

“ACKNOWLEDGING HA SHEM IN ALL OUR GOOD FORTUNES”

There is an interesting Midrash Tanchuma (at the end of Sefer Bamidbar) cited by Rabbi Frand, which deals with Korach and attitude towards gifts that we receive from HaShem. Rav Soloveitchik noted that a Midrash Tanchuma should never be understood merely on the literal level but must be analyzed to find a deeper level of comprehension.

The Midrash states that there were two exceptionally **wise** men, two exceptionally **strong** men and two exceptionally **wealthy** men who came to this world. In each case one of the two came forth from Israel and one came from the nations of the world. And the common denominator of all six is that they were all destroyed and they all met a terrible death at the end.

The **wise** man from Israel was Achitofel, and his counterpart from the nations of the world was Bilaam. The **strong** man from Israel was Shimshon and his counterpart was Goliat. The **wealthy** man from Israel was **Korach** and his counterpart was Haman. The Midrash then proceeds to ask why these people’s lives met such terrible endings. The Midrash answers, because “**their gifts were not from Heaven**”. That is, they did not appreciate the tremendous gift that HaShem had granted them and did not acknowledge HaShem as the source of their exceptional greatness.

Most people realize that Chachma [wisdom] and Gevura [strength] are gifts-that’s just the way you were born. The one thing that people may not look at as a gift is Osher-wealth. If a person becomes wealthier than his neighbor, has a better job, he tends to attribute it to the fact that he was more capable, wiser and stronger, or a better businessman. The Midrash tells us otherwise.

If a person thinks, it’s because of **his** wisdom, or his intelligence, that enabled him to accumulate his fortune, and **his physical or emotional** strength that made him successful, it then follows that he thinks everything he owns is **his** money or his property, such a

person is doomed for failure. If he realizes that these successes are truly gifts of HaShem, then his attitude and his actions will be different and so will his fate.

So, possessing one or all of these gifts, wealth, health, success could be wonderful, but says our parasha, beware, they could be signs of danger. Did you acknowledge Ha Shem as the source and provider of these gifts??

Shabbat Shalom- from Yerushalayim, .

Rabbi Aharon Ziegler

QUESTIONS ON PARASHT KORACH

1 WHO WAS THE FATHER OF KORACH?

2 WHO WAS HIS GRANDFATHER?

3 WHO WAS HIS GREAT GRANDFATHER?

4- AND FINALLY, WHO WAS HIS GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER??

5-WHAT MOFET [MIRACLE] DID MOSHE ASK HA-SHEM TO PERFORM TO PROVE TO THE PEOPLE THAT HE (MOSHE) WAS INDEED THE ONE CHOSEN BY G-D TO LEAD?

6- HOW MANY PESUKIM ARE IN THIS WEEKS PARSHA???