

Numbers 12:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Moses' intercession 'Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee' is remarkably brief and gracious given Miriam's sin against him. The Hebrew *refa na lah* (heal now, I pray) is only five words, showing Moses' meek spirit and immediate forgiveness. He does not demand her continued punishment despite her slander. This exemplifies Christ-like meekness—praying for enemies (Luke 23:34). Moses' intercession demonstrates that spiritual leaders must intercede even for those who wrong them, reflecting God's character who makes intercession for rebels (Isaiah 53:12).

Historical Context

Moses' prayer contrasts sharply with his sister's attack on him. Miriam had led the criticism (verse 1, singular verb in Hebrew), yet Moses immediately sought her restoration. His meekness (verse 3) was proven genuine by gracious response to personal attack. This established the pattern that godly leaders absorb personal wounds without retaliating while maintaining community holiness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' immediate intercession for his critic model Christ-like forgiveness?
2. What does it mean to be 'meek' in biblical terms versus worldly weakness?
3. How should spiritual leaders respond to personal attacks while maintaining community standards?

Interlinear Text

לְאַתָּה אָלָמָשׁ הָיָה יְיָהּ עַל־
cried And Moses unto the LORD saying her now O God
H6817 H4872 H413 H3068 H559 H410 H4994
לְהַנְּצָרָת אָלָמָשׁ
Heal H4994 H0 H7495

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:21 (Parallel theme): Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Luke 6:28 (Parallel theme): Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

James 5:15 (References Lord): And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.