

# Numbers 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

The phrase 'And the LORD spake suddenly' (Hebrew pite'om, פִּתְּאֹם) indicates immediate, unexpected divine intervention. God didn't wait for Moses to defend himself or for the situation to escalate further. The swiftness of divine response demonstrates both God's attentiveness to attacks on His servants and His sovereign authority to intervene in human affairs without human initiation.

The command 'Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation' summoned all parties to the place of God's presence. The tabernacle, where God met with Moses (Exodus 33:9-11), would be the location for divine judgment. By calling all three, God indicated that this was not a matter for human resolution but required direct divine arbitration. The movement toward God's presence is always the proper response to conflict—bringing disputes into the light of His holiness and truth.

The simple obedience 'and they three came out' shows that even in their rebellion, Miriam and Aaron recognized God's authority. They came immediately when God called, demonstrating that sinners still respect divine summons even while challenging human authority. This anticipates the final judgment when all humanity will stand before God's throne, and every mouth will be stopped (Romans 3:19).

## Historical Context

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The tabernacle of congregation (Hebrew ohel mo'ed, אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד) was the meeting place where God manifested His presence and spoke with Moses. The cloud descended there (verse 5), representing the divine glory. Calling Miriam and Aaron to this place emphasized the gravity of the situation—this wasn't merely interpersonal conflict but sin against God's appointed order. The public nature of this confrontation (the whole camp could observe the cloud) meant God's vindication of Moses would be visible to all.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does God's sudden intervention teach about His protective care for leaders under unjust attack and His timing in vindicating them?
2. How does the calling of all parties to the tabernacle illustrate that all conflicts should ultimately be brought into God's presence for His resolution rather than resolved merely through human negotiation?

## Interlinear Text

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אָמַר יְהִי הָעֵדָה כִּי אָמַר  
spake And the LORD suddenly unto Moses and unto Aaron  
H559 H3068 H6597 H413 H4872 H413 H175  
  
אַל מְרִי מִלְשָׁתָם: אַל שְׁלַשְׁתָּם: אַל  
and unto Miriam Come out And they three unto the tabernacle  
H413 H4813 H3318 H7969 H413 H168  
  
מִיעָד מִלְשָׁתָם: אַל שְׁלַשְׁתָּם:  
of the congregation Come out And they three  
H4150 H3318 H7969

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 76:9** (Parallel theme): When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah.

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