

Numbers 11:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.

Analysis

When judgment fire from God consumed the outskirts of the camp, the people cried to Moses who interceded in prayer. This established Moses' role as mediator between holy God and sinful people, prefiguring Christ our ultimate Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5). The immediate cessation of fire at Moses' prayer demonstrates God's responsiveness to intercessory prayer and His desire for mercy over judgment.

Historical Context

This incident occurred at Taberah ('burning'), likely early in the wilderness journey. The complaining began almost immediately after leaving Sinai, revealing how quickly Israel forgot God's provision and turned to grumbling.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' intercessory role point you toward Christ's ongoing intercession for believers?
2. When facing consequences of sin, do you turn to God in repentance or continue in complaint?

Interlinear Text

מָרַח	וַיַּצְא	וְעַ	אֶל	מִשְׁאָה	וַיַּתְפַּלֵּל	מִשְׁאָה
cried	And the people	H413	and when Moses	prayed	and when Moses	
H6817	H5971		H4872	H6419	H4872	
אֶל	וְעַ	וַיַּצְא	מִשְׁאָה	בְּאֹשֶׁן		
H413	unto the LORD	H3068	was quenched	H8257	the fire	H784

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 21:7 (Prayer): Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

James 5:16 (Prayer): Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.