

Number 16:1-18:32

## Korach | קרח

“Baldness”

Where Shelach is the portion of the rebellion against God, Korach is the portion of the rebellion against Moses. In fact, a careful reading shows us that Korach is about an assembly defined by opposition (עלה) and grumbling (לון), building upon the foundation set by what the spies did and the subsequent condemnation of the generation that left Egypt. (Here, grumbling comes from the root, “to dwell.”)

There are three general sections, the rebellion (and its consequences), and the two responses: the budding of the staff and “bring your brothers with you...”

### Clickable Resources:

BT: *Korach/Chukat* 2012

BT: *Shelach/Korach* 2019

Aleph-Beta: *Korach*

The Rabbi Sacks Legacy Trust:  
*Korach*



One of the discussions we can have is considering what our hearts dwell upon, especially when we gather together. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, in his commentary on Numbers (Covenant & Conversation: Numbers) describes it this way:

“In short, each of the three groups (Dathan, Aviram and On) was motivated by malice and envy towards the two men, Moses and Aaron, who seemed to have arrogated leadership to themselves and their tribe. The complaints were different and could not all be satisfied... What united them—as happens so often in the strange bedfellow alliances between disaffected groups—was less a shared vision of the future than **discontent about the present.**”

How much more do we gather in opposition to a present something than to rejoice in our God? Fortunately, we have a preventative pattern in Scripture as a countermeasure to this tendency: “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, and to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

### Community Questions:

1. *What sort of mindset turns un into grumblers? How can we avoid the temptation?*
2. *Why is it tempting to gather for the things we're against? How can we change our focus to gathering for the things we're for?*
3. *The Chofetz Chaim (Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan) has said that we create a congregation of people by the words we speak. How does this happen?*
4. *God responds to the grumblers by reaffirming His appointment of Aaron, and by clarifying their portion in Israel. Is there a specific area where your thoughts are stuck?*
5. *What truth can you bring to bear over the next week?*