

Numbers 16:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

Analysis

Moses proposes a test: if the rebels 'die the common death of all men,' then God didn't send him. But 'if the LORD make a new thing' and earth swallows them alive, Israel will know 'these men have provoked the LORD.' The Hebrew 'beriah' (make new) indicates unprecedented creative miracle. Moses confidently invites divine vindication, certain of his calling.

Historical Context

No prior biblical account records earth opening to swallow people alive. This 'new thing' would unmistakably demonstrate God's judgment, removing any ambiguity about who truly represented divine authority.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. When have you seen God vindicate His servants through unexpected means?

2. What gives spiritual leaders confidence to appeal to God for vindication against false accusations?

Interlinear Text

אָמָם וְתַכְמָמָה כָּל אֲדָמָה יְמָתִין אֵלֶיה
the common death of all men If these men die

וְפָקַדְתָּם כָּל אֲדָמָה יְפָקַדְתָּם לֹא עָלָיכֶם
after the visitation of all men or if they be visited

וְהִנֵּה שְׁלַחֲנִי:
then the LORD hath not sent

H3068 H7971

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 22:28 (References Lord): And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you.

Lamentations 4:22 (Parallel theme): The punishment of thine iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Zion; he will no more carry thee away into captivity: he will visit thine iniquity, O daughter of Edom; he will discover thy sins.