



LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

PARSHAT KORACH HAVING A GOOD ARGUMENT?

WITH JACQUELINE FELDMAN

REBBETZEN BUSHEY UNITED SYNAGOGUE

MA'AYAN

BAMIDBAR 16:1-3

וַיִּקַּח קֹרַח בֶּן־יִצְחָר בֶּן־קֹהַת בֶּן־לֵוִי וְדָתָן וְאַבִּירָם בְּנֵי אֶלִיאָב וְאוֹן בֶּן־פִּלֶּת בְּנֵי רְאוּבֵן:

Now Korah, son of Izhar son of Kohath son of Levi, took, along with Dathan and Abiram sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—descendants of Reuben—

וַיִּקְמוּ לְפָנָי מִשָּׁה וְאַנְשֵׁים מִבְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲמִשָּׁים וּמֵאָתַיִם נְשִׂאֵי עֵדָה קִרְאֵי מוֹעֵד אַנְשֵׁי־שָׁם:

to rise up against Moses, together with two hundred and fifty Israelites, chieftains of the community, chosen in the assembly, men of repute.

וַיִּקְהָלוּ עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם רַב־לָכֶם כִּי כָל־הָעֵדָה כֻּלָּם קֳדָשִׁים וּבְתוֹכָם ה' וּמִדּוּעַ תִּתְנַשְּׂאוּ עַל־קְהַל ה':

They combined against Moses and Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! For all the community are holy, all of them, and the LORD is in their midst. Why then do you raise yourselves above the LORD’s congregation?”

CHAFETZ CHAIM LAWS OF LASHON HARA

וְאִם הוּא מַחֲזִיק בְּמַחֲלָקֶת (יב) עַל יְדֵי סְפֹרוֹ עוֹבֵר עוֹד עַל לֹא
(במדבר י"ז ה') ד"לא יהיה כקרח וכעדתו" שְׁהוּא אֲזַהֲרָה, שְׁלֹא
לְהַחֲזִיק בְּמַחֲלָקֶת כְּדֹאִיתָא בְּסִנְהֶדְרִין (דף ק"י).

(12) And if he nurtures a quarrel in his speaking, he transgresses (Bamidbar 17:5). "And he shall not be as Korach and as his congregation," which is an exhortation against nurturing a quarrel (viz. Sanhedrin 110a).

VAYIKRA 19:18

וְאָהַבְתָּ לְרֵעֲךָ כְּמוֹךָ אֲנִי ה'.

Love your fellow as yourself:

I am the LORD.

Bereishit 1:6-8

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי רָקִיעַ בְּתוֹךְ הַמַּיִם וַיְהִי מַבְדִּיל בֵּין מַיִם לַמַּיִם:

God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the water, that it may separate water from water."

וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָרָקִיעַ וַיַּבְדֵּל בֵּין הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר מִתַּחַת לָרָקִיעַ וּבֵין הַמַּיִם
אֲשֶׁר מֵעַל לָרָקִיעַ וַיְהִי־כֵן:

God made the expanse, and it separated the water which was below the expanse from the water which was above the expanse.

And it was so.

וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לָרָקִיעַ שָׁמַיִם וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם שֵׁנִי: (פ)

God called the expanse Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

Pirkei Avot Ethics of our Fathers 5:17

כָּל מַחְלָקוֹת שֶׁהֵיָא לְשֵׁם שָׁמַיִם, סוֹפָה לְהִתְקַיֵּם. וְשֵׁי אֵינָה לְשֵׁם שָׁמַיִם, אֵין סוֹפָה לְהִתְקַיֵּם. אֵיזוֹ הֵיא מַחְלָקוֹת שֶׁהֵיָא לְשֵׁם שָׁמַיִם, זֶה מַחְלָקוֹת הַלֵּל וְשַׁמַּיִ. וְשֵׁי אֵינָה לְשֵׁם שָׁמַיִם, זֶה מַחְלָקוֹת קֶרַח וְכָל עֲדָתוֹ:

Every dispute that is for the sake of Heaven, will in the end endure; But one that is not for the sake of Heaven, will not endure. Which is the controversy that is for the sake of Heaven? Such was the controversy of Hillel and Shammai. And which is the controversy that is not for the sake of Heaven? Such was the controversy of Korah and all his congregation.

Tehillim Psalms 133:1

שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת לְדָוִד
הֵינָה מֵה־טוֹב וּמֵה־נְעִים שֶׁבֶת אֲחִים גַּם־יַחַד:

A song of ascents. Of David. How good and how pleasant it is that brothers dwell together.