

# The Parshah in a Nutshell

## Korach

Numbers 16:1-18:32

Korach incites a mutiny challenging Moses' leadership and the granting of the *kehunah* ("priesthood") to Aaron, accompanied by Moses' erstwhile foes, Dathan and Aviram. Joining them are 250 distinguished members of the community, who offer the sacrosanct *ketoret* (incense) to prove their worthiness for the priesthood. The earth opens up and swallows the mutineers, and a fire consumes the *ketoret*-offerers.

A subsequent plague is stopped by Aaron's offering of *ketoret*. Aaron's staff miraculously blossoms and brings forth almonds to prove that his designation as High Priest is Divinely ordained.

G-d commands that a *terumah* (gift – literally "uplifting") from each crop of grain, wine and oil, all firstborn sheep and cattle, and other specified gifts be given to the Kohanim.