

Numbers 16:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

Analysis

Immediately 'the ground clave asunder that was under them'—instant, dramatic fulfillment of Moses' prophecy. The timing's precision proved divine origin; the method's uniqueness ('new thing') eliminated doubt. God's swift response vindicated Moses and warned against presumptuous rebellion against His appointed servants.

Historical Context

This judgment occurred before the assembled congregation at the tabernacle, providing incontrovertible public evidence of God's endorsement of Moses and Aaron's leadership. The event became proverbial in Israel (Psalm 106:17).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's dramatic vindication of His servants encourage those falsely accused today?
2. What does immediate divine response to Moses' words teach about prophetic authority?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה בָּאָדָם הַיּוֹם יְבִרְא אֶת־יְהוָה: וְפָאַתְתָּ הַיּוֹם וְאַתָּה בָּאָדָם הַיּוֹם

H518 a new thing H1278 make H1254 But if the LORD H3068 open H6475 and the earth H127 H853

לֹא מֵאָשֶׁר כֹּל וְאַתָּה אַתָּם וּבְלַע הַיּוֹם פִּיכְלָב הַיּוֹם
her mouth and swallow them up H6310 H1104 H853 H853 H3605 H834 H0

בְּרִיד 1 שָׁאַלְהָ כַּיִם
with all that appertain unto them and they go down H3381 quick H2416 into the pit H7585

אַתָּה בְּאַלְהָ שָׁאַלְתָּ יְמִינְךָ תְּאַצֵּל יְמִינְךָ
then ye shall understand H3588 have provoked H5006 H376 H428 H853

יְהוָה:
But if the LORD
H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 55:15 (Parallel theme): Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.

Numbers 16:33 (Parallel theme): They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Job 31:3 (Parallel theme): Is not destruction to the wicked? and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity?

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