

Numbers 16:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation.

Analysis

"Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation"—they approach not in triumph but in intercession. Despite being vindicated by yesterday's judgment, despite being accused unjustly today, they move toward God's presence to stand between the people and deserved wrath. This prefigures Christ, the mediator who stands between holy God and guilty humanity (1 Timothy 2:5).

Their coming before (el-pene, אֶל-פָּנָי, literally "to the face of") the tabernacle demonstrates covenant boldness—they approach because God has appointed them, not because they presume. True spiritual authority combines confidence in divine calling with humility before divine holiness.

Historical Context

Moses and Aaron repeatedly interceded for rebellious Israel throughout the wilderness period—after the golden calf (Exodus 32:11-14), after the spies' report (Numbers 14:13-19), and here after Korah's rebellion. Their persistent mediation despite repeated rejection models Christ's intercession (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25) and previews pastoral ministry's calling to stand between God and people.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Moses and Aaron's immediate intercession despite being falsely accused model Christlike spiritual leadership?
2. What enables leaders to repeatedly intercede for those who repeatedly rebel against their God-appointed authority?
3. In what ways does approaching God "before the tabernacle" demonstrate both confidence and reverence?

Interlinear Text

מֹעֵד אֶת־פָּנָי אֶל מֹשֶׁה וְאַaron | מִשְׁתַּחַת מִזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת־מִזְבֵּחַ הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
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