

The OT in the Life of the Believer

Lecture XXII

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Before the vacation we were looking at Num. 12. We were looking at that section that read from ch. 11 thro 12 - disaffection and rebellion with ch. 12 being its climax in its rebellion among the leaders. And we had noticed all the sections of this, various sections of which we have dealt with Roman numeral IV which had several subsections. But we did not mention, or we barely mentioned No. 5. There was a subsection 5 just before it, so that you won't get confused with your outline. It is

5. Miriam's Punishment. That is made up of vs. 10-16. I'll read those verses - (reading verses.....) Under this we'll make no. 1 a question

(1) Why not Aaron also? Aaron and Miriam had been murmuring against Moses. They had been criticizing Moses' family life. They had been saying that after all they were just as much God's leaders as Moses was. Why should Moses receive all this acclaim and not they an equal amount? And God had rebuked them. But now He punishes Miriam by making her leprous. There is no mention of a similar punishment for Aaron. Why then was the punishment simply upon Miriam in this case? I'm sure that supporters of Women's Lib would be very much upset about this. However I think that we have -- we can see that there is reason in it. Aaron probably felt much worse about his sister having this suffering than he would have about enduring it himself. It probably was a greater punishment for him to see her in this condition than for him himself to have had it.

More important than that, I think, is the fact that Aaron was to be the leader next to Moses in this work of God. Aaron was the High Priest. Aaron was. Moses and Aaron are always put together. Later on when there was a great rebellion ~~against~~ against Aaron God intervened, and God supported Aaron. Aaron was to suffer in this situation. Aaron was rebuked there. But Aaron was not to suffer ~~in~~ in quite the same way that Miriam did. It would have cut down his effectiveness later on. And I think that is important for us in the Lord's service. Where are those who sin, where there are those who act foolishly and who does not? Everyone at times falls into that which is wrong