



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE NUMBERS 12:1-16 MIRIAM AND AARON OPPOSE MOSES

October 17, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 11:31-35 The Lord sent a wind that brought quail from the sea. Quail began to fall all over the camp. If you walked a day's journey on each side of the camp, there laid quail about two cubits high. And the people were standing up and catching and killing quail all day even throughout the night, and all the next day gathering two homers (more than 100 bushels) and they spread them all out to be cured for themselves round about the camp. And as they began to eat and chew the meat, the anger of the Lord rose against the people, and He killed large numbers of them with a very great plague. The name of the place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, meaning graves of greediness because there they buried the people that lusted. And the people journeyed from Kibroth-hattaavah to Hazeroth, where they stayed awhile.

LESSON: I. AARON AND MIRIAM SPEAK AGAINST MOSES NUMBERS 12:1-9

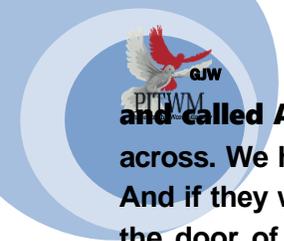
12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. After all that had just gone on about the people wanting meat (quail) to eat, Miriam and Aaron (his family) speak against their own brother Moses, who is God's leader. They held high positions. Miriam was a prophetess (Exo.15:20) and Aaron was Israel's High Priest. They didn't like that he had married an Ethiopian woman; a Cushite, a descendant of Ham; a foreigner. We see jealousy and racial prejudice flaring up in this passage. All of this is going on in his family. Their criticism was twofold: 1. Against his wife. 2. Against his leadership.

12:2 And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it. Triggers are everywhere. Now, we see them challenging God given authority. They think that they could do a better job than Moses. They think God wants to speak through them. And before they could end those words, it says "*And the Lord heard it.*" Well, this is not good.

12:3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.). This scripture really compliments Moses. This put him above all men upon the face of the earth. "Meek" means gentle, quiet, humble, and disciplined in heart and spirit, strength to hold back emotions because of love; strength to carry loads when faced with difficult situations. Meek is not being weak. It means you're able to keep it together. My acronym for "Meek" is: "MILD EXISTING EVIDENCE KEPT."

12:4 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. The Lord began to speak to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam suddenly, immediately, unexpectedly telling them to come to the tabernacle of the congregation. They did as the Lord instructed. God didn't speak to them without having the one present they were talking about. Moses is there to hear this too.

12:5 And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle,



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and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. The Lord had to immediately get His point across. We have got to remember who our enemy is. Our house is not to be divided, especially leaders. And if they want to be leaders, they have to do it God's way. God's presence came down and stood in the door of the tabernacle in the pillar of the cloud. He called Aaron and Miriam to Him. And they came. Our words we say about someone else can't be hidden from God. They'll surface back up again. Forgive me Lord!

Can you remember the time when Aaron gave in to the people instead of honoring God (the golden calf situation).

12:6 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. With a firm authoritative voice, God 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."* As people would say, you heard what I said. There is no need to ask anyone else what was said. God said He spoke to prophets by means of dreams and visions.

12:7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. God makes it clear that this is not so with Moses, who was faithful in all of God's House. God sees Moses as special, whom He chose in spite of what he had done, to lead all His people out of Egypt, and be faithful with His tabernacle.

12:8 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 is saying to them that the conversations He has with Moses is face to face, mouth to mouth, not in the dark speeches and similitude (occurs when we think God is saying one thing to us, only to find out later that He was actually speaking about something rather different). *"How do you dare speak against my servant Moses?" "Weren't you afraid to speak against God's servant Moses?"*

12:9 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and he departed. God didn't say another Word, for His anger did the talking. His anger was provoked and ignited against them, and He departed; disappeared.

II. MOSES INTERCEDES FOR MIRIAM NUMBERS 12:10-16

12:10 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. God said what He had to say and did what He had to do, and the cloud departed; disappeared. ¹Miriam and Aaron had no right to complain about this. So, God acted against them. He punished Miriam. She became leprous, white as snow, a disease that affected her skin.

12:11 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. However, God did not punish Aaron like this at the same time, but both were equally guilty. Maybe it was because he was the one who cried out on behalf of Miriam and himself to Moses calling him lord and acknowledging that both of them had done foolishly and sinned.

12:12 Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/numbers-11-20-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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his mother's womb. This disease caused her to look like one that was dead. ²The "leper" was "as one dead" in two respects—

1. as being shut out from interaction with his brethren.
2. as causing ceremonial defilement in the case of those who were brought into contact with him, similar to that which was caused by touching a dead body.

"The flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb" gives the picture of a still-born child that had been dead some time in its mother's womb; and therefore, when brought forth its flesh is almost wasted away, or at least half consumed. And Aaron didn't want Miriam to go through such.

12:13 And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. Immediately after hearing his brother Aaron, Moses cried out to the Lord: **Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee!**

12:14 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. The Lord uses an eastern expression of contempt when He says *"If her father had but (in displeasure) spit in her face"*, should she not be ashamed seven days? Seven days was the time appointed for cleansing the unclean. So, God imparts for her to be shut out from the camp for seven days, and afterwards she can be let back in and received as clean. This was something that could be swept under the rug, and we forget about it, no! It was a warning to others to keep them from the same transgression.

12:15 And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. And it was so, that Miriam was shut out of the camp for seven days. And the camp didn't move until Miriam completed those seven days and was received back in again. ³The camp could not move until she returned. People with diseases that affected the skin had to live away from other people. This was so that they did not give the disease to other people. But also, they had to stay outside the camp after the disease had gone. They had to show that it had gone. Also, they had to purify themselves by means of special ceremonies (Leviticus 14:1-32). These were the rules about people with diseases that affected the skin. So, her sin delayed the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land.

12:16 And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran. It's time for the Israelites to move from Hazeroth and move to pitch their tents in the wilderness of Paran.

SUMMARY:

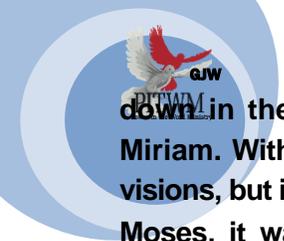
Moses' sister and brother (Miriam and Aaron) began to speak against Moses, their brother. Speaking against Moses because he had married an Ethiopian woman and saying, *"Has the Lord spoken only by Moses? has He not spoken also by us?"* And God heard them. The bible says, *"Then the anger of the Lord grew hot against them, and He departed"* (TLB). Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth. God calls all three of them to the Tabernacle, as He came

² <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/numbers/12-12.htm>

³ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/numbers-11-20-lbw.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, calling forth Aaron and Miriam. With a firm authoritative voice, God said that He spoke to prophets by means of dreams and visions, but it was not so with Moses who was faithful in all of His house. When He had conversations with Moses, it was face to face, mouth to mouth. *"And were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"* And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and He departed (12:1-9).

The cloud departed from off the tabernacle and Miriam was stricken with leprosy. Aaron cries out for forgiveness to Moses (acknowledging Moses' superior position) saying, *"we have done foolishly"*, and Moses intercedes for them to God to heal Miriam. Aaron didn't want this disease to cause her to look like one that was dead. He didn't want Miriam to go through having her flesh being half consumed as a still-born would come out of the mother's womb. God considered this a serious sin and compared this to a father spitting in her face, which was the ultimate insult. Miriam had attempted to embarrass Moses publicly; in turn God embarrassed her publicly with leprosy for seven days and putting her outside the camp. Once again God was lenient, it could have been more. And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. And afterwards it was time for the Israelites to move from Hazeroth and move to pitch their tents in the wilderness of Paran (12:10-16).

