

# Numbers 20:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

## Analysis

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The phrase 'And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly' indicates they left the complaining crowd to seek God. Rather than arguing with the people or defending themselves, they brought the crisis to God. This pattern—withdrawal from human conflict to divine presence—characterizes godly leadership. The 'door of the tabernacle of the congregation' was the place of meeting with God (Exodus 29:42-43), where divine glory appeared and God spoke with Moses.

The action 'and they fell upon their faces' expresses both humility before God and desperation in crisis. Prostration was a posture of worship, submission, and intercession. Moses and Aaron didn't come to God with demands or accusations but with humble dependence. This contrasts sharply with the people's response to crisis: they gathered against leadership in rebellion, while leadership gathered before God in prayer. The difference between these responses illustrates the distinction between flesh and spirit, unbelief and faith.

The result 'and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them' shows God's response to humble prayer. When leaders bring congregational crisis to God rather than trying to resolve it through human wisdom, God manifests His presence and power. The appearing glory indicates God's readiness to intervene, provide, and guide. This pattern appears throughout Scripture: crisis drives the faithful to

prayer, which brings divine presence and provision (Exodus 33:7-11; 1 Kings 8:10-11; Acts 4:23-31).

## Historical Context

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The tabernacle of congregation was the tent of meeting where God's presence dwelt among Israel. The glory of the LORD (Hebrew *kavod* YHWH, כְּבוֹד יְהוָה) represented the visible manifestation of divine presence—likely a bright, luminous cloud (compare Exodus 24:16-17; 40:34-38; 1 Kings 8:10-11). This theophanic appearance demonstrated God's accessibility to leaders who sought Him and His readiness to address the people's needs despite their rebellion. The contrast between the people's hostile gathering and the leaders' humble prayer set the stage for God's intervention.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does Moses and Aaron's response to congregational crisis—going to God rather than arguing with people—model the priority of prayer over human defense in ministry?
2. What does the appearance of God's glory in response to humble prayer teach about how God meets those who seek Him in dependence rather than self-sufficiency?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיָּבֹא	מֹשֶׁה	וְאַהֲרֹן	פְּנֵיהֶם	הַקָּהָל	אֶל
went	And Moses	and Aaron	from the presence	of the assembly	
H935	H4872	H175	H6440	H6951	H413
פָּתַח	אֶת הַדֶּלֶת	מִן מוֹעֵד	וַיִּפְּלוּ	עַל	
unto the door	of the tabernacle	of the congregation	and they fell		
H6607	H168	H4150	H5307		H5921
פְּנֵיהֶם	וַיֵּרָא	כְּבוֹד	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם:	
from the presence	appeared	and the glory	of the LORD		
H6440	H7200	H3519	H3068		H413

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 14:5** (References Moses): Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

**Numbers 16:22** (Parallel theme): And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?

**Numbers 16:4** (References Moses): And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:

**Numbers 16:19** (Glory): And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

**Numbers 16:45** (Parallel theme): Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.