

Parshas Korach –When Equality is Divisiveness & Divisiveness is Equality:

1. **Exodus 19:9:** Hashem said to Moses, “Behold! I come to you in the thickness of the cloud, so that the people will hear as I speak to you, and they will also believe in you forever.”
2. **Maimonides Eighth Principle of Belief:** ...He who says that these verses and stories were invented by Moshe is considered by our Sages and prophets to be more heretical and misleading than any other heretic...This is the eighth Principle, as affirmed by the verse (Numbers 16:28) “With this you will know that the Almighty sent me to do all these things, for I have not done them of my own mind.”
3. **Bamidbar 16:30:** But if Hashem will create a phenomenon, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them and all that is theirs, and they will descend alive into the pit – then you shall know that these men have provoked Hashem!
4. **Rashi 16:1:** Korach clothed them in cloaks which were made entirely out of techeiles. They came and stood before Moses. They said to him, “A cloak which is entirely of techeiles, is it obligated in Tzitzis or exempt? He said to them, “It is obligated.” They began to laugh at him, and said, “Is this possible? A cloak of a different type of cloth, one thread of techeiles exempts it. This one, which is entirely of techeiles, should it not exempt itself?”
5. **Talmud Sanhedrin 110a:** “And when Moses heard it he fell upon his face.” What news did he hear? That he was suspected of adultery with married women...Every person warned his wife on Moses’ account.
6. **Talmud Baba Metzia 59b:** Torah is not in the heavens.
7. **Rashi 16:5:** Moses used the term “in the morning” as a metaphor. Moses said to them, “The Almighty divided His world with boundaries. Can you turn morning into evening? So will you be able to nullify this priesthood...”
8. **Rashi 16:7;** Were they not fools? For Moshe warned them in this manner, yet they still undertook to offer the incense. But they sinned against their souls.
9. **Bamidbar 16:3;** They gathered together against Moshe and against Aharon and said to them: “It is much for you! For the entire assembly – all of them – are holy and Hashem is among them. So why do you exalt yourselves over the congregation of Hashem? **Rashi:** If you are the one who took royalty, you should have not chosen priesthood for your brother. Not only the two of you heard at Sinai, “I am Hashem, your G-d”; the entire assembly heard it.
10. **Bamidbar 16:15;** This distressed Moshe greatly, and he said to Hashem: “Do not turn to their gift offering! **Rashi:** I know that they have a share in the continual-offerings of the public. Their portion of that offering too should not be accepted before you as a source of goodwill. Let the fire of the altar leave it over, and not consume it.
11. **Bamidbar 16:1;** Korach the son of Yitzhar the son of Kehas the son of Levi took. And Dasan and Avirom the sons of Eliav and On the son of Peles, the sons of Reuven. **Rashi:** He took himself to one side to be separate from the assembly of Israel by raising objections regarding the priesthood.
12. **Pirkei Avos 5:20:** Any dispute that is for the sake of Heaven will have a constructive outcome; but one that is not for the sake of Heaven will not have a constructive outcome. What sort of dispute was for the sake of Heaven? The dispute between Hillel and Shammai.
13. **Yalkut Shimoni:** I am involved so that the greatness will rotate around all of us.
14. **Rashi 16:6:** Among the ways of the other nations there are many rites, and many clergymen, and they do not all gather together in one house of worship. We have none but the One G-d Hashem, one Ark, one Torah, one Altar, and one High priest. Yet you 250 men seek the High Priesthood....
15. **Targum Yonasan:** While they were sinking, the Jewish people heard them confess loudly, “Hashem is righteous; His judgment is truthful; the words of His servant Moshe are true; and we are wicked for having rebelled against him.”
16. **Pirkei Avos 4:20:** Initiate a greeting to every person; and be a tail to lions, rather than a head to foxes.