

# Numbers 16:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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יָשָׁם עָלָיו  
heard And when Moses it he fell upon his face

H8085 H4872 H5307 H5921 H6440

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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