

# Numbers 16:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.

## Analysis

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**"Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment"**—God commands Moses and Aaron to separate themselves so He can destroy Israel rega' (רְגָע, in an instant). The urgency reveals divine wrath ready to fall. Yet remarkably, **"they fell upon their faces"**—instead of fleeing to safety as commanded, they prostrate themselves in intercession. This defiant mercy—refusing to abandon those who deserve judgment—previews Christ's mediatorial work.

The Hebrew kalah (כָּלָה, to consume/complete) indicates total destruction, the same word used of Sodom (Genesis 19:15). Only intercession stands between Israel and extinction. Their falling on their faces (naphal al-paneh, נַפְלָה עַל-פָּנֶה) demonstrates that effective intercession requires self-humbling before God, not self-exaltation before men.

## Historical Context

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This moment precipitated Aaron's dramatic act of running into the midst of the plague with his censer, standing "between the dead and the living" until the plague stopped (v. 46-48). That atonement saved Israel, foreshadowing Christ who stood between holy God and sinful humanity. The 14,700 who died (v. 49) served as warning that even God's patience has limits.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Moses and Aaron's refusal to flee to safety model the heart of Christ-like pastoral ministry?
2. What does their falling on their faces rather than obeying God's escape command teach about intercessory prayer?
3. In what ways does this episode reveal both the terror of God's holiness and the power of mediatorial intercession?

## Interlinear Text

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אָתָּה תְּאַכֵּל הַבָּעֵד הַזֶּה אֲתָּה מִתְּהִלֵּן קָרְבָּן מִתְּהִלָּה  
Get you up from among this congregation H2063 that I may consume H853  
H7426 H8432 H5712 H3615

עַל פָּנֶיךָ וְפָנֶיךָ גַּע  
upon their faces H5921 H6440  
them as in a moment And they fell H7281 H5307

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 16:24** (Parallel theme): Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.