

PARSHAPIX

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Word of the Month

First op for KL: Motza"Sh Parshat Korach (June 16). Even though the Moon will not actually be 3 days old yet, it doesn't matter. Our KL timings follow the average molad, not the actual one.

People who say KL only after 7 days following the molad have their first op Wed. night, June 20th, eve of 8 Tamuz.

According to Sefer HaToda'ah, 3 Tamuz (this Shabbat) is the date of the miracle in Yehoshua 10:12 - SHEMESH B'GIV'ON DOM V'YAREI'ACH B'EIMEK AYALON. We need to acknowledge and appreciate open miracles like that, AND to acknowledge the natural miracles of the Sun and the Moon, as well.





Top, left to right: after the earth split open and swallowed Korach's gang • fire that consumed the 250 incense-offerers • photo of one of the Pidyon HaBen coins minted by the State of Israel • guard standing at attention for the mitzva of Guard Duty by Leviyim (21 Leviyim & 3 kohanim) around the Beit HaMikdash and Har HaBayit • image of a DNA helix. D'n A is a short way to refer to Datan and Aviram • level, in Hebrew, a PELES, a sound-alike to the Ashkenazic pronunciation of the father of the Reuveinite who first teamed up with Korach and then backed out at his wife's insistence and to her credit (even if her motives were a bit off) • Second row: Milk and honey representing the Land of Israel and - L'HAVDIL, the perverse use of the beautiful phrase by Datan and Aviram in referring to Egypt • 1500 is the largest gimatriya in the Torah. The word is towards the end of the first Aliya of Korach. TISTAREIR - you lord yourself (over us) • gift box for the various gifts to the kohein mentioned in the sedra • The % symbol for the tenth of a tenth that the Levi is required to give to the kohein - T'RUMAT MAASEIR • baby carriage (blue for a boy) with the lamb inside, for the mitzva of B'CHOR, that of a kosher domesticated animal - cow, goat, and sheep • Apple core = KOR. Gemini = twins, over two is a twin or a brother = ACH. Put them together: KORACH • Salt shaker represents the B'RIT MELACH, the salt-like covenant between G-d and the kohanim.

Salt doesn't spoil, and so Brit Melach is the term for an indestructible (eternal) covenant • 2.98% is the part of the produce that a kohein receives - including T'ruma from the farmer (let's say 2%) and the T'rumat Maaseir he would receive from a Levi who received Maaseir from the same yield. 8.82% is the Levi's share (that's a tenth of the yield after T'ruma had already been separated) minus that which he gives a kohein), and the remaining 88.2% is what the owner has after giving T'ruma and Maaseir. He then has to take care of Maaseir Sheni or Maaseir Ani depending upon what year of the Sh'mita cycle we are dealing with • Next row: Charmin (you explain it) • garlic and sugar cubes - another representation of Pidyon HaBen, as in the custom of distributing little packets of garlic and sugar cubes to those attending a Pidyon • stalk of wheat, standing straight, looking like the number 1, with a decimal point before it - representing the mitzva of giving Maaseir to a Levi from grain, etc. • close up of the staff of Aharon which blossomed almond flowers • smiley globe - its mouth represents PI HAARETZ, the mouth of the earth that opened and swallowed Datan and Aviram and company. Pirkei Avot teaches us that PI HAARETZ was one of 10 special items that were created in the instant before the first Shabbat B'reishit • Two more Unexplaineds • Bottom row: Not a donkey have I taken from you... Moshe to Korach and Co. • rods from each tribe with the middle one, Aharon's representing the whole tribe of Levi, having flowered and fruited overnight • choir, for one of the main functions of the Leviyim in the Mikdash • Murex Trunculus - source of T'CHELET as used by more and more people for their TZITZIT stings