

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

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

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