

קֹרַח

Qorach

(Korah)

B'midbar [Numbers] 16:1-18:32

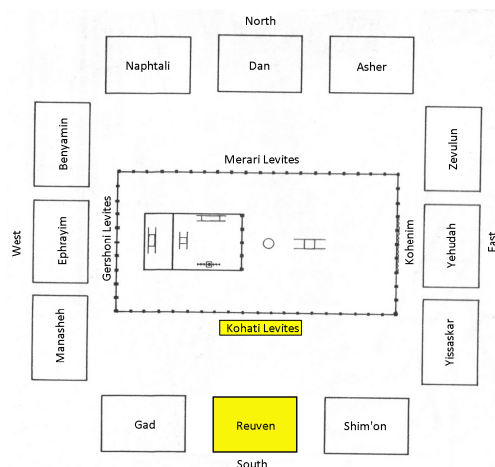
A New Thing

B'midbar (Numbers) 16:30

“But if YHWH makes a new thing, and the ground opens its mouth, and swallows them up, with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol; then you shall understand that these men have despised YHWH.”

I grew up going to church and became a full time minister in my mid-twenties. I am quite familiar with what goes on in the church world. One of the things that I have witnessed many times is the people clamoring for YHWH to do something new. From my understanding of Scripture this is not really a good thing. In fact, the implication in this section of Scripture is that the people were doing this very thing: clamoring for something new.

We know that they were continually grumbling about something and that many times what they asked for YHWH gave to them. Not nearly how they imagined He would, but what they asked for nonetheless. This seems to be the case here. The people seemed to be wanting something new, particularly new leaders. YHWH heard them and gave them something new, right in the midst of the camp.



Qorach was of the family of Kohath of the tribe of Levi. This means that he was camped on the south side of the tabernacle. Dathan and Aviram were from the tribe of Reuven, which was also camped on the south side of the tabernacle. Since Dathan and Aviram were leaders, their tents were most likely near to the tabernacle. It even seems likely that the tents of Qorach, Dathan and Aviram were all next to each other and that they were good friends and fellow conspirators against YHWH and His anointed leader, Moshe.

B'midbar (Numbers) 16:1

Now Qorach, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men.

This opening up of the earth then took place on the south side of the tabernacle where Kohath, Dathan and Aviram were camped, for we know that their tents and all that belonged to them, including their wives and their children, were all swallowed up when the ground opened and they all went alive down into Sheol. The indication of Scripture is that there was only one opening, indicating to us the close proximity of the tents of these three men.

B'midbar (Numbers) 16:32-33

32 and the earth opened its mouth, and swallowed them up, and their households, and all the men that belonged to Qorach, and all their goods.

33 So they, and all that belonged to them, went down alive into Sheol; and the earth closed upon them, and they perished from among the assembly.

Now notice the response of Israel when they all witnessed this “new thing” from YHWH.

B'midbar (Numbers) 16:34

And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them; for they said, “Lest the earth swallow us up.”

They got their new thing from YHWH, but when it came they fled from it. Hummm... I wonder if those who say that they want to see something new from YHWH really understand what it is that they are asking for? I wonder if those who clamor for something new from our heavenly Father would also flee from it when He gave it to them?

Let us prayerfully consider what asking for something new is actually asking for. Let our understanding begin with this passage.

Shemot (Exodus) 3:14

And Elohim said to Moshe, “I AM WHO I AM;” and He said, “Thus shall you say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

The Being that our Creator is, is who He shall always be! He does not ever change, which we will see in other verses that follow.

Malachi 3:6

“For I, YHWH, change not; therefore you, sons of Ya’aqov, are not consumed.”

For this we should be eternally thankful! For, the history of Israel is such that YHWH had just cause many times to consume the entire nation for their hardheartedness, stubbornness and outright

rebellion. It is only because He is a loving and compassionate Elohim that we have not been destroyed. What YHWH did was to destroy those who were causing the rebellion or grumbling from out of the midst of Israel. We see that very clearly in this week's Torah portion when he not only destroyed Qorach, Dathan and Aviram, but also the other 250 leaders who had taken up this grievance against YHWH and His chosen leader, Moshe.

When was the last time that you thanked YHWH for being the same and not changing? The truth of our present world is that the world attempts to convince us that sameness is boring and not fun and should be discarded. This is simply not true!

Tehillim (Psalm) 102:27

***But You are the same,
And Your years shall have no end.***

Even in each of our own personal histories there most likely have been times that YHWH had just cause to strike us down. It is simply because He is the same yesterday, today and forever that we have not been struck down.

Ya'aqov (James) 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning.

One of those good and perfect gifts that YHWH has given to us is eternal life. If He was not the same yesterday, today and forever, then how could we be certain of eternal life? There would simply be no way to be certain. Are you beginning to see how important His unchangeableness is? Are you beginning to fathom that asking for something new is to ask something opposite of His nature towards us?

Ivrim (Hebrews) 13:8

Mashiach Yeshua is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.

All praise to our heavenly Father for this truth and reality, for it makes our salvation sure and complete, if we endure to the end.

Now there are a couple of other verses that we need to look at briefly, for in many English versions these verses speak of something new as well. But as we are about to see, this is a mischaracterization of what the following verses actually are teaching us.

Yeshayah (Isaiah) 43:19

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now shall it spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

YHWH in speaking through the prophet Yeshayah states that He will do a “new thing”. However, this is not the same Hebrew wording as we find in our Torah portion this week. The new thing concerning Qorach is dealing with something new that is created. In the above verse the “new thing” comes from the Hebrew word חֲדָשָׁה – “chadashah” which means to *renew*. So it is not really a new thing per se that YHWH is doing in this passage, rather He is simply renewing something or doing something again that He has already done.

On a side note, the Hebrew designation of the New Testament is Brit Chadasha, which is a form of this word חֲדָשָׁה – “chadashah” showing to us that it is not a “new” covenant, but rather it is a “renewed” covenant.

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 31:22

“How long will you go hither and thither, you backsliding daughter? For YHWH has created a new thing in the earth; a woman shall encompass a man.”

Once again in this passage the word is חֲדָשָׁה – “chadashah” which means to *renew*, just as we found in the previous verse.

Neither of these verses actually speak of something completely new, but rather something that has happened before or that has been before, and He has renewed it or done it again.

There is one more verse that is instructive to us in this study today which is found in the Brit Chadasha, the New Testament.

Ma’aseh (Acts) 17:21

Now all the Athenians and the strangers sojourning there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

Now the sad thing today is that many of those who are coming into the truth of YHWH and are learning many “new” things, at least to them, get caught up in always seeking after that “new” teaching. In fact, there are those leaders in this movement that also get caught up in this mindset of thinking that they always have to have something “new” to give to the people. May I submit to you that this is nothing short of simply tickling the ears? To be sure that is exactly what it is.

2nd Timothy 4:3-4

3 For the time will come when they will not endure the sound teaching; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts;

4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside to fables.

Brothers and sisters in Mashiach Yeshua, let us make sure that we are solidly grounded in His word, both in the written word as well as the Living Word. Consistency and steadfastness are both good attributes for us to have, and especially for our teachers and leaders to have. Let us carefully regard those who

seem to always have to have a “new” word from YHWH. Note well that the prophets of old did not give new messages, but rather gave messages grounded solidly upon Torah! The message of the prophets of old was to turn from our evil ways and to hear and obey His Voice!

Is it because the message of the prophets was not new that it was not heeded? Perhaps this is one of the reasons. Let us not be guilty of the same thing. Let us seek to endure in this world living sensibly and righteously before YHWH waiting for our full redemption to manifest itself in Mashiach Yeshua.

ABBA YHWH, we ask not for a new thing, but for You to be the same towards us today as You have always been, loving and full of compassion towards us; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

www.onetorahforall.com