



קרח

1. Look at this, the first פסוק in the פרשה:

פרק טז

א וַיִּקַּח קֹרַח בֶּן-יִצְחָר בֶּן-קֵהָת בֶּן-לֵוִי וְדָתָן וַאֲבִיָּהוּ בְנֵי אֶלִיָּאֵב וְאֹהֶרֶן בְּנֵי רָאוּבֵן : (.....)

The whole פסוק is printed here, but in the brackets you can see spaces for two words which, according to רש"י, might have been included, but are not. What words were 'left out' ?

2. Why were these words not included?

3. What was the argument of קרח against מֹשֶׁה and אֶהָרֹן?

4. How did ה' punish קרח and his 250 followers?

5. a) What did ה' say should be done with the מַחֲתוֹת - the firepans the 250 men had been holding?
b) What was the reason for doing this?

6. On what did blossom, buds and almonds sprout?

7. What did this show and prove to the people?

8. What did ה' now tell the כֹּהֲנִים and לְוִיִּם?

Answers:

1. בן יעקב

2. יעקב had prayed on his deathbed that he should not be mentioned together with קרח and his followers.

3. Their argument was that מֹשֶׁה and אֶהָרֹן were taking too much power for themselves.

4. ה' punished them by causing the ground to open and swallow them up.

5. a) They were to be hammered out and made into a covering for the מִשְׁכָּן.

b) This would be a reminder to all of בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל that only אֶהָרֹן and his descendants had been chosen to be the כֹּהֲנִים and only they were allowed to offer the incense.

6. On the staff (rod) which belonged to אֶהָרֹן.

7. This showed that only אֶהָרֹן was the true כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל and his descendants were the כֹּהֲנִים.

8. ה' explained exactly what gifts they would be entitled to from the rest of the people.

שבת שלום!