



Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!

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Message 6-12-10
Korach-Korah (Bald)
Numbers 16:1-18:32
1 Samuel 11:14-12:22
Acts 9:31

Introduction

The Torah wastes no time by aggressively opening with *Vayikach Korach*, "And Korah took," it immediately sets the stage for division and disaster.

Numbers 16:1-3

1 Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men. **2** And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. **3** They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?" (Num 16:1 ESV)

Korah was not interested in exalting all of Israel as being holy his intention was to challenge Moses through Aaron. What I mean is Korah would try to take Aaron's position as High Priest and eventually try to challenge Moses for the leadership of Israel. Korah was not content as a Levite to serve Aaron and his sons by helping them in their service to God. Korah wanted the whole enchilada when he had not been the one called by God to lead Israel or as High Priest. This would lay the groundwork for later challenges to the leadership of Israel and service as High Priest.

The message for us is that we need to learn to be content in the place we find ourselves in life and in our walk with Messiah. God calls men and women to serve Him in various ways and that is part of how the Body of Messiah is supposed to function. There is an order to God's kingdom, whether in heaven, or here on the earth.

1 Corinthians 12:18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. **21** The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." **22** On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, **24** which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving

greater honor to the part that lacked it, **25** that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. **26** If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. **27** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. **28** And God has appointed in the congregation first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? **31** But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. (1Co 12:18 ESV)

Some focus on verse 28 as gifts that are required for a Body to function properly but what Paul is saying is these gifts are part of Body and God gives them through the Ruach HaKodesh/Holy Spirit as He chooses. We should desire these gifts but not to the point where the chasing after the gift becomes all-consuming. Our walk with Messiah should be an experience we should learn to develop. We want our relationship with Yeshua to grow and mature and the only way to do this is to allow God's Spirit to take up residence within each and every one of us. We need to be more like Moses and Aaron in our desire to follow God. They were humble men who tried to serve Israel as best as they could through their relationship with the Holy One of Israel.

When we learn to depend on God we follow in the footsteps of the fathers of the faithful rather than the servants of the Adversary like Korah. The enemy uses whoever he can to accomplish his purpose and that is to tear Yeshua and His Father down and to take the throne of the Father and the Son and seat himself upon it. Korah tried to do this by claiming that all of Israel was holy so therefore no one was better than anyone else. There is truth in this lie because we are all equal in the eyes of our Creator but there is a need for some to be placed a bit higher than others because God calls them to a different place. This does not make them better than someone else but it shows us there are different gifts for the Body in order to help it work right. Korah desired to exalt himself over all of Israel because he was not satisfied with the calling God had given him. There are many Korah's in the Body of Messiah who are not content to be where God has placed them. They bring heartache to the Body they are part of, sometimes to the point, where they cause so much division that a split happens.

I have been in this position several times over the course of my ministry and I have seen it in other congregations more times than I care to remember. This is not what God desires for the Body. He wants us to be in unity with one another so we can become united in *echad* and *shalom* (oneness and peace).

Psalm 133:1 *A Song of Ascents. Of David.* Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Psa 133:1 ESV)

Ephesians 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, **3** endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. **7** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Messiah's gift. (Eph 4:2 NKJ)

Korah lacked love for the Body and love for the Holy One. Had he had these gifts he would not have challenged Moses the way he did and would have had the blessing of serving God in the Tabernacle rather than being swallowed up alive by the earth. There are lessons for us to learn from this as there are lessons to be learned from many of the stories in the Bible. They are not

just historical in nature but teach us about what God expects from us and what we can expect from Him. In the rebellion of Korah and the others what we learn is to be content with what God has given us and not to desire that which was not meant for us. Unity in the Body comes when we learn to dwell together and stop trying to tear one another down and learn to help to build up the Body of Messiah and the local congregations we have become part of.

Within Judaism, Christianity and the Messianic Movement we have denominations because we cannot dwell together in unity. Even within our local bodies we cannot dwell together in unity and everyone wants to be the head when the head is just one part of the Body. We all have a place to serve within the Body and we need to find what our place is. If we wait upon the Lord we will discover where we fit into the mix.

Romans 12:4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Messiah, and individually members one of another. **6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; **8** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. **9** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (Rom 12:4 ESV)

In our congregations there are many members and while we want to be in unity we realize we are all different each one of us having different gifts. It is through these gifts that we help to build up the Body and the various parts. We must learn to stop trying to tear down the Body. We do this by attacking the individual members and this weakens the Body and causes some parts to pull away. We must look to the Creator and place our faith in Yeshua so we can receive the gift of the Comforter that has been promised to us. Korah did not understand his place in the Body and wanted more than what He was entitled to. He caused others to question their place in the Body and tried to tear Israel down by coming against God's anointed. It was God who had called Moses out and had raised him up to lead Israel. It was God who chose Aaron as the first High Priest of Israel through the house of Aaron of the tribe of Levi. Yet, lest we forget, there is a greater High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, the eldest Son of the Most High God – Yeshua. He is the High Priest of a priesthood greater than that of Aaron and his line because Yeshua is King after the line of David through the tribe of Judah and High Priest after the line of the first-born of the priesthood of Melchizedek.

If Korah would have accepted his place in Israel and the gift he had been given by the Holy One the unity of the Body would have been preserved but instead 250 plus of Israel died for turning against God. It was necessary to preserve Israel but the people did not understand what it was that God was doing. They continued to challenge Moses and Aaron and Moses would continue to intercede on their behalf until one day, out of anger against the people, he would disobey a command from God and his punishment would be he would not enter alive into the Promised Land. This is a lesson that should not be lost on all of us. Follow the ways of the Lord and live – life eternal through His Son Yeshua. Don't let the lesson of Korah be forgotten – remember it always because through it we learn about our place in the Body of Messiah in the people of Israel.

1 Samuel 12:22-25

22 "For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people. **23** "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin

against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way. **24** "Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. **25** "But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king." (1Sa 12:22 NKJ)

No matter what the situation is or how much we may not agree with the things we see being done we are called to pray for one another. There are times I have felt a frustration over something and it has caused me to question whether I should pray for someone or for a situation. I am called by God to pray for those who come against me the way Messiah prayed for those who came against Him.

Luke 23:34 Then Yeshua said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. (Luk 23:34 NKJ)

As He was dying He asked His Father not to hold it against those who were doing this to Him. It was not just the Romans who were crucifying Him or the Jews who had brought the accusations against Him. It was all of us who were guilty of the crimes He was paying the ultimate penalty for.

Galatians 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Yeshua the Messiah, **4** who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, **5** to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (Gal 1:3 ESV)

He gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from evil – the evil of the sins we have committed. It was not His sins that He was condemned for but our sins – each and every one of us. That is the reality and the truth that comes from God not from Man. I will not place my trust in men but in God through Yeshua His Son. The only way to the Father is through the Son. We are told this in the Word and we must understand it.

John 14:6 Yeshua said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (Joh 14:6 NKJ)

Whether you like it or not Yeshua makes it very clear that if you desire to come to the Father you must go through Him. In other words there is only one way for redemption and that is faith in Yeshua to receive forgiveness for our sins. It is through this that we become reconciled to the Father and can draw closer. We are to fear the Lord through respect and awe for the Creator of all that exists. The only truth is found in Him and all He has done is to show us His power and His love for those who are His. Yeshua came for those the Father had given Him. He came to redeem Israel and we are all part of Israel who knows Messiah. There is not one covenant for the Jews and another for the Gentiles or Nations. There is one covenant for all under the sacrifice and resurrection of the Son of God. This is the truth, this is the way, and this is life. Korah chose the wrong road to walk. What road will you choose this day?

Acts 9:31

31 Then the Messianic community throughout Y'hudah, the Galil and Shomron enjoyed peace and was built up. They lived in the fear of the Lord, with the counsel of the *Ruach HaKodesh*, and their numbers kept multiplying. (Act 9:31 CJB)

The community of Believers in the early days after Yeshua had died, resurrected, and had ascended were in peace and were built up in the Lord. They feared the Lord as Samuel had instructed the Children of Israel to do and as Korah had not. There was no fear of the Lord to be found in Korah because if there had been he would have known better than to come against His chosen leaders. When we learn how to do this we will become better servants of the Lord and will become the examples of Messiah living in us so our light can shine out to others who desire to learn about Him and to grow in Him.

He is not a Christian but a Jew who came into the world as the light in the darkness. He did not hide His light and because He chose to follow through with His Father's plan He died for it by the hands of the world. We had been building towards this since the beginning because not everyone died in the flood. Eight souls came through which means that sin came through the flood but the lesson was there in its stark reality about the nature and results of our sin. Are we really any different than Korah? Aren't we still a stubborn people who desire to go our own way and do our own thing? I am not talking about the world but the Messianic Community. We are not in unity because we are a stubborn obstinate people. We gather on the Sabbath to praise and worship our Lord and Master yet we harbor ill will in our hearts against our brothers and sisters. We are to be lights in the darkness and yet when we are in the world we act just like the world. How can the world see Yeshua in us when we hide Him away in order not to draw attention to ourselves?

Malachi 3:5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. (Mal 3:5 ESV)

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! (Psa 111:10 ESV)

Don't fall into the trap that Korah and those who chose to follow him did. Develop a healthy fear of the Lord through respect for the Creator who created all there is through Yeshua and for Yeshua. He is the way my friends and the time is drawing closer when He will return. Are you prepared to meet Him or are you ready to go down to the pit the way Korah did in the day of his rebellion? His sin did not just affect him but affected his family and they perished along with him. Our actions do not affect just us but extend out to others whether we realize it or not. Look not to Korah but to the Holy One of Israel.

An irate Mr. Goldenbery calls his local Jewish newspaper to complain that his name is in the obituary column. "Really?" replies the editor calmly, "Say, Mr. Goldenberg, where are you calling from?"

May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver*

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