

# 119

## MINISTRIES

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### **Parashah Points: Korach – How to Not Be Like Korah**

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Korach, which is Hebrew for “Korah,” and it goes from Numbers 16:1 to Numbers 18:32.

This Torah portion tells the story of Korah’s revolt against Moses and Aaron, the budding of Aaron’s rod, and the duties of the Priests and Levites.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk about the root of Korah’s rebellion.

In the Book of Numbers we read an interesting story about a Levite named Korah who incited a mob against Moses and Aaron:

#### **Numbers 16:1-3**

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. 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. 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 [YHWH] is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord [YHWH]?”

Here we see Korah’s complaint. He accused Moses and Aaron of being prideful and of exalting themselves over the rest of the congregation. But when we continue reading the story, we discover that Korah’s *real* reason for opposing Moses and Aaron was a selfish agenda. Moses exposed that Korah was unsatisfied being only a Levite; he wanted to be a priest. He wanted Aaron’s position:

#### **Numbers 16:8-10**

And Moses said to Korah, “Hear now, you sons of Levi: is it too small a thing for you that the

God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do service in the tabernacle of the Lord [YHWH] and to stand before the congregation to minister to them, and that he has brought you near him, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? **And would you seek the priesthood also?**

So here we see that Korah hid his true motives behind the criticisms of Moses and Aaron. He wasn't really fighting for equality on behalf of the rest of the congregation. No, he was driven by his own selfish agenda. He had an unholy sense of entitlement.

"I deserve this position of authority because I'm just so awesome!" Korah thought. Contrast this attitude with Moses. While Korah incited a mob to try to get what he wanted by force, Moses was anointed and called by God to the position He was in.

The root of Korah's rebellion was discontentment, jealousy, and selfish ambition. Often, when we aren't satisfied with our current circumstances in life, we will complain, grumble, and blame other people. We will strive and manipulate in order to try to force our own agenda, running over anyone who gets in our way.

James identifies bitter jealousy and selfish ambition as the cause of disorder and chaos within the congregation:

**James 3:16**

*For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.*

The attitude of Korah always leads to disorder in the congregation. It destroys relationships and it hurts the work of God within the congregation.

What can we learn from Korah's rebellion? Quite simply, don't be like Korah! Korah had a sense of entitlement, and he tried to get what he wanted by tearing down his fellow man.

We ought to understand that we are all one body with many parts. We all serve the Messiah, who is the head of the body, and we all have a unique role in the body. We ought to find meaning and contentment in what God has called us to do.

Right now you might be a Levite; someone else might be a priest. Let's each fulfill our role to God's glory, not ours. Let us support others in their God-given roles as we work together for God's Kingdom.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

*We pray you have been blessed by this teaching.*

*Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)*

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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