

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Korach
July 5, 2024 / 29 Sivan 5784
Volume 29, Issue 38
Candlelighting: 8:46 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · www.clevelandjlc.com

Friday, July 5

7:15pm Early Mincha / Maariv
8:46pm Candlelighting
8:50pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, July 6

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship
7:35pm Pirke Avos
8:35pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:53pm Maariv

Sunday, July 7

9:15am *Parsha Class*
(R. Nisenbaum)
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)

Monday, July 8

8:00pm "Ten Commandments":
Theft (R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, July 9

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, July 10

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks –
Tehillim (R. Stoll)

Thursday, July 11

10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

Torah Podcast

Listen to Rabbi Nisenbaum's "Torah Podcast" at Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and more, or download at www.maverickpodcasting.com

New episodes twice a week!

Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

Class Connection

R. Nisenbaum:

425-436-6200 #352171

"The Torah Podcast" weekly
at all podcast locations

R. Stoll:

Zoom: 876-619-3551
Audio: 669-900-9128

Parsha: Korach

Korach, a cousin of Moshe, gathered a group of dissenters to challenge Moshe's authority, claiming that Moshe had usurped authority on his own and not under G-d's orders. Moshe, in an uncharacteristically sharp manner, prayed that G-d prove his innocence by having Korach die an unnatural death, by being swallowed into the earth.

Korach tried to influence the nation to follow him with different arguments. He claimed that he was acting on their behalf, and that Moshe was taking unfair advantage of the people. He claimed the entire nation was holy and did not need a leader. The Rabbis explain that Korach was actually a great and wise person, yet he fooled himself into thinking that his intentions were sincere and that his arguments were logical. In reality, Korach was motivated by feelings of jealousy and arrogance. The bias created by jealousy is so powerful that it can often mislead a normally rational person into believing and doing irrational things.

Moshe suggested that Korach and his followers offer incense offerings together with Ahron, and that while G-d would accept the true offering, the impostors would die. Even then, Korach did not fear taking such a chance. He had deluded himself into believing that G-d would accept his sacrifice over Ahron's.

The reason Moshe reacted so strongly was not because he felt the affront to his own honor. He was concerned that a challenge against his own leadership was a challenge against the authority of the Torah itself. If people thought that Moshe had

misrepresented G-d on one point, they might think that he misrepresented Him on other points too. He therefore prayed that Korach's challenge be stopped before it caused irreparable damage.

Even after Korach had been swallowed, there still remained doubts among the people and they complained again. It seems that Moshe's concerns had actually materialized. Another plague killed over fourteen thousand people, until Ahron offered incense, which stopped the plague. This also served to legitimize Ahron's appointment as High Priest.

After the incident involving Korach, the Torah promises different gifts to the Kohanim as an affirmation of their position and authority. They were given tithing from grain and fruits, from the meat of each animal, and the first seasonal fruits each year. They were also promised the firstborn of the animals, and five coins for the human firstborn male. They also received a part of each sacrifice.

The story of Korach illustrates an important lesson about following Torah authority and not letting one's personal inclinations mask the truth.

Mazel Tov
Chaim Eliyahu & Julie Leeson
upon the marriage of their
daughter

Insights: Korach

Korach took... (Num 16:1) Korach tried to grab the leadership for himself. Torah leadership is not something that can be grabbed. It grows organically. Rav Moshe Feinstein was once asked by a reporter how he had become the leading Halachic authority in America. Rav Moshe replied that Torah leadership is not something that is campaigned for or elected. He humbly suggested that people had asked him questions and had evidently been satisfied with his answers. They told their friends, and more people came with their questions. Word spread even further and that was how Rav Moshe had been accepted as an authority.

Did You Know?

The Tachanun prayers are not recited on certain occasions, such as on holidays, Rosh Chodesh, when a mohel who will be circumcising that day is present, or if the father of the child or the sandek (the one who holds the baby during the bris) is present. Similarly if a groom throughout Sheva Berachos (the first week after the wedding) is present, it is not recited. Most authorities require Tachanun at a Bar Mitzvah. It is also not recited in the home of a mourner throughout shiva. If the mourner attends services in the synagogue, however, he does not recite Tachanun, but the congregation does recite it.

Thought for the Week: Behind a man's striving for truth there is often not so much a love for truth as much as a distaste for being fooled. (A Candle By Day)