

# 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

---

**"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'* (רגַע, 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*, נָפַל עַל-פָּנֶיָהּ) demonstrates that effective intercession requires self-humbling before God, not self-exaltation before men.

## Historical Context

---

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

---

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

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

## Study Questions

---

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

---

הָרָמוֹ	מִתּוֹךְ	קִעְדָּה	הִזְאֵת	וְאָכַלָּהּ	אֶתָּה
Get you up	from among	this congregation	H2063	that I may consume	H853
H7426	H8432	H5712		H3615	
כִּכְּגֵעַ	וַפָּלוּ	עַל	פְּנֵיהֶם:		
them as in a moment	And they fell	H5921	upon their faces		
H7281	H5307		H6440		

## Additional Cross-References

---

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