

# LITTLE GEMS

## Korach

Shalom children! Let's continue on our journey with the Yisra'elites through the wilderness. Today, we will be learning about a Qehathite man named Qorah. **(Place Qorah on board.)** Qorah was a Lewite and had some friends from the tribe of Re'uben. Their names were Dathan and Abiram. **(Place Dathan and Abiram on board.)**

Qorah, Dathan, and Abiram decided one day that they were not happy having Mosheh and Aharon as their leaders. **(Place Mosheh and Aharon on board.)** They gathered up 250 other men and went to Mosheh and Aharon to tell them that they'd had enough and did not want them to be their leaders anymore. **(Place group of men on board next to Mosheh, Aharon, Qorah, Dathan, and Abiram.)** They argued that they themselves were set-apart too, and wanted to know why Mosheh and Aharon got to have such important positions. Do you think they were jealous of the jobs that Mosheh and Aharon had?

Well, when Mosheh heard them say this, he fell on his face to pray before Yahweh. **(Remove Mosheh and place bowing Mosheh on board.)** I wonder if he was thinking, "Oh no, not again! Why are they so angry about this?" **(Remove bowing Mosheh and place Mosheh on board.)** So he told the men to ask Yahweh to clearly show everyone which of them He had chosen to set apart. Was it Mosheh and Aharon? Or was it Qorah and his friends? The next day, they were to put fire and incense in their fire holders and bring them before Yahweh, and Yahweh would settle the disagreement once and for all. **(Place fire holder on board.)**

Mosheh let them know he'd had enough of their complaining. After all, the Lewites who were upset had been given their own special jobs serving Yahweh in the Dwelling Place. But that wasn't good enough for them; they also wanted the priesthood. Mosheh asked them why they were complaining and picking on Aharon. He told them that by doing this, they were coming against Yahweh himself. Then he asked Dathan and Abiram to come and talk with him, but they refused to come. Instead, they griped to Mosheh that he had failed to bring them into the land of milk and honey. They were angry that he had not given them the fields and vineyards they had been promised. They even thought he might be planning to kill them in the wilderness! Again they told Mosheh, "No, we will not come and talk to you."

This left Mosheh pretty upset. He knew that what these angry men were saying about him was not true, so he prayed and asked Yahweh to be on his side. He then told Qorah and the other men that they were to come and stand before Yahweh at the door of the Tent of Appointment, with the fire holders and incense. **(Place Tent of Appointment behind Mosheh and Aharon.)**

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Well, Qorah and his men were feeling pretty bold, so they gathered up the whole congregation and had them come along with them to face Mosheh and Aharon at the Tent of Appointment. **(Place Qorah, Dathan and Abiram and group of men next to Mosheh and Aharon. Add another group of Yisra'elites to board.)** Yahweh was very displeased about this. He told Mosheh and Aharon to back away, so He could just get rid of them all. But once again, Mosheh and Aharon fell on their faces and pleaded with Yahweh to please not punish everyone. **(Remove Mosheh and Aharon from board and place bowing Mosheh and Aharon on board.)**

So instead, Yahweh directed the Yisra'elites to move away from the tents of Qorah, Dathan, and Abiram. **(Place 3 tents on board, and place the 3 men next to their tents. Remove bowing Mosheh and Aharon from board and replace with Mosheh and Aharon)** Mosheh and the elders passed along this message to everyone, and also told them not to touch anything belonging to these men either. Mosheh warned them that the ground was about to open up, and the men who had not listened to Yahweh and Mosheh and Aharon were going to fall in. And that is exactly what happened next. The men who had rebelled fell down into the pit along with everything they owned. **(Place pit with men being "swallowed up" on board.)**

When the rest of the Yisra'elites saw this, they were terrified. They ran away so that they would not fall into the pit too. **(Move group of Yisra'elites to other side of board, but leave the group of men at the Tent of Appointment.)** However, back at the Tent of Appointment, the 250 men were still trying to offer incense to Yahweh, hoping to prove that they had been chosen too. But fire came down from above, and in a moment those people were no more. The only thing left were their fire-holders. **(Place blaze of fire on board above men, then remove men from board.)** Yahweh asked El'azar to go and get the fire holders out of the big blaze because they were set-apart objects. **(Place El'azar on board.)** They made the fire-holders into a covering for the altar, so that everyone would remember that only Aharon's sons were allowed to come offer incense to Yahweh. **(Place bronze covering on board.)**

Well, even after all this, the Yisra'elites were still complaining about Mosheh and Aharon. Yahweh was definitely not happy, and a plague began to break out and make many people very sick. **(Place sick people on board.)** So once again, Mosheh and Aharon fell on their faces and prayed to Yahweh. **(Remove Mosheh and Aharon from board and place bowing Mosheh and Aharon on board.)**

Many of those people were dying, so Aharon took his fire holder and went to offer incense for the whole congregation, hoping to spare them from the deadly plague. **(Remove bowing Mosheh and Aharon from board and place Aharon with fire holder and incense on board.)** Aharon stood between the people who had died and those who were still alive, so that Yahweh would show kindness and not allow the plague to come any

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closer to them. **(Place sick and dead people on both sides of Aharon with fire holder on board.)** Thankfully, the plague stopped and the rest of the people were safe.

This story is a good example of learning how important it is obey Yahweh and not do what you want. Remember what happened with the Golden Calf story? A lot of people got sick and died in that story too. Today's story does not end on a good note but I hope that the children of Yisra'el finally learned their lesson and do not continue to keep making the same mistakes. What do you think, children?

Well children, we have come to the end of our story for today. We will see you next week for another exciting Little Gems story!