

Numbers 12 - Miriam's Murmuring

II. Failure of the first generation (Num 11:1—25:18)

(1) Failure en route to Kadesh (Num 11:1—12:16)

(C) Failure of Miriam and Aaron at Hazeroth (12:1-16)

Journey to Kadesh Barnea: "What Might Have Been" (Num 10-14)

- Num 10 - The Departure from Sinai
- Num 11 - "Quailing" the Rebellion
- **Num 12 - Miriam's Murmuring**
- Num 13 - The Intelligence Mission
- Num 14 - The Banishment

Numbers 12

(C) Failure of Miriam and Aaron at Hazeroth (12:1-16)

1 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman);

1 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman);

1 Miriam and Aaron rebelled against Moses on account of the Cushite woman that he had married.

1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

- Not Zipporah, the daughter of the priest of Midian—she would be a Midianite

- The last we hear of Zipporah is when her father brought her to Moses at Mount Sinai (Ex 18:2)

- This Ethiopian (Cushite) (2nd) wife? Scripture is silent.

2 and they said, "Is it a fact that the LORD has spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?" And the LORD heard *this*.

2 and they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?" And the LORD heard it.

2 They asked, "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses? Hasn't he also spoken through us?"

But the LORD heard it.

2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any person who was on the face of the earth.)

3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.)

3 Now the man Moses was very humble—more than any person on earth.

3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

4 And the LORD suddenly said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, “You three go out to the tent of meeting.” So the three of them went out.

4 Suddenly the LORD said to Moses and Aaron and to Miriam, “You three come out to the tent of meeting.” So the three of them came out.

4 All of a sudden, the LORD told Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “The three of you are to come out to the Tent of Meeting.” So the three of them went out.

4 And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.

5 Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent; and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward,

5 Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the doorway of the tent, and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward,

5 Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud, stood at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, and summoned Aaron and Miriam. So both of them went forward.

5 And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

- Moses actually heard the voice of the Lord and saw His glory (Ex 19:16-19; 24:17-18; 34:5-11)

6 He said, “Now hear My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, will make Myself known to him in a vision. I will speak with him in a dream.

6 He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream.

6 Then he told the two of them: “Pay attention to what I have to say! When there is a prophet among you, won’t I, the LORD, reveal myself to him in a vision? Won’t I speak with him in a dream?”

6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

7 *"It is not this way for My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My household;*

7 *"Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household;*

7 But that's not how it is with my servant Moses, since he has been entrusted with my entire household!

7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, That is, openly, and not using mysterious language, And he beholds the form of the LORD. So why were you not afraid To speak against My servant, against Moses?"

8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings, And he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant, against Moses?"

8 I speak to him audibly and in visions, not in mysteries. If he can gaze at the image of the LORD, why aren't you afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

- God says that He deals differently with him than with any other prophet: He speaks with Moses directly

- God appeared in dreams to Abraham

- He appeared in dreams to Joseph

- But God dealt with Moses face to face

- Later: "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him"

(Deut 18:18)

— That Prophet who would be like unto Moses is the LORD Jesus Christ

9 And the anger of the LORD burned against them and He departed.

9 So the anger of the LORD burned against them and He departed.

9 Because the LORD was very angry with them, he left,

9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

10 But when the cloud had withdrawn from above the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as *white as snow*. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she was leprous.

10 But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as *white as snow*. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she was leprous.

10 but when the cloud ascended from the tent, Miriam had become leprous, as white as snow! Aaron turned toward Miriam, and she had leprosy!

10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

11 Then Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, I beg you, do not hold us responsible for this sin by which we have turned out to be foolish, and by which we have sinned.

11 Then Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, I beg you, do not account *this* sin to us, in which we have acted foolishly and in which we have sinned.

11 Aaron begged Moses, "I pray my lord, please don't hold this sin against us, since we've acted foolishly and sinned in doing so.

11 And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned.

12 Oh, do not let her be like a dead person, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb!"

12 Oh, do not let her be like one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes from his mother's womb!"

12 Please don't let her be like one of the living dead, who is born with a congenital skin disease."

12 Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb.

13 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "God, heal her, please!"

13 Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "O God, heal her, I pray!"

13 So Moses prayed to the LORD: "O LORD, please heal her."

13 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.

14 But the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had only spit in her face, would she not be put to shame for seven days? Have her shut outside the camp for seven days, and afterward she may be received again."

14 But the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut up for seven days outside the camp, and afterward she may be received again."

14 But the LORD told Moses, "If her father had merely spit in her face, wouldn't she be humiliated? She is to be placed in isolation for seven days. After that, she may be brought

in.”

14 And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again.

15 So Miriam was shut outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was received again.

15 So Miriam was shut up outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was received again.

15 So Miriam was isolated outside the camp for seven days and the people didn't travel until Miriam was brought in.

15 And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again.

16 Afterward, however, the people moved on from Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

16 Afterward, however, the people moved out from Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

16 After that, the people traveled from Hazeroth and encamped in the Wilderness of Paran.

16 And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran.

- Why wasn't Aaron struck with the leprosy? Because Aaron was God's high priest. If he were a leper he could not serve in that capacity; Israel would have had no intercessor to stand between them and God

- Miriam was the leader: Her name is mentioned first and the verb "spoke" in v1 is in the feminine: "she spoke"

- Aaron was not a leader, he was a follower. He was weak and pliable (Cf. Ex 32: the making of the golden calf).