

EMMAUS EQUIPPING

COLLEGE BIBLE CLASSES

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Analysis - Num12

Scripture

Num 12:1-14

¹And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses, because of the Cushite woman whom he had taken. For he had taken a Cushite woman. ²And they said,

Has Jehovah spoken only by Moses? Has He not also spoken by us?

And Jehovah heard. ³And the **man Moses was very meek, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.** ⁴And Jehovah said suddenly to Moses and to Aaron and to Miriam,

You three come out to the tabernacle of the congregation.

And the three of them came out. ⁵And Jehovah came down in the pillar of the cloud and stood at the tabernacle door, and called Aaron and Miriam. And both of them came out. ⁶And He said,

Now hear My words, If your prophet is of Jehovah, I will make Myself seen by him in an appearance; I will speak to him in a dream. ⁷ It is not so with My servant Moses! He is faithful in all My house. ⁸ I speak to him mouth to mouth and by an appearance and not in riddles; and he looks upon the form of Jehovah. So why have you not been afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?

“

⁹And the anger of Jehovah glowed against them and He left. ¹⁰And the cloud turned away from the tent. And, behold Miriam was leprous as snow! And Aaron turned toward Miriam and behold, she was leprous! ¹¹And Aaron said to Moses,

Oh my lord, I beg you, do not lay sin upon us, by which we have done foolishly and by which we have sinned. ¹² I pray, do not let her be as one who is dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb.

¹³And Moses cried to Jehovah, saying,

O God, I pray, please heal her.

¹⁴And Jehovah said to Moses,

If her father had but spat in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? She shall be shut out seven days at the outside of the camp and afterward she shall be brought in.

¹⁵And Miriam was shut out at the outside of the camp seven days and the people did not pull up stakes until Miriam was brought in.

¹⁶And afterward the people pulled up stakes from Hazeroth and they encamped in the wilderness of Paran.

Story Shifts

- 1 – New participants introduced: Miriam and Aaron oppose Moses.
- 4 – God suddenly intervenes, shifting the setting to the tabernacle.
- 5 – Focus narrows to Aaron and Miriam as God summons them.
- 9 – Shift from divine speech to judgment; God departs.
- 15 – Miriam is excluded from the camp; Israel pauses travel.

Connections Between Paragraphs/Episodes

- 1-2 – Authority and leadership challenged.
- 6-8 – Contrast between general prophets and Moses' unique access to God.
- 13 – Moses' intercession reflects humility.

Interchange

- 11-12 – Aaron (previously an accuser) now pleads with Moses.

Chiasm (Symmetry)

- 3 – Moses' humility vs the accusation.
- 14 – Shame leads to exclusion, then restoration - corresponds with humility (forgiveness), justice and mercy (meekness)

Inclusio (Bracketing)

- 2 – Moses' authority being questioned
- 10 – Miriam's leprosy punishment for her rebellion.
- 16 – Restoration complete - people moved on, provides closure (physically leaving the location) to the initial tension and questioning of Moses' authority.

Analysis - Neh1

Nehemiah 1:1-11

¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came, he and certain men out of Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, that were left of the captivity and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me,
The remnant who are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach. Also the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and the gates of it are burned with fire.

⁴ And it happened, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept and mourned certain days. And I fasted and prayed before the God of heaven, ⁵ and said,

I beseech you, O Jehovah, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and loving kindness with those who love him and keep his commandments: ⁶ Let your ear now be attentive and your eyes open, that you may listen to the prayer of your servant, which I pray before you at this time, day and night, for the sons of Israel your servants while I confess the sins of the sons of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Yes, I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have dealt very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances, which you commanded your servant Moses. ⁸ Remember, I beseech you, the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying,

If you trespass, I will scatter you abroad among the peoples, ⁹ but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts were in the outermost part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place that I have chosen, to cause my name to dwell there.

¹⁰ Now these are your servants and your people whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, I beseech you, let now your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your servants, who delight to fear your name, and I beseech you, prosper your servant this day and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Connection

- Background (vs 1-3) with Prayer (vs 4-11)
- Israelites (vs 9) with current citation and people (vs10)

Pivot

Prayer (vs 8) with Moses (vs 9)

Chiasm in Nehemiah's prayer

- ❖ I beseech you, O Jehovah,
 - the God of heaven, the great and awesome God,
 - who keeps covenant and loving kindness with those who love him and keep his commandments:
 - ⁶ Let your ear now be attentive and your eyes open, that you may listen to the prayer of your servant, which I pray before you at this time, day and night, for the sons of Israel your servants while I
 - ◆ confess the sins of the sons of Israel, which we have sinned

against you.

- ◆ Yes, I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have dealt very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances, which you commanded your servant Moses.
- ⁸ Remember, I beseech you, the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, If you trespass, I will scatter you abroad among the peoples, ⁹ but if you return to me and
 - keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts were in the outermost part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place that I have chosen, to cause my name to dwell there. ¹⁰ Now these are your servants and your people whom you have redeemed by
 - your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹
- ❖ O Lord, I beseech you, let now your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your servants, who delight to fear your name, and I beseech you, prosper your servant this day and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.

Inclusio

Vs 1

Setting - time & Location

Vs 11

Setting - job, cupbearer