of the holy things of the children of Israel, so that death may not overtake you.

(פפפ)

- End of Parasha -