



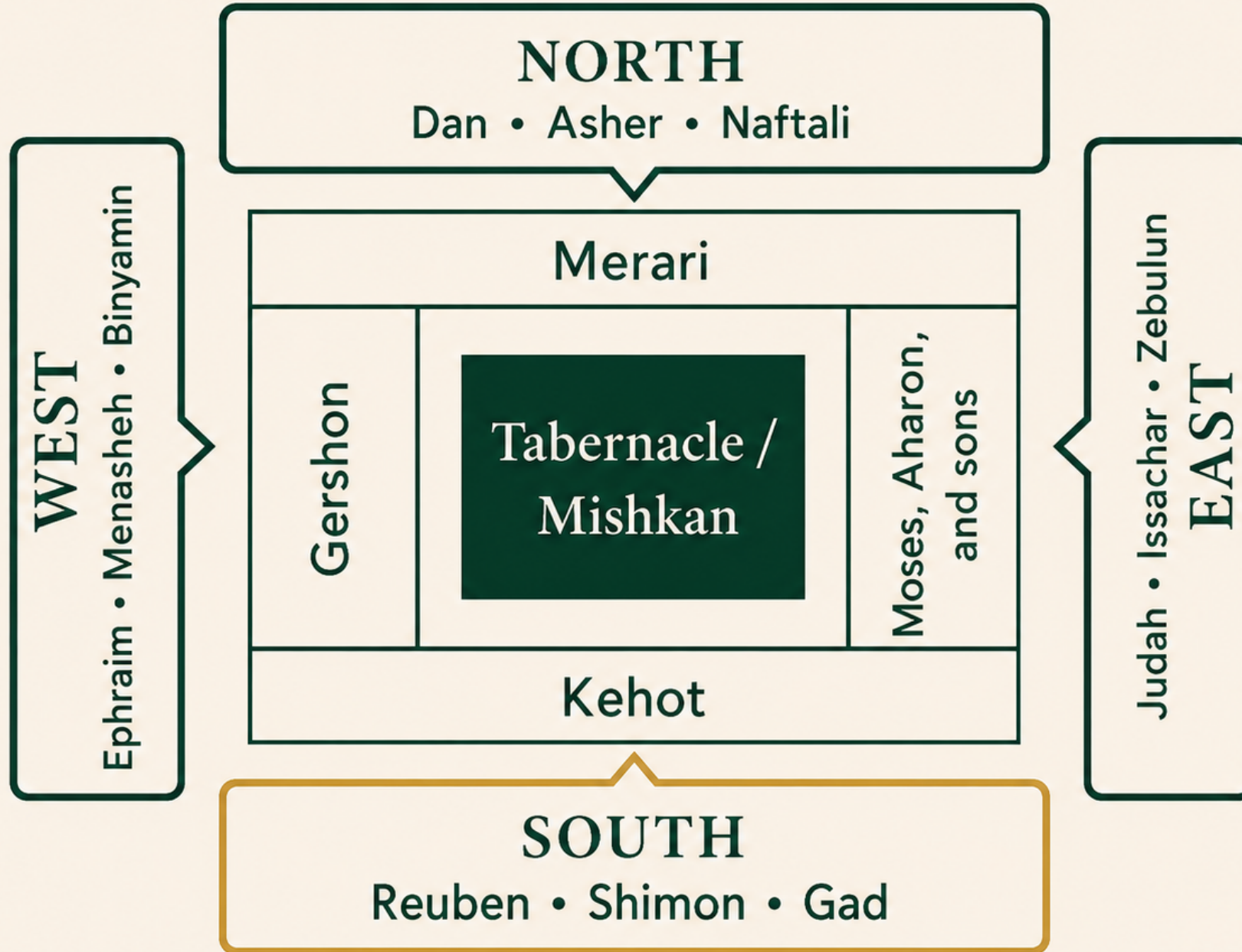
# BAMIDBAR



Likkutei Sichos Volume 32

With Rabbi Shalom M. Paltiel

# The Encampment



# Choose Thy Neighbor

## Why Reuben Was Affected by Korach



**2:10** – Banner of  
Camp of Reuben on the south



**3:29** – Family of Kehot  
camped on south of Tabernacle



**Sages:** ‘Woe to the wicked,  
and woe to his neighbor’



Proximity to Korach  
affected neighboring tribe of Reuben

# The Classics

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## A

Midrash  
Tanchuma

Kehot was on the south, near Reuben, Shimon, and Gad; these three tribes, neighbors of Korach and his band, **were lost with him in his strife: "The earth opened its mouth, etc."**

## B

Rashi

Nearby was Reuben's banner; thus, **Dathan and Aviram and 250 men** were punished with Korach; they were **drawn in with them in their strife.**

## C

Midrash  
Rabbah

Because they were near Korach, Reuben, Shimon, and Gad **were all people of strife.** Reuben joined Korach, and Gad and Shimon were also people of strife.

# Neighbor Influence

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**A**

Midrash  
Tanchuma

**CONSEQUENCE**

Neighbor shares outcome  
(punishment/reward)

**B**

Rashi

**CAUSATION**

Neighbor influences character  
(positive/negative)

**C**

Midrash  
Rabbah

**REVELATION**

Neighbor reveals your own traits

# In Halacha

## Laws of House Affliction

Metzora 14:40 – “They shall remove afflicted stones”

**A**

Neighbor will need to assist cleanup (**CONSEQUENCE**)

**B**

In case of cornerstone, neighbor's home is also afflicted (**CAUSATION**)

**C**

Neighbor must remove adjoining stone (**REVELATION**)

# Greater Good

3:38 – “Moses and Aharon camped to the east” (near Judah’s banner)

## A

Midrash  
Tanchuma

### CONSEQUENCE + CAUSATION

Fortunate for the tzadik, fortunate for his neighbor.  
These three tribes became great Torah scholars.

## B

Rashi

### AMPLIFIED CAUSATION

Near them is the banner of Judah’s camp, including Issachar and Zebulun. “Good for the righteous, good for his neighbor.” They became great Torah scholars.

## C

Midrash  
Rabbah

### REVELATION

Those camping east, from where sunlight shines forth, had kingdom and Torah; regarding them it is stated:  
Fortunate for the righteous, *and fortunate for his neighbor.*