

Numbers 12:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

Analysis

God's anger kindled against Miriam and Aaron for their presumption in challenging Moses' authority. The departure of God's presence ('the cloud departed from off the tabernacle') signified divine displeasure, leaving them exposed to judgment. This withdrawal demonstrates that questioning God's appointed leadership is questioning God Himself, resulting in loss of His protective presence.

Historical Context

The cloud represented God's abiding presence with Israel (Exodus 40:34-38). Its departure was ominous, removing divine protection and exposing the camp to judgment. This foreshadows God's glory departing from the temple in Ezekiel's day.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How seriously do you take God's ordained structures of spiritual authority?

2. What are the consequences when God's presence departs from a person or community?

Interlinear Text

תִּקְרֵב אֵת יְהוָה תִּלְבַּד
was kindled And the anger of the LORD
H2734 H639 H3068 H0 H1980

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