

Miriam and Aaron Criticize Moses

Numbers 12

by Don Falkos

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Miriam and Aaron said, "The Lord has spoken through our brother Moses, but has also spoken through us."

The Lord heard them, and immediately summoned Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to the Tent of Meeting. The Lord descended in the pillar of cloud, stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle, and commanded Aaron and Miriam to step forward, "I reveal myself to my prophets in visions. I speak to them in dreams. In this way I have communicated with you, but not with my servant Moses. I speak to him face to face, clearly, not in riddles. He sees me as I am. How dare you criticize him?"

The Lord was very angry, and left them. The pillar of cloud lifted from the Tabernacle. Aaron looked at Miriam and saw that her skin was white with leprosy. He cried out to Moses, "Please, my lord, don't punish us for this sin we have so foolishly committed. Don't let your own sister be like a stillborn baby with its flesh half eaten away."

Moses prayed to the Lord, "O God, I beg you, please heal her."

The Lord replied, "If her father had done nothing more than reprimand her by spitting in her face, wouldn't she have been publicly shamed, required to live in disgrace for seven days? Quarantine her outside the camp for seven days. Then I will heal her, and she may return to camp."

Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until she had been brought back.