

Parasha "Korach", 2015
Numbers Chapters 16:-18:32

1. *"The Riposte of YHWH to the Challenge of Aaron's Honor by Korach"*
2. *"The Rod/Scepter in light of Shepherding, Leadership, Justice, Righteousness and Equity."*



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CHALLENGE & RIPOSTE

"The challenge-riposte is essentially an attempt to gain honor at someone else's expense by publicly posing a challenge that cannot be answered. When a challenge has been posed, the challenged must make some sort of response (and no response is also considered a response). It falls to the bystanders to decide whether or not the challenged person successfully defended his (and, indeed, usually "his") own honor."

-David Desilva "Honor, Patronage & Purity"

CHALLENGE & RIPOSTE

Four Steps to the Push and Shove Game.

- ✓ Claim of worth or value
- ✓ Challenge to that Claim
- ✓ Riposte or defense of the claim
- ✓ Public verdict of Success awarded to either claimant or challenger.

Jerome Neyrey: Honor & Shame in the Gospel of Matthew

Hebrew Words For Rod and Scepter.

H4294

מטה / מטתה

maṭṭeh / maṭṭaḥ

BDB Definition:

1) staff, branch, tribe

1a) staff, rod, shaft

1b) branch (of vine)

1c) tribe

1c1) company led by chief with staff (originally)

H4294

מטה מטתה

maṭṭeh maṭṭaḥ

mat-teh', mat-taw'

From H5186; a *branch* (as *extending*); figuratively a *tribe*; also a *rod*, whether for chastising (figuratively *correction*), ruling (a **sceptre**), throwing (a *lance*), or walking (a *staff*; figuratively a *support of life*, for example bread): - rod, staff, tribe.

Hebrew Words For Rod or Scepter

H7626

שבט

sheḇet

BDB Definition:

1) rod, staff, branch, offshoot, club, sceptre, tribe

1 a) rod, staff

1 b) shaft (of spear, dart)

1 c) club (of shepherd's implement)

1 d) truncheon, sceptre (mark of authority)

1 e) clan, tribe

H7626

שבט

sheḇet

shay'-bet

From an unused root probably meaning to *branch* off; a *scion*, that is, (literally) a *stick* (for punishing, writing, fighting, ruling, walking, etc.) or (figuratively) a *clan*: - X correction, dart, rod, **sceptre**, staff, tribe

IVP Background Commentary for Numbers 17:2-7

“staff as insignia of tribal leadership.”

The staff was used by shepherds to guide their flocks. In the hands of an elder or tribal leader, the staff (probably distinctly carved and known to belong to that man) symbolized his authority (see Gen 38:18). By writing the name of each of the twelve tribal leaders on the staffs and placing them before the tent of meeting, there would be no question who answered at God's command and who was therefore the designated priest. This public pattern of discernment is also found in Joshua 7:14-15 and 1 Samuel 10:20-21.”



“JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AS THE TASK OF THE
ESCHATOLOGICAL KING” Chapter 3 of Weinfeld’s book.
Pages 60-65




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Midrash Rabbah –Numbers 18:23

"That same staff also is destined to be held in the hand of King Messiah (may he come speedily in our days), as it says [in Psalm 110:2], יהוה sends Your mighty sceptre out of Tsiyon. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!"

Why Is this important?

Because this points to Yeshua as King-Priest. King of the Dynasty which He holds the Scepter of Justice, Righteousness and Equity, and the Office of Priest According to the Heavenly Melchizedek Order



A little known fact of ancient shepherding is that a *goat* would often lead a flock of sheep.



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“Judas Goat”

A Judas goat is a trained goat used at a slaughterhouse and in general animal herding. The Judas goat is trained to associate with sheep or cattle, leading them to a specific destination. In stockyards, a Judas goat will lead sheep to slaughter, while its own life is spared. Judas goats are also used to lead other animals to specific pens and on to trucks.



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The Parable of The Sheep and Goats

Matthew 25:31-36



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