

Timeline of Truth: Aaron and Miriam Complain (Numbers 12)

Overview:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God commands a Census (1:1-19) 2. Results of the Census and the Levites (1:20-54) 3. The Ordering of the Camp (2:1-34) 4. Presenting the Tribe of Levi (3:1-13) 5. The Census of the Tribe of Levi (3:14-51) 6. The Duties of the Levites (4:1-33) 7. The Numbering of the Levites (4:34-49) 8. Laws Concerning Leprosy, Restitution, Holy Things, and Unfaithfulness and Jealousy (5:1-31) 9. Law of the Nazirite (6:1-21), How to Bless (6:22- | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 27) 10. The Consecration and Offerings of the Levites (7:1-89) 11. The Lampstand and the Cleansing of the Levites (8:1-26) 12. Laws of the Passover (9:1-14) 13. The Cloud and the Fire (9:15-23) 14. The Silver Trumpets (10:1-10) 15. The Israelites Move (10:11-36) 16. Israel Complains (11:1-35) |
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<p>Numbers 12:1-2 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. ² So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard <i>it</i>.</p>	<p>1. Miriam and Aaron Speak _____ Moses</p> <p>a. The _____ of their complaint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because he marries an Ethiopian • Ethiopian – lit. "Cushite" • One theory is that Zipporah, his wife died and that at this time he remarried – perhaps one of those other people who followed the Israelites out of Egypt. <p>b. The _____ complaint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They wanted the same position as Moses • Jealousy
<p>³ (Now the man Moses <i>was</i> very humble, more than all men who <i>were</i> on the face of the earth.)</p>	<p>2. Moses' Good _____</p> <p>a. Humility - אָנָּוּן <i>ana</i> - poor, afflicted, humble, meek</p> <p>b. More humble than anyone else</p>
<p>⁴ Suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!" So the three came out. ⁵ Then the LORD came down in the pillar of cloud and stood <i>in</i> the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward.</p>	<p>3. God _____ Moses, Aaron and Miriam to Him God was going to resolve this issue.</p>
<p>⁶ Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, <i>I</i>, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. ⁷ Not so with My servant Moses; He <i>is</i> faithful in all My house. ⁸ I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?"</p>	<p>4. God _____ Moses</p> <p>a. God presents a prophet as an _____:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God speaks to prophets • Only in dreams and visions <p>b. God _____ Moses with the prophet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God speaks to Moses • God speaks to Moses in person • Moses has seen God <p>c. Miriam and Aaron should have <u>feared</u> to speak against Moses.</p>
<p>⁹ So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed. ¹⁰ And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam <i>became</i> leprous, as <i>white as snow</i>. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper.</p>	<p>5. Miriam becomes a _____</p> <p>a. God became angry with Aaron and Miriam Lit. "The burning of the nose of the Lord went among them."</p> <p>b. Miriam became a leper.</p>
<p>¹¹ So Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord! Please do not lay <i>this</i> sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. ¹² "Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is</p>	<p>6. Aaron _____ for Miriam</p> <p>a. Aaron <u>begs</u> for Moses to remove their sin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please - בָּקַשׁ – <i>bi</i> - part. of entreaty, craving

<p>half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb!"</p>	<p>permission to address a superior, always foll. by אֲדֹנָי – <i>adonai</i> – lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay – set or place • Aaron admits to acting foolishly and sinning <p>b. Aaron asks on Miriam’s behalf</p>
<p>¹³ So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!"</p>	<p>7. Moses _____ to God</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Moses cried out b. Lit. "God, I pray to heal I pray to her" c. Moses showed mercy to those who had sinned against him.
<p>¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received <i>again</i>."</p>	<p>8. God Shows _____ to Miriam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lit. "If her father spitting, spit in her face..." b. Spit - קִרַּף - <i>yaraq</i> - spit -- Qal as token of contempt. c. The idea seems to be if she had done something that had earned the punishment of her father spitting in her face, she would have hidden herself for seven days – therefore she should no less be removed from the camp for seven days as a punishment for her sin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shut out – shut or close d. There was a promise that she would be restored at the end of seven days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received – to gather – in the nihil stem – to be assembled – so lit "she will assemble" – so she will be assembled with the rest of the camp.
<p>¹⁵ So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey till Miriam was brought in <i>again</i>. ¹⁶ And afterward the people moved from Hazeroth and camped in the Wilderness of Paran.</p>	<p>9. Israel _____ for Miriam</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Israel seemed to be concerned with Miriam – that they waited for her. b. If they did not journey – the cloud did not move – God was not forsaking Miriam c. After the seven days were over, Israel moved.

Applications:

1. God takes sin seriously, but especially concerning those He has appointed as leaders.

Romans 13:1-7 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.
2. God is willing to forgive us our sins (but the consequences may remain).
3. God, even when we are facing the consequences of our sin, remains with us to help us.