

# Numbers 12:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

Miriam's leprosy appeared instantly as judgment for her rebellion, making her 'white as snow'—the distinctive appearance of advanced leprosy. The disease's immediacy demonstrated divine origin of the punishment. Aaron's cry 'alas, my lord' shows immediate recognition of their sin's severity. That Miriam alone received leprosy (though Aaron participated in rebellion) may indicate she instigated the challenge, as she's named first in verse 1.

## Historical Context

Leprosy rendered a person ceremonially unclean and required isolation outside the camp (Leviticus 13). For a prophetess and Moses' sister to suffer this public humiliation powerfully demonstrated God's defense of His servant Moses.

## Related Passages

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Why might God's judgment sometimes fall more heavily on instigators of rebellion?
2. How does swift divine discipline protect the community from spreading rebellion?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּעֲזַב־רֹאשׁ־עַל־בְּאָרוֹן־מִצְרָעָת־  
And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle  
H6051 H5493 H5921 H168 H2009

וְאֵת־מִרְיָם־בָּרְאָה־לְבָנָה־מִצְרָעָת־  
and behold Miriam and behold she was leprous white as snow looked and Aaron  
H4813 H6879 H7950 H6437 H175

אֵת־מִרְיָם־בָּרְאָה־לְבָנָה־מִצְרָעָת־  
and behold Miriam and behold she was leprous  
H413 H4813 H2009 H6879

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 24:9** (Parallel theme): Remember what the LORD thy God did unto Miriam by the way, after that ye were come forth out of Egypt.

**2 Kings 5:27** (Parallel theme): The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

**2 Kings 15:5** (Parallel theme): And the LORD smote the king, so that he was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house. And Jotham the king's son was over the house, judging the people of the land.