

Numbers 16:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the plague was stayed.

Analysis

Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the plague was stayed—Aaron's return (שׁוב shuv) to the tabernacle entrance marks mission completion—intercession had achieved its purpose. The verb **stayed** (עצָר atsar, restrained/halted) indicates divine acceptance of priestly mediation, as Aaron stood **between the dead and the living** (16:48) offering propitiatory incense.

This dramatic scene prefigures Christ's greater intercession—standing between humanity (dead in sins) and God (source of life), making atonement that stops death's advance. Aaron's immediate response to Moses' command (16:46) demonstrates that effective intercession requires prompt obedience, proper authorization, and sacrificial positioning in the place of danger.

Historical Context

The tabernacle's entrance served as the meeting point between human priests and divine presence. Aaron's return there after stopping the plague symbolized presenting the results of his intercession to both God (in the tabernacle) and Moses (representing the people).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Aaron's positioning 'between the dead and living' (16:48) illustrate Christ's mediatorial work?
2. What does the immediate effectiveness of Aaron's intercession teach about the urgency and power of prayer?
3. How can you position yourself as an intercessor 'between' those facing spiritual death and God's life-giving presence?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּשָׁב	וְאַבְרָהָם	אַל	מֵשֶׁה	אַל	פָּתָח	אַל	כָּל
returned	And Aaron	H413	unto Moses	H413	unto the door	of the tabernacle	
H7725	H175		H4872		H6607		H168
מֹעֵד	וּבְמִגְּדָּה	וְנִעְצָה:					
of the congregation	and the plague	was stayed					
H4150	H4046	H6113					

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