**Some Questions to Ponder:**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat, which reading touched your heart and fired your imagination?

I was touched by the Hakham’s commentary on the fig tree. His description of the leadership gave me pause to think.

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 16:1? And how does his answer correlate to what happened in last week’s Torah Seder?

**Korah... took** – What is the meaning of ‘took’?

**the son of Izhar the son of Kohath the son of Levi** – Why is Yaaqov not mentioned in the genealogy?

**Dathan and Abiram** - How did these two get involved?

**descendants of Reuben** – Who were these descendants?

In last week’s parasha we saw the wood gatherer blatant rebellion and his fate. We also note that The tzitzith were discussed last week and were uses as an excuse for Korach’s rebellion.

There is a correlation between the man who profane the Sabbath by carrying sticks and Kohath who took matters upon himself by coloring the entire tzitzit blue, when it was not his place to do so. In both instances, we can see the sin of presumption.

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 16:3?

**You take too much upon yourselves** – What did he take?

**are all holy** – What made them holy?

**So why do you raise yourselves** – Who are included in ‘yourselves’?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 16:4?

**and fell on his face** - Why did Moshe fall on his face?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 16:5?

**In the morning, the Lord will make known** – Why did he wait for the morning?

**In the morning, the Lord will make known who is His** – ‘His’ for what purpose?

**and who is holy** – ‘Holy’ for what office?

**and He will draw** – Who will be drawn?

**near to Him** – What id the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: וְהִקְרִיב אֵלָיו?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 16:6?

**Do this!...Take for yourselves censers** - Why did he see fit to speak to them thus?

**Censers** – What is a censer?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 16:7?

**you have taken too much upon yourselves, sons of Levi** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: רַב לָכֶם בְּנֵי לֵוִי?

**you have taken too much upon yourselves** – How is this to be interpreted?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 16:12?

**Moses sent** – What do we derive from this pasuk?

**We will not go up** – What was the result of their speech?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 16:15?

**Moses was exceedingly distressed** – What do we learn from the Hebrew phrase: וַיִּחַר לְמשֶׁה מְאֽד?

**Do not accept their offering** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

**I have not taken a donkey from a single one of them** – Why is a donkey mentioned?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 16:27?

**went out standing upright** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: נִצָּבִים?

**their wives, their children, and their infants**- Why were the infants and children included in the judgment?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 16:30?

**But if... a creation** – What kind of creation?

**the Lord creates** – What is this creation?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 17:5?

**so as not to be like Korah** – What is the meaning of this Hebrew phrase: וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה כְקֽרַח?

**as the Lord spoke regarding him through the hand of Moses** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: לוֹ?

1. How is B’Midbar 16:1-2 related to B’Midbar 17:14-15?

The first two verses speak of the sin and the sinners and the last two verses speak of the consequence of the sin and the repairers of the breach.

The opening passages tell us of the group that came to confront Moshe. The final passages of our Torah Seder tell us the number of those who were in the group and punished for their rebellion.

1. In your opinion what is the intent of Hakham Tsefet’s pericope by the hand of his scribe Mordechai (Mark) for this Shabbat?

To teach the power of faithful obedience.

Gloria Sutton: It is about faith, getting prayers answered...trust in Hashem...and not be a hypocrite by seeking forgiveness for yourself, yet with holding your forgiveness from others.

Walter Oakley: The opening passages tell us of the group that came to confront Moshe. The final passages of our Torah Seder tell us the number of those who were in the group and punished for their rebellion. Faithful obedience to the ways of HaShem, Torah and the Mitzvot as taught by the Rabbis will nullify gentile governments.

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and imagination of the Psalmist for this week?

The Psalmist takes note of the fate of Korach and his loss of his place in this world and he contrasts that With HaShem’s place which is eternal. He notes the fear of the people to the opening of the earth and notes HaShem’s compassion for these people as he turned to their prayer. The Psalmist picks up on the Tzitzith by noting that the created beings will wear out like a garment. Finally the Psalmist notes that the descendents of His servants (the sons of Korach) will abide in the land and their offspring will be established in Your presence.

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and the imagination of the prophet Hoshea this week?

The Prophet notes the heart attitude of Korach and his followers. He notes the rebellion against the Torah and against HaShem and His king. He notes Korach’s poisonous words and their effect on the world. Finally, he notes the righteousness of the survivors and their reward.

1. What part/s of the Torah Seder, Psalm, and the prophets fired the heart and the imagination of Hakham Tsefet for this week?

Walter Oakley: **Torah Seder**

The pericope of Modechai immediately connects to the Torah seder with the word “morning.” The Greek πρωῒ (proi) matches the Hebrewבַּבֹּקֶר “b’boker.” (B’Midbar 16:5 – Mordechai 11:20)

Mordechai is also connected to the Torah Seder trough the word “Remember” (B’Midbar 17:5 - Mordechai 11:21).

Mordechai is also connected to the Torah Seder through the idea of prayer (B’Midbar Moshe prayed, Rashi 16:4 – Mordechai 11:24)

**Tehillim**

Just as the Psalmist connects to the Torah Seder trough the incense Mordechai connects with the Psalm through the idea of prayer (Psalm 102:17 – Mordechai 11:24).

**Ashlamatah**

Mordechai connects to the Ashlamatah through the idea of a divided heart and mountains. Hoshea 10:2, 8 – Mordechai 11:23)

1. Incense is analogous to fervent prayer. How is this related to the Master’s teaching for this week In the pericope of Mordechai?

Hakham Tsefet speaks of a time to pray and make requests. The time of the incense burning is the proper time to make this request.

Gloria Sutton: This week's pericope reiterates FAITHFUL obedience...OBEDIENCE, period...

Hakham: The faithful obediece that Hakham Tsefet spoke about is equivalent to prayer as they both connect us with HaShem. Faithful obedience is the performance of the mitzvot. Mitzvot, the word, comes from the root Tsivah, which means to join or enjoin.

1. Was the transgression of Korah and associates more terrible than the sin of the golden calf?

Yes, because at the golden calf the people were looking for a replacement for Moshe because they thought he was dead, whereas Korach and his followers were looking to replace Moshe because they believed he has taken the office for himself.

Dr. Elizabeth Oakley: Yes, in the sin of the Golden calf, Moshe interceded on behalf of the Children of Israel. However, in the case of Korach he did not intercede because God’s supremacy was challenged and Moshe would not stand for this slander against God.

1. After taking into consideration all the above texts and our Torah Seder, what would you say is the general prophetic message from the Scriptures for this coming week?

Seek shalom and yet do not be afraid to do the right thing in HaShem’s eyes.

Walter Oakley: Things only function when they are in the right order. Be careful to maintain proper order. Guard your heart.

Dr. Elizabeth Oakley: Know your place! Allow those to handle circumstances who have been ordained to do so. Always submit yourselves to those in authority over you and be faithfully obedient in all that you are asked by your Hakham to do.

Gloria Sutton: Strive to be obedient to Hashem, and to be more faithful in my prayers...and on a very personal note I need to be as Moshe when I have leadership challenges at work with the teenagers...there are many lessons to learn from the life of Moshe when it comes to leadership, not just at work but in all areas of my life.

Vivian Kuala: Timing is everything.