

Korach in a Nutshell

Numbers 16:1–18:32

Korach incites a mutiny challenging Moses' **leadership** and the granting of the *kehunah* (**priesthood**) to Aaron. He is accompanied by Moses' inveterate foes, **Dathan and Abiram**. Joining them are 250 distinguished members of the community, who offer the sacrosanct **ketoret** (incense) to prove their worthiness for the priesthood. The **earth** opens up and swallows the mutineers, and a **fire** consumes the *ketoret*-offerers.

A subsequent plague is stopped by Aaron's offering of *ketoret*. Aaron's staff miraculously blossoms and brings forth **almonds**, to prove that his designation as high priest is divinely ordained.

G-d commands that a *terumah* ("uplifting") from each crop of grain, wine and oil, as well as all firstborn sheep and cattle, and other specified **gifts**, be given to the *kohanim* (priests).