

PINCHAS



Likkutei Sichos Volume 33

With Rabbi Shalom M. Paltiel

TEXTUAL FOUNDATIONS

Numbers 16:33

They descended alive into the grave. The earth covered them up and they were lost to the congregation.

Numbers 26 - Census of Tribe of Reuben.

26:9 Dathan and Aviram incited against Moses and Aaron with Korach's rebellion against God.

26:10 The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up.

26:11 Korach's sons did not die.

Rashi: "They were among the early planners of the rebellion; during the conflict they had thoughts of Teshuva in their hearts; therefore a shelter was provided for them underground."

26:58 These were the families of Levi: family of Livni, family of Chevron, family of Machli, family of Mushi, family of Korach.

Rebbe's questions ?

❁ **A.** Why so much detail in Rashi, not simply: “Korach’s sons did Teshuva”?

- ① “They were among the early planners of the rebellion”
 - ② “During the conflict they had thoughts of Teshuva in their hearts”
 - ③ “A shelter was provided for them underground.”
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❁ **B.** Why is this verse here, in the census?
Presumably to explain Korach’s inclusion in census. But:

- ④ Why not earlier in Korach (chapter 16)?
- ⑤ And if it must be here, why with Reuben (Dathan & Aviram) and not Levi?

Rebbe's explanation:

What is Rashi's goal:

To explain this strange, unique punishment:
swallowed up by the earth - yet alive and comfortable!


Measure for measure:

Their Teshuva was hidden in their hearts.
Their salvation too was hidden from sight.

That explains:

2. "During the conflict they had thoughts of Teshuva in their hearts
3. "A shelter was provided for them underground."





4: Why is this verse here,
and not in Korach?



Because they did not emerge in that generation,
who witnessed the rebellion.

Hence: “they were lost from the congregation” (16:33)

Addressing remaining questions:



1: Rashi: “They were among the early planners of the rebellion”

5: Why is this here by Reuben’s census
(Dathan & Aviram) and not by Levi’s?



These two questions answer one another!

