

# ARGUMENTS FOR THE SAKE OF HEAVEN

*Any dispute for the sake of Heaven will have enduring value, but any dispute not for the sake of Heaven will not have enduring value.*

*What is an example of a dispute for the sake of Heaven? The dispute between Hillel and Shammai.*

*What is an example of one not for the sake of Heaven? The dispute of Korah and all his company.*

(5:21)

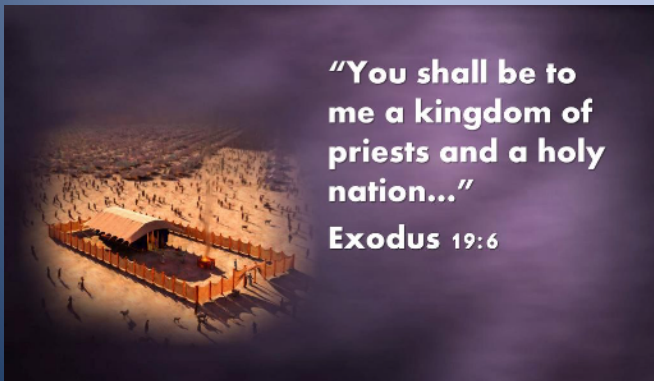


# KORAH'S REBELLION

Isn't It Enough That You  
Have Brought Us Up Out Of  
A Land Flowing With Milk  
And Honey To Kill Us In  
The Desert? And Now You  
Also Want To Lord It Over  
Us?

Numbers 16-13

**Dathan and Abiram**  
(Reubenites)



## Numbers 16:3-4



"They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, 'You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?'  
<sup>4</sup> So when Moses heard it, he fell on his face"

- **Numbers 16:9-10 (NKJV)** - *Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to serve them; 10 and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also?*

# Shammai and Hillel

The House of Shammai says, “In the evening all should recline (to recite the *Shema*) but in the morning they should stand up.” The House of Hillel says, “They may recite it every one in his own way.” (*m. Berakhot* 1:3)



“If it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found in her a shameful thing and he writes her a certificate of divorce...” (Deut. 24:1)

The House of Shammai says, “A man should not divorce his wife unless he finds her to be unchaste.” The House of Hillel says, “Even if she has burned his food.” (*m. Gittin* 9:10)



**Beit Shammai say:**

[this...]

**Beit Hillel say:**

[that...]

For three years Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel disagreed. These said, “The legal ruling (*halakah*) is in accordance with our teaching,” and those said, “The legal ruling is in accordance with our teaching.”

A Divine Voice emerged and proclaimed, “Both these and those are the words of the living God. However, the legal ruling is in accordance with Beit Hillel.” (*Eruvin 13b*)

# A TORAH OF CHESED

Since both these and those are words of the living God, why were the Hillelites privileged to have the legal ruling established in accordance with their teaching?

Because they were kindly and modest, because they studied not only their own rulings but also those of Beit Shammai and because they taught the words of Beit Shammai before their own.

This is to teach you that anyone who humbles himself, the Holy One exalts him and anyone who exalts himself, the Holy One humbles him.

-Eruvin 13b. B. Talmud

On three things the world stands:  
on the Torah,  
on divine worship,  
and on acts of loving-kindness (*chesed*). (1:2)

PROVERBS 31:26 (KJV)

SHE OPENETH HER MOUTH WITH WISDOM;  
AND IN HER TONGUE IS THE LAW OF KINDNESS.

Now Make Confession To  
The Lord , The God Of Your  
Fathers, And Do His Will.  
Separate Yourselves From The  
Peoples Around You And  
From Your Foreign Wives.”

Ezra 10-11

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*the two will become one flesh*

THEREFORE, WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NO ONE SEPARATE.  
MARK 10:8-9

He said to them, "Because  
of your hardness of heart  
Moses allowed you to  
divorce your wives, but  
from the beginning it was  
not so. And I say to you:  
whoever divorces his wife,  
except for sexual  
immorality, and marries  
another, commits  
adultery."

Matthew 19:8-9 ESV

"For I hate divorce!" says the  
LORD, the God of Israel. "To  
divorce your wife is to overwhelm  
her with cruelty," says the LORD  
of Heaven's Armies. "So guard  
your heart; do not be unfaithful  
to your wife." Malachi 2:16

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

- 10 To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband.
- 11 But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.