

Numbers 16:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

Analysis

Simultaneous with earth swallowing rebels, 'there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.' This dual judgment—earth and fire—demonstrated God's comprehensive authority over creation. That fire specifically targeted those presuming priestly ministry showed God's jealousy for proper worship and His ordained priesthood.

Historical Context

The 250 incense-offering rebels were tribal leaders who claimed equal holiness with Aaron (v.3). Their destruction by divine fire vindicated Aaron's exclusive priestly role and warned against presumptuous worship.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does judgment on those who presume priestly ministry teach about approaching God rightly?
2. How does Christ's high priesthood provide the only legitimate access to God's presence?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵשׁ	וְאֵצָא הָ	מִאֵת	יְהוָה	וְאֵת אָכֵל	אֵת
a fire	And there came out	H853	from the LORD	and consumed	H853
H784	H3318		H3068	H398	

בְּקָרְבָּתָה:	מִקְרָבֵ בָּ	אֵשׁ	וּמִאֵת יָם	בְּקָרְבָּשׁ יָם	and fifty	the two hundred	men	that offered	incense
H2572	H3967	H376	H7126	H7004					

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 10:2 (References Lord): And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Numbers 26:10 (Parallel theme): And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, what time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men: and they became a sign.

Psalms 106:18 (Parallel theme): And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.

Numbers 16:2 (Parallel theme): And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:

Numbers 16:17 (References Lord): And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.

