

## Numbers 12:1-16 **Miriam and Aaron test the authority of Moses**

<sup>1</sup> Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. <sup>2</sup> So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it. <sup>3</sup> (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.) <sup>4</sup> Suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!" So the three came out. <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward. <sup>6</sup> Then He said, "Hear now My words:

If there is a prophet among you,  
I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision;  
I speak to him in a dream.

<sup>7</sup> Not so with My servant Moses;  
He is faithful in all My house.

<sup>8</sup> I speak with him face to face,  
Even plainly, and not in dark sayings;  
And he sees the form of the LORD.  
Why then were you not afraid  
To speak against My servant Moses?"

<sup>9</sup> So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed. <sup>10</sup> And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper. <sup>11</sup> So Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. <sup>12</sup> Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb!" <sup>13</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!"

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and after that she may be received again." <sup>15</sup> So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey on till Miriam was brought in again. <sup>16</sup> And afterward the people moved from Hazeroth and camped in the Wilderness of Paran. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Moses had married an Ethiopian woman from among the mixed multitude that came out of Egypt with the Children of Israel. [Exodus 12:38]
- ✧ Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses out of resentment toward that marriage.
- ✧ Miriam and Aaron had both given messages of Yehowah to the people and since Aaron was appointed by God as High Priest, they challenged the authority of Moses as the sole spokesman for God among the Children of Israel.
  - ◇ Miriam and Aaron said, "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?"
  - ◇ Has He not also spoken through us?"
  - ◇ Miriam was a prophetess who had led the women in song and dance when they had crossed the Red Sea on dry ground and the Egyptians following had been drowned in the same Red Sea at the place where Israel had encountered dry ground`. [Exodus 15:20-21]

- ✧ Aaron had been speaking the words of Yehowah from the beginning when Yehowah had sent Aaron to meet Moses at the Mountain of Elohiym. [\[Exodus 4:27-31\]](#)
- ✧ Moses was the most humble man on the face of the earth..
  
- ✧ The Lord heard what they said and called Moses, Aaron, and Miriam out to the Tabernacle of Meeting.
- ✧ When they arrived, Yehowah came down in the pillar of cloud, stood in the door of the Tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam to come forward, and they did so.
- ✧ Yehowah said to Aaron and Miriam, “If there is a prophet among you, I Yehowah, make Myself known to him in a vision, I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My house, and I speak with him face to face plainly and not in dark sayings. He sees the form of Yehowah. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?”
- ✧ The anger of Yehowah was aroused against them and He departed.
  
- ✧ When the cloud departed from above the Tabernacle, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow and Aaron saw that she was a leper.
  - ✧ God did not strike Aaron with leprosy because Aaron was the High Priest appointed by God and God did not want to defile the office since the anointing oil was on him. [\[Leviticus 21:10-12\]](#)
- ✧ Aaron turned to Moses and said, “Oh my lord, Please do not lay this sin against us in which we have done foolishly and sinned. Do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed away from his mother’s womb.
- ✧ Moses cried out to Yehowah and said, “Heal her O Adoney I implore You!”
- ✧ Yehowah said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be ashamed for seven days? Let her be exiled from the camp for seven days, and after that she may return.”
- ✧ Miriam was put out of the camp for seven days and the people did not travel until Miriam was brought in again.
  
- ✧ From Hazereth they journeyed to the Wilderness of Paran. [\[Numbers 12:16\]](#)