

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

Today is Mothers' Day

Give a sock that needs darning to every mother? Bunny said that probably wouldn't be a very good idea.

- A mother talking to an old college friend said, "Remember, before I was married – I had 3 theories about raising children?"
- Well, now I have 3 children and no theories."

Halloween Card – Be My Valentine ??? Not quite what you expect for Mother's Day.

Last time we were at a place that came to be named Kibroth Hattaavah - Graves of Greed – because many people died after gorging themselves on quail. The people had complained about the lack of meat, Moses got frustrated, God raised up 70 elders to help him; God sent the quail in huge numbers, and the people ate the meat until they vomited it out of their nostrils, and many died.

SLIDE: 70 Elders

And, as we discussed, the text said that the 70 elders prophesized after the Holy Spirit came upon them – but just that time. They suddenly had an ecstasy of praise, and it began to overflow with thanksgiving – and they prophesized – they spoke

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

forth = and they declared the Glory of God in psalms and songs. It was from their spirit but empowered by the Holy Spirit – they couldn't have done it by themselves, they couldn't work it up – He must come upon them! Like at Pentecost, the people heard these men "declaring the wonderful works of God!"

SLIDE: 1 CHRON 25:1,3

David, together with the commanders of the army, set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun **for the ministry of prophecy**, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals. Here is the list of the men who performed this service: ... under the supervision of their father Jeduthun, **who prophesied, using the harp in thanking and praising the LORD.**

Now – last time when I mentioned this, I saw some people shaking their heads in disagreement that the term ‘prophecy’ could mean singing and praising God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

- Just so that you don't think that I don't believe in what most of us think of when we hear the word "prophecy", I want to make it clear that I do believe that prophecy sometimes means a person receiving a message from God (THAT I MOST DEFINITELY BELIEVE IN).

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

What I'm saying is a lot to time in the OT when the word prophecy is used, it isn't speaking about the future or about God giving a message to the people. Rather, it's people being filled with a spirit of praise and they then sing and speak forth about the goodness of God, thus uplifting the people. That's what happened here in Numbers Chapter 11.

And this leads us into Miriam, the sister of Moses, who is a main character in Numbers, Chapter 12. Miriam is described as a prophetess in Scripture. She did this through song under the praise under the Spirit of God. Let's read of the last time we heard about her:

SLIDE: MIRIAM'S SONG

"Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing.

Miriam sang to them:

'Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.'" Exodus 15:20-21

The people in Numbers Chapter 11 had complains about the harshness of the journey and about their menu choices. This

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

woman of God, this woman described as a prophetess, was guilty to another type of complaint – envy.

So let's turn to Numbers Chapter 12.

READ: entire chapter

SLIDE: NUMBERS 12

- Numbers 11 described two general rebellions of the people
- Numbers 12 rebellion is of Miriam and Aaron
- Miriam, leader of the women and a prophetess

The complaint of Miriam and Aaron was the complaint of envy.

We all know that people don't always complain because things are going wrong. Sometimes people complain because they are not in the spotlight. Sometimes they complain simply because they're envious. And in this, I want us to follow exactly happens.

Miriam – the elder sister of Moses. The last time we met Miriam – she was doing a charismatic dance on the bank of the Red Sea. She got her tambourine and began to lead all of the ladies. Now, any lady who leads a dance with a tambourine must be known

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

by a good number of ladies – at least a prayer group leader. But this lady was leading the wives of those thousand of women Israelites. Prayer group leaders don't have anything on Miriam – she really had got it together.

This lady was leading the feminine half of three million people. She obvious had **position**. She ought to have position because you'll remember that she was the sister of Moses. It was Miriam who waded in the Nile following Moses in the ark of bulrushes in Egypt. It was Miriam who suggested to Pharaoh's daughter about nursemaid

Now, she's a much older lady. Estimates are that she was 10–12 years older than Moses. Now, Moses himself was getting up there in years – remember, he was 80 when God called him at the burning bush. It's been three years since then, so he's now about 83 and that would make her about 95! So she's getting on – she's no spring chicken.

And evidently, Miriam resented Moses as the years went by. She was the older sister who probably change Moses' diaper when he was a baby back in Egypt. She resented him because he now had **authority**, he was the leader, he was the one who said "do this" and everyone did it.

Her complain was NOT because circumstances were bad – in fact...

- those were the complaints of the **spiritual babies**.

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

You have to hand it to her – you don't lead the feminine half of three million people if you're a spiritual baby. This woman also prophesied because the song that she sang – the whole camp of Israel took it up and sang it antiphonally back there in Exodus. It became a tremendous song, she became a prophetess, she was no spiritual babe – she'd been around her brother long enough that she knew a little bit about the ways of God.

She wasn't like those other people in the wilderness who complained every time they were tired or hungry or thirsty. **They were the complaints of the flesh** – the moaning and groaning of the body.

Remember when the **devil first came to Eve in the Garden**. He dealt with her on that level. Remember when she looked at the thing hanging on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – the very first thing she noted was that it was good for food! Straight for the belly. Good for food. That was the first approach of the devil – your appetite. The flesh, sensation. And that's almost always how it happens – spiritual babies get tempted on the outside – it's the appetites that get tempted first.

But, the very final temptation of the devil to Eve was that if she only disobeyed God it would make her **wise**. Which brought the devil back to his initial statement – you shall be as God.

- And you will find that almost every temptation moves from first tempting us with our appetites, then it moves to our soul,

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

appeals to our mind, to our intellect (we're too big and important to go only God's way), and finally the last it to our spirit – we want to be as wise as God Himself.

And the temptations for those who go far with God are not the appetite temptations – they're much deeper. Here's a woman of God – she's no spiritual babe; but she is **sinning in the same way as the spiritual babes – but she is doing it from a much deeper position.** **And her sin is the sin of envy and resentment**, bitterness. And they are sins of the spirit.

Miriam would never complain over the lack of meat or fish or vegetables. But she said to herself – *how come Moses has all the authority, how come he is the pastor of this camp and I'm not – I should be at least co-pastor. I prophecy, don't I? The spirit of the Lord is upon me, isn't He? I led the people in worship – how come I can't be in as much authority as Moses?*

➤ **But, of course, when you someone of Miriam's stature, you're not so unspiritual as to say that.**

If you notice, the person you resent – suddenly, everything about them becomes wrong. You resent them on Point B, and you find that Point A – which you had no problem with before – suddenly

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

becomes a tremendous problem to you. You find that if you resent them on one issue, that one issue colors all the other aspects of their life.

Let me illustrate it from this passage. She resented Moses from a very deep spiritual reason – she wanted authority like he had. Her rationality was *'I have power why don't I have the authority?'* But, she didn't say that – **she was too spiritual for that.** She said – *"how come you have authority considering you married a black woman?"*

SLIDE: FAKE COMPLAINT

*"Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses regarding the Cushite woman he had married, for **he had married a Cushite woman.** They said, 'Was it only to Moses that God spoke? Did He not speak to us as well?' And God heard." Numbers 12:3*

And God heard! Remember, when we complain and gripe, we're ultimately complaining to God! Moses wasn't with them when they were griping – he didn't hear what they were saying, but God did!

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

SLIDE: CUSHITE WOMAN

Did Moses have two wives? Not sure – some say Yes, but remember, Moses' wife and kids didn't accompany him to Egypt. They only joined up with the camp while at Sinai, so it may have been the first time Miriam saw her.

The High Priest Aaron and his sister, the prophetess Miriam, challenge Moses' position and authority. And, verse 1 tells us that the catalyst for their rebellion was Moses' wife. Moses' wife is as "that Ethiopian woman". Some versions will say "that Cushite woman". The disagreement comes from whether one believes that Ethiopia in North Africa was indeed the territory founded by Cush, or was Cush's territory actually the area that included Midian? In fact the original Hebrew is *Kuwshith*, which literally means Cushite.

So what did Aaron and Miriam have against Moses' wife, the Cushite woman? We're not told. If we take this verse at face value, it may have been a racial issue. There's been a lot of speculation by Rabbis and Sages over just what is meant by "Cushite" as used in this verse. For sure, it is referring to the family tree of Cush, who was a member of the lineage of the cursed Ham. And, we know that Cushites were black-skinned people, usually identified with early Ethiopia (although not all scholars agree).

However this all presents a problem. Because in Exodus we're told that Moses was married to Tzipora, a Midianite woman.

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

Midianites and Cushites were two separate tribes, and Midianites were not a race of black people. There are a couple of general lines of thoughts on the matter: first, is that perhaps the Cushites occupied Midian at this point in history, and not Ethiopia yet. Next, is that the woman spoken of here is ANOTHER wife of Moses, not Tzipora Moses' first wife. I'm afraid that both of these are speculation and plausible to one degree or another. However, this single illusion to this Cushite wife is all there is in all Scripture to even hint that possibly Moses had more than one wife so I'm not too convinced that was the case.

ZIPPORAH

If we assume that Moses did not have a 2nd wife, some have wondered WHY, just now, would Aaron and Miriam express such shock over Moses' choice of Zippora as a wife (if that's who is being referred to here), since he married her quite some time earlier.....before the Exodus from Egypt.

As I said, Zippora did NOT accompany Moses to Egypt, but rather went to rejoin him on Israel's march out in the Wilderness. So, it could well be that Miriam had just now met the woman, and found her obviously to be NOT Hebrew....not even Semitic.... and so unacceptable to them. I kind of lean that direction.

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

After all, the rebellion of the non-Hebrews, *the resident aliens*, (Numbers 11) had just occurred and caused much death and destruction within Israel's camp. **So, for Moses to show up with a non-Hebrew wife.....especially a non-Semitic... would have been a sensitive issue right about now.**

She was dark-skinned at least, but **the color of her skin had nothing to do with the issue at all.** Miriam just some of Moses' authority. And, the moment she wanted Moses authority, she didn't like his wife, she didn't like the way he did this, she didn't like the way he did that.

- Because resentment and envy will color the glasses through which we look at life. And everything about the person were jealous of will become a problem for us, and we'll use every opportunity to suggest to others their "weaknesses".

Of course, being a very “spiritual” woman, she didn't go directly to Moses either. She went to Aaron, the older brother. And it is obvious reading the chapter that Aaron got involved. When God begins to deal in judgment, it's Miriam he deals with. She started it. But, Aaron listened. And he got involved too.

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

SLIDE – JEALOUSY

Envy is not a synonym for jealousy. Synonyms can be used interchangeably; envy and jealousy can't – or at least they should not. If you don't believe me, try substituting the word “envious” for “jealous” in the phrase: “For I the Lord your God am a jealous God.”

- **Jealousy is possessive and protective; it can be good or bad.**
God's jealousy — His possessiveness of His people — is a good thing; it protects us from being plucked out of His hand.
Joseph's brothers' jealousy — their possessive desire to protect their family standing — was a bad thing; it drove them to harm the younger brother whose dreams revealed that he would one day rule over them

SLIDE – ENVY

Envy is acquisitive, resentful, and selfish; it is always bad. It is different than coveting because it often involves a resentment against the person; we may covet another's goods w/o resenting them. Envy is a relationship issue – directed toward a person – Cain's hatred of Abel saw personal, not because Able had more stuff. God likes you best?

It wants what others have simply because they have it, bears grudges against those who have what it doesn't, and accuses God of

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

being unfair. Envy falls into two categories: material and spiritual.

Material envy says: “I hate them because they have better stuff” and **spiritual envy** says “I hate them because they have a better soul or are getting praise for things I deserve.”

Ex. The Pharisees & Jesus – For he (Pilate) was aware that the chief priests had handed Him over **because of envy.**

Mark 15:10

Pilate knew their envy was about who Jesus IS, not about what He possesses. They envy His greatness, His peace, His joy, His obvious relationship with the Father. They had Him crucified because of what He possessed from God, but not because of His possessions. Before Jesus came, they were the Top Dogs in the park. They now knew this was no longer the case. They envied His greatness. They envied His powers of healing and other miracles. They didn't deny them (see Matthew 27:41-42)– they envied them with evil intent.

- Gore Vidal – “Every time a friend succeeds, I die a little.”

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

ME – ENVY

I had to deal with this sin for a long time. I'm a quiet guy, not pushy in meetings unless I perceive someone will be hurt by what's being decided or stated. I would put forth an idea but it would not be accepted, but a particular person would offer the exact same idea three weeks later, he would be praised. I became very envious of that person, especially when he received promotion after promotion. Everything the person did was wrong when looking through my envy-colored glasses.

I prayed that I would find a way to break it. Then team-building exercise at a retreat center. We were presented with an exercise similar to the unwinnable *Kobayashi Maru* scenario of Star Trek fame. There were 10 groups of about 10 people each were given secret roles to play (mayor, head of town school board, private citizen, etc.). The situation was figure out how to act in this particular real life situation that might occur in our line of work – but it was *thought basically unwinnable because everyone around the table had to be happy with the solution*; it was rather a test of character and how you interacted with others.

Well, I **saw a way how to win** – and I offered my suggestion as to how it could be resolved. I received the usual treatment – blank stares, no discussion of the merits, and then the group would move on to the next person's idea. Something rose up within me and I could feel that envy and anger returning – and I didn't want to go

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

thru that again. Besides, I was with Maria – a trainee from my office that day, and I wanted to protect her from what I had experienced.

Lord help me – I silently prayed. I really didn't care as to whether my idea per se would be accepted in this silly team-building class; it was not wanting to deal with the envy again (not resolved) and not setting a bad example for a new person on the job. So, after all suggestions were exhausted and no solution reached, I was internally urged to again voice my idea and – this time – would not back off until it received a through vetting. And my strategy prevailed, and I had Maria presented it for the group.

The presenter was stunned – he thought the situation was unwinnable. *"In over 15 years of doing this training, nobody ever came up with a workable solution until today."* Maria got the praise, which was now OK with me.

Gossip, bitterness, envy – it's a deadly disease and it is very catchable. We saw this last time in Numbers 11. Once you start complaining about food and in no time, the whole camp is complaining. Aaron evidently hung around his sister. And his sister was complaining with envy about the other brother Moses. And Aaron should have known better. If Miriam knew the ways of God, Aaron should have known them a whole lot more (examples – high priest).

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

But when his sister began to bad-mouth Moses, Aaron said “yessss – I've often thought about that myself.” It wasn't long before Aaron and Miriam was speaking the same voice.

SLIDE: POWER WORDS

There IS Power in words – ability to build up or tear down – they reveal what's in your heart. **But, you say, I can't help it – I never think before I speak; that's just who I am: WELL – THEN, JUST SHUT UP!**

Don't even think that you're so open to the Holy Spirit that everything that pops into your mind is from God.

- “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” Jeremiah 17: 9

Psalm 73:13-17

“Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.
All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.

**If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.
When I tried to understand all this,**

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.

The Psalmist is saying that if he spoke out, **he would have polluted** those around him into believing that God is not just and does not answer prayer. Miriam let her insecurity and envy get the better of her and opened her mouth and **polluted** Aaron. *He was stinking* because of the polluted words of Miriam.

Now, some who have a tendency to be blunt might say "**well, she was honest – at least she spoke her heart!**" Isn't that a pity. If she hadn't spoken her heart, **this entire Chapter of the Bible would never have been written.**

- Think about that – an entire chapter of the Bible exists just because she spoke her heart about being envious of her brother – immortalized here in Scripture forever to her shame!

What a difference we see concerning the unnamed woman who anointed Jesus hair with perfume, **much to Judas' ire**. Jesus said that this was a prophetic act, that she did it to prepare his body for burial, and He said:

"Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."¹

¹ Matthew 26:13

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

- This woman at Jesus has quite a different epithet in Holy Scripture.

HUMBLEST MAN

The great Rabbis say that Moses did not overhear this grumbling of his siblings because it was not addressed to him; but God did hear. Therefore, that is why we don't see any reference to Moses going to God with the problem and complaint of Aaron and Miriam, as he had with the earlier complaints from the general population of Israel. And, the text immediately follows up, in verse 3, by letting all of us know that the charges implicit in their grumbling were false; that Moses was doing nothing wrong, and did not hold himself up as special or aloof, and in fact was "the humblest man in all the earth".

Does this statement strike you oddly? Remember, Moses wrote the Book of Numbers – he's writing that he's the humblest man on earth. If he was the humblest, why did he write that – **it seems to be boasting at how humble he is.**

- "I'm the greatest!" Mohammad Ali – it isn't boasting if it's true."

Now, the text said "*humble*". Some Bibles may say "*meek*". The Hebrew word is '*anav*' and it is often translated as "**meek**", especially

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

in the KJV and some other older versions based on Latin texts. Meek is not necessarily wrong. However, it is a word that is obsolete within our modern day English, and so we have trouble discerning just what "meek" means. Humble, I think, is the best word in our modern vocabulary to express what it is getting at.

And, **it is the kind of humble that one would find in a very poor person, who knows they have no power and very limited ability to control their lives.** Even in the Greek-based NT, where we see Christ say that the *"meek shall inherit the earth"*, you can substitute humble and be closer to the mark: ***"the humble shall inherit the earth"***. The idea is that it's not the leaders of the world with their great plans, huge egos and even larger armies that will eventually rule the planet and the people (although they certainly think they will). Rather, it is the regular folk, who don't have any power or delusions of grandeur, who will rule with Messiah.

The Lord now calls Aaron and Miriam on the carpet; He summons them, and Moses, to the Tent because this matter must be dealt with in a legal way. Yehoveh makes it clear that He has put Moses in charge of "all His household". Let us be clear what God means by this. The Lord's household, at least on earth, is Israel. The Lord established His household with the creation of Israel as a people set apart for Himself. Yehoveh put Moses in charge of that

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

household by means of declaration. In other words, Moses was just an ordinary flesh and blood man. He was no better or worse than any other man. But, God divided, elected, and separated Moses away from all other men for His own good reasons, and then declared Moses to be the master of His household, just as Pharaoh declared Joseph to be master of all HIS household.....Egypt. Moses bears God's authority and power just as Joseph bore the power and authority of Pharaoh back in Egypt. Yet, Moses wasn't God Almighty, and neither was Joseph the Pharaoh of Egypt.

That's interesting, because once the cloud of glory came down to the door of the tabernacle; nobody could get into the tabernacle.

- ✓ Think about that – Aaron was the high priest – he had a right to be in the holy place: God said "*No more – you polluted yourself with envy and jealousy, you can't go in, Aaron. I come to the door of the tabernacle – you stand outside now.*"

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

POWER VS AUTHORITY

What was Miriam's big problem? Why did she get into this state of mind? She thought that **because she had power** (she could prophesize), **therefore she had authority**. She said "I can prophesize like you can, why can't I lead the people?" Miriam believed that just because the power of the Spirit was upon her with prophecy, she deserved to have authority to lead the people. And out of that came envy and bitterness.

We can hear the same thing in many churches – I lead a prayer group, why can't I be a deacon? I teach the women, why can't I be an elder?

- **Be careful, you're words may be polluting people who were pure before they met you.**

Miriam was peddling a pollution that shut them ALL out of the tabernacle.

There's a big difference between power and authority.

- If someone walked into this church holding a gun in his hand, that's **power** you would admit. You would not hesitate, if it were in your power, to overcome that person's power. And, nobody would blame you.

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

- But supposing a man, holding the same gun, only this time he has a little tiny badge on his shirt that says 'State Police'. If I fool with him and try to overcome his power, I soon find that I'm in trouble with the rest of the state police and the all law enforcement agencies in the entire State of New York.

Because that man with that little badge has authority along with the power.

Just to have power doesn't prove anything. **It's authority that counts, then you can use your power.** Just because the Holy Spirit comes upon a person, it doesn't mean automatically they are elders, pastors, evangelists.

Eg; **Jim Baker** – money scandal, 'don't dare touch God's anointed!' Jim Baker fell in ruins, went to jail and now is a humble man again preaching the word of God to lead people to Jesus – the only thing he had the authority to do in the first place. He is a modern-day example of Sampson, fall from Grace, return to the true strength he had previously.

You see, the Holy Spirit gave him the power and authority of an evangelist, but he then mistakenly assumed he must also have the authority to be a pastor, teacher, ministry director, prophet... Oral Roberts (healing, evangelist builds hospital and university?), etc. Going beyond God's anointing to grab at the brass ring of authority.

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

Just because you prophesize doesn't give your authority to do anything. Just because you speak in tongues, bless God, then you can lead the singing on the banks of the Red Sea. That's great, but don't think that makes you an authority on how God's people ought to be led.

- **Authority is given by the Holy Spirit – when you meet that authority, you know you've met it.**

And just because you have authority to be an elder, doesn't mean you're automatically a prophet, or have **exclusive access to the word of knowledge**, or you're a **financial genius**. True authority only comes from Christ, not self-will.

SUBMISSION UNDER ABUSE

Now, I gave given such a message about authority in a previous church, and all those in authority shook their heads **'yes' – right on – preach it brother.**

- Well, what does the average member of a church do with this when someone in authority is abusing that power?
- How does a wife deal with her husband who thinks he can never be wrong because of his superior intellect and because he is the head of the house?

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

The solution is easy – One preacher said that his worst days are when his wife **goes into her prayer closet and prays**, and then **he gets into trouble with God**.

That sounds funny but that's exactly true. That was **David's path with Saul**. First, you take your issues to the person humbly, and if that doesn't change things because of arrogance or ignorance, then take it to God, and God will deal with that person. **David** went into his hiding places, his prayer closets, and prayed to God to protect him and set things right with his adversaries – and he left it there. He had on at least 2 occasions the opportunity to exact personal revenge and kill Saul in secret, but David let God resolve the situation.

- **Saul's end at the hand of God was much worse than anything David could have done**.

When Saul lost his final battle with the Philistines, he had to witness the **Ark of the Covenant** being captured, he had the **horror of seeing his son Jonathan killed before his eyes**, and he despaired and feared so much that **he killed himself with his sword**. David did not rejoice in this.

SLIDE: MIRIAM STRUCK WITH TAZR'AT

The price, the wages of this rebellion, was that Miriam was stricken with what most Bibles will say is Leprosy. Wrong. She was

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

stricken with Tzara'at. Indeed Tzara'at was a skin disease, but it was not Leprosy. Leprosy wasn't even known in that part of the world until hundreds of years into the future. Besides, the Hebrew word used here, Tzara'at, doesn't indicate a specific disease. There were several different levels and kinds of Tzara'at that ranged from minor to very serious. But key to understanding the term Tzara'at is that it is a spiritually based infliction. It is the outward manifestation of one's inward and hidden condition. It is a God thing, whereby Tzara'at is a punishment or a disciplinary action upon an individual, divinely caused.

Now, there is no mention of a punishment upon Aaron. I have no idea why. But, this is not the first time we've seen Aaron easily led into sin; he did so when the people cried to him to build a Golden Calf, and (although reluctantly), he did as they asked. This is a good reminder to us all that even though Aaron was High Priest, he was still just a man. He wasn't any less or more sinful in nature than those beneath him. He didn't have his evil inclination removed. Temptations were still placed in his way just as for us modern Believers. And, he failed from time to time (again just like us modern Believers), no matter his intent not to.

What should you do when you do feel feelings of envy and they are clouding your judgment? Follow Jesus' example:

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

"The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours."

⁸ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" Luke 4: 5

Satan was trying to get Jesus with envy – even if He (Jesus) turned him down, if Jesus' just mulled the offer over before turning it down would have been sin. And notice that Jesus didn't hold a debate with Satan regarding who had authority over all kingdoms – that would have been a diversion. It was true that individual men and women gave their lives over to Satan, **but God still was in control** – He owns the earth and can still control the Satanic-led kingdoms. Notice what God said thru Isaiah:

- "Woe to the **Assyrian**, the rod of **my** anger, in whose hand is the club of **my** wrath!"²

God controlled Assyria, and after He used it to chastise Israel for infidelity, He will destroy Assyria.

No – who owned the kingdoms was irrelevant – Jesus went immediately to the bottom line – God Alone is to be worshipped.

² Isaiah 10:5

The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron - Numbers chapter 12

Even if what Satan said was true, and it wasn't, it is irrelevant. No matter what, God Alone is to be worshipped.

'Shema, Yisrael. Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad.'