

**Torah:** B'midbar (Numbers) 16:1 – 18:32  
**Haftarah:** Sh'mu'el Alef (1 Samuel) 11:14-12:22  
**B'rit Hadashah:** Luke 23:32-43

	<i>yr. 1 16:1-17:15</i>	<i>yr 2 16:20-17:24</i>	<i>yr 3 17:25-18:32</i>
1	<b>16:1 – 3</b>	16:20 – 27	17:25 – 18:7
2	<b>16:4 – 7</b>	16:28 – 35	18:8 – 10
3	<b>16:8 – 13</b>	17:1 – 5	18:11 – 13
4	<b>16:14 – 19</b>	17:6 – 8	18:14 – 20
5	<b>16:20 – 35</b>	17:9 – 15	18:21 – 24
6	<b>17:1 – 8</b>	17:16 – 20	18:25 – 29
7	<b>17:9 – 15</b>	17:21 – 24	18:30 – 32

and Qorakh took  
 (he was the son of Yitzhar, son of  
 K'hat, son of Levi)

*va'yikách Qórah*  
*ben'Yitzhar ben'K'hat ben'Levi*

וַיִּקַּח קָרַח  
 בֶּן־יִצְחָר בֶּן־קְהָת בֶּן־לֵוִי

Qorach, Dathan and Aviram and their followers rebel against Moses, saying that all people are equally holy, complaining about their circumstances, free but in the Wilderness. Qorach, Dathan and Abiram and their families are swallowed up by the earth and a fire consumed their followers. The people continue to rebel and suffer a plague. The duties of Aharon's descendants, the priests, and the other members of the tribe of Levi and the offerings that they will keep for this duty are established. The tribe of Levi will have no territory in the Promised Land like the other tribes.

The Haftarah portion tells of Samuel's inauguration of King Saul. It connects to the Torah as it speaks of HaShem making Moses and Aaron leaders of the people, and of people going astray and being punished for it, like Qorach, Datan, Aviram and their followers..

## Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

- Nu. 16:1-3** Rebellion arises. “Korakh took...” Korakh was a great grandson of Levi, son of K'hat (Nu. 4:1-15). Datan, Aviram and On were sons of Re'uven, Ya'aqov's firstborn, and neighbors of Korakh. On, uniquely, does not appear further in the text (e.g. v.24). Along with them are 250 leaders (lit. “men of name) of the community (*edah* – עֵדָה). His claim: the entire community is holy, each and everyone.
- Nu. 16:4-7** Moshe falls on his face – this is the fourth major failure of the leaders of Israel. Korakh is correct (Nu. 15:40), all are holy (*qadosh* – קָדוֹשׁ) and all are chosen (*bakhar* – בָּחַר) – see De. 7:6, 14:2, etc. But not for the service of High Priest. He then tells the entire rebellious group to bring fire and incense in the morning, using the same phrase that Korakh used – “...you take too much on yourselves!”
- Nu. 16:8-13** Moshe reminds Korakh of his already-privileged important position of service, and summon Datan and Aviram, who refuse to come, referring to Egypt as “a land flowing with milk and honey.”
- Nu. 16:14-19** Moshe states to HaShem that he has done nothing wrong, then instructs them to bring fire pans and incense. Korakh assembles the men with fire pans, and “the glory of ADONAI appeared.
- Nu. 16:20-35** HaShem intervenes the rebellion, threatening to destroy them all except Moshe and Aharon, who now intercede on behalf of the community. He allows those who will to separate from the rebels, A “no touch” ban is established (v.26), a reminder of the role of the descendants of K'hat (Nu. 4:15). Datan and Aviram had accused Moshe of blinding the people's eyes (v.14). Now, with their families in full view, their punishment is seen by all the people. The “new” thing was not the earth swallowing them, but that it happened at the word of Moshe (v.31). Fire kills the 250 men.

6. **Nu. 17:1-8** The brass firepans were hammered into a cover for the altar as a reminder. The community rebels a second time as a result of the death of their leaders.
7. **Nu. 17:9-15** Moshe and Aharon intercede once again, and the same fire pan that brought death to the unauthorized rebels, stays death in the hands of the authorized, as Aharon, in one of his finest moments takes a stand between the living and the dead, stopping the plague that had broken out.

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## Thought Focus

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**For three transgression and for four:** How many times can the children of Israel sin and they still be forgiven? It is said that Korakh's rebellion was the fourth of Israel's sin, following 1) the Golden Calf, 2) the complainers, and 3) the sin of the "spies." Moshe interceded for forgiveness three times, but was not sure that HaShem would forgive a fourth. Why? Based on Amos 2:6 / Yoma (86b), forgiveness a fourth time is not so easily won. Three times does not establish a definite pattern, but four suggests habitual sin, lacking regret and resolve to change.

**Is everyone holy?** Korakh argued that everyone was holy. His job was to carry the components of the Holy of Holies into an every-day world after Aharon and his sons had processed them. But he failed to see the holiness of his job in the physical realm was subservient to the spiritual goal of service to HaShem, and not to his own ambitions. Perhaps this is why Korakh's rebellion follows the commandment of tzitzit (Nu. 15:37-41), and the "blue cord" (*p'tiyel t'kelet* – פְּתִיֵּל תְּכֵלֶת), in connection with his worldly (but spiritual) job (Nu. 4:5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12).

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## Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

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1. (16:1) Are your plans in line with God's plan? Are your heart's desire from Him? (Jer 17:9, Mat 15:19-20, Psa 20:4(5), Rom 12:2, Jer 6:16, Deu 10:12-16, Psa 51:12-19, luk 6:43-45)
2. (16:14) Do you struggle with the promises God has made to you? (Exo 3:16-18, Joh 6:22-69)
3. (16:21) Does your presence affect the wickedness in this world, and hold back the judgement of God? (Exo 32:10, Gen 18:20-30, 1Co 7:14, Mat 5:13, Deu 29:10-13, Rom 11:16)
4. (17:10) How can you reach the lost if you separate yourself from them? Are you "in" the world, but not "of" it? (Gen 18:23, Num 16:27, 2Co 2:14-16, Mat 9:11-13, Jer 5:1, Luk 19:9-10)
5. (17:17) Is Yeshua at work in you, causing you to bud, blossom, and bringing forth fruit? (Psa 110:1-2, Jer 23:5-6, Rom 12:1-2)
6. (17:25) Do you have salvation through Yeshua, the "branch," chosen by God, and declared by the prophets? (Jer 33:15-16, Zec 6:12, Isa 8:23-9:1, Isa 60:1-5, Mat 4:15-16, Joh 3:14, 8:28, Joh 12:32)
7. (18:21) Did the Levi'im always get paid? Do you get "paid" for your service for The Kingdom? What is your "salary?" (2Ch 31:4-5, Neh 13:10-12, 1Ti 5:17-18, 1Co 9:9-10, 15, Mat 10:9-11, Gal 6:6, Rom 16:1-2)