

Numbers 16:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun.

Analysis

As plague begins killing the congregation, Moses tells Aaron 'Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them.' The very priestly ministry Korah's rebellion challenged now provides salvation from God's wrath. Aaron's intercession between living and dead demonstrates the mediator's essential role.

Historical Context

Aaron's action prefigures Christ's intercessory work, standing between holy God and sinful humanity. The incense represents prayer (Psalm 141:2, Revelation 5:8), and Aaron's priesthood typifies Christ's eternal high priesthood (Hebrews 7:23-25).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Aaron's standing between dead and living picture Christ's mediatorial work?
2. What does priestly intercession halting plague teach about the power of prayer?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	מֹשֶׁה הֲ	אֶל	אַהֲרֹן	קַח	אֶת	הַמִּחְתָּה	וְנָתַן
said	And Moses	H413	unto Aaron	Take	H853	a censer	and put
H559	H4872		H175	H3947		H4289	H5414
יְהוָה	יָמַעַל אֵשׁ	עַל יְהוָה	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְשָׂם	עַל יְהוָה	קֵטֹרֶת	וְהוֹלִיךְ
H5921	fire	H5921	the altar	and put	H1980	on incense	quickly
	H784		H4196	H7760		H7004	H4120
אֶל	הָעֵדָה	וַיַּכֵּר	וַיַּכֵּר	עָלֶיהָ	כִּי	יָצָא	
H413	unto the congregation	and make an atonement		H5921	H3588	gone out	
	H5712	H3722				H3318	
הָיָה	לָהֶם	מִלִּפְנֵי	יְהוָה	לָהֶם	הַנֶּגֶף		
for them	for there is wrath	therein from off	from the LORD	is begun	the plague		
H7110		H6440	H3068	H2490	H5063		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 8:19 (Parallel theme): And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the service of the children of Israel in the tabernacle of the congregation, and to make an atonement for the children of Israel: that there be no plague among the children of Israel, when the children of Israel come nigh unto the sanctuary.

Leviticus 10:6 (Judgment): And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye

die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled.

Psalms 106:29 (Parallel theme): Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them.

1 Chronicles 27:24 (Judgment): Joab the son of Zeruiah began to number, but he finished not, because there fell wrath for it against Israel; neither was the number put in the account of the chronicles of king David.

Numbers 18:5 (Judgment): And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.

Numbers 11:33 (Judgment): And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.

Psalms 141:2 (Sacrifice): Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.