

# Numbers 16:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

## Analysis

---

**And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying**—This terse introduction precedes God's shocking command in v. 21. The divine speech is directed to both Moses and Aaron, affirming their joint leadership despite the rebellion specifically targeting their roles (Moses as political leader, Aaron as high priest). The verb dabar (דֹּבָר, spoke) indicates direct, authoritative communication—not inference or interpretation.

That God speaks now, when His glory has appeared and 250 men stand with illicit censers, shows His patience is exhausted. The congregation has been warned through the wilderness (ch. 11, 14) but repeatedly chooses rebellion. This verse's brevity creates dramatic tension: what will the Holy One say?

## Historical Context

---

God's pattern in Numbers is to speak to Moses, who mediates to the people (Deuteronomy 18:15-18 foreshadows the ultimate Prophet). Here He addresses both Moses and Aaron, highlighting that the rebellion attacked the dual offices: prophetic leadership and priestly mediation. Both offices find fulfillment in Christ (Hebrews 3:1).

## Related Passages

---

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

---

1. What does God's speaking 'unto Moses and unto Aaron' teach about recognizing multiple legitimate authorities rather than demanding singular human leadership?
2. How should the church respond when God's Word clearly addresses a controversy, yet popular opinion resists it?

## Interlinear Text

---

לֹאמֶר: אֶתְר | אֶתְר | יְהִי הָאֵל מֶלֶךְ מַשְׁה אֶל מֶלֶךְ רַבָּבָב  
spake And the LORD H413 unto Moses H413 and unto Aaron saying  
H1696 H3068 H4872 H175 H559

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)