

Numbers 16:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:

Analysis

Moses' response to Korah's rebellion was to fall on his face—a posture expressing both grief and appeal to God. Rather than defending his authority with argument or force, Moses immediately sought divine intervention. This humble response demonstrates that spiritual authority rests on God's appointment, not human assertion or self-defense.

Historical Context

Korah's rebellion challenged the entire structure of authority God established through Moses and Aaron. Moses' prostration echoed his response at previous crises (14:5), showing consistent pattern of turning to God when leadership was questioned. True spiritual authority is comfortable letting God vindicate His own appointments.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when your God-given authority or calling is challenged?
2. What does it mean to let God defend you rather than defending yourself?

Interlinear Text

וַשְׁמָע	מֹשֶׁה	וַיִּפֹּל	עַל	פָּנָיו:
heard	And when Moses	it he fell	H5921	upon his face
H8085	H4872	H5307		H6440

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 14:5 (References Moses): Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

Numbers 20:6 (References Moses): And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.