

# Numbers 16:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.

## Analysis

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Aaron 'stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.' This powerful image captures the mediator's position—halting judgment's advance through atoning sacrifice. The phrase emphasizes Aaron's positioning: he literally placed himself at the boundary where death ceased its progress. Yet 14,700 died (v.49), showing that while intercession halts judgment, it cannot prevent consequences of persistent rebellion.

## Historical Context

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This event vindicated Aaron's priesthood after Korah's challenge and foreshadowed Christ's greater mediation. Where Aaron's intercession temporarily stayed physical death, Christ's sacrifice permanently conquers spiritual death for believers.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does Aaron's positioning between dead and living illustrate Christ's mediatorial work?
2. What does the death toll despite intercession teach about the seriousness of sin's consequences?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּעַמֵּד	בֵּין	הַמֵּתִים	וּבֵין	הַחַיִּים	וַיִּשְׁתַּעֲר
And he stood	H996	between the dead	H996	and the living	was stayed
H5975		H4191		H2416	H6113
וַיִּשְׁתַּעֲר הַמִּגָּדָה:					
and the plague					
H4046					

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 24:25** (Parallel theme): And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.