

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – November 18, 2018

Announcements

- A care package will be sent down this week to Anaheim for Debbie Willey and the other trainees from the Puget Sound. Cards are on the table - please sign the cards to encourage the trainees.
- There is no Wednesday night ministry meeting this week.
- The Thanksgiving webcast schedule is as follow:
 - Friday morning (message 1), 10:00 am
 - Friday night (message 2), 7:00 pm
 - Saturday morning (message 3), 10:00 am
 - Saturday night (message 4), 7:00 pm
 - Lord's day morning (message 5), 10:30 am
 - Lord's day evening (message 6), 6:00 pm
- Parents for children in grades 3-6 need to take their children to their classroom to sign them in. Also, please be mindful to quickly pick up your children after the meeting finishes.
- We will cover week 23 in the HWMR in Leviticus; copies are available in the bookroom.
- We are reading messages 19 and 20 from the *Life-Study of Numbers*. The reading schedule is on the table and posted on the church website.

Burdens for Prayer

- England Training Center
- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications (parking)

This Week: November 19-25		
Morning Revival: <i>Crystallization-study of Leviticus, week 23</i>		
Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Kirkland/Bellevue College Upstairs – Overlake		
Tuesday	7:30 pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	8:30 am	No breakfast
Lord's Day	9:30 am	Lords' Table

LIFE-STUDY OF NUMBERS
MESSAGE NINETEEN
JOURNEYING (4)

Scripture Reading: Num. 12

In this message we will be concerned with another failure recorded in the book of Numbers—slandering.

C. Slandering

In chapters eleven and twelve there was one problem after another among the children of Israel. First, those on the extremities of the camp of Israel murmured evil against Moses and against God, and then the mixed multitude lusted for meat. After this, Miriam and Aaron, Moses' sister and brother, both of whom were older than Moses, followed the tide of murmuring and rebellion to stand up against Moses and slander him. At that time, there was turmoil among the Israelites; there was no peace or quiet. There must have been a great deal of gossip circulating among the people, and this might have stirred up Miriam and Aaron to speak against Moses. I believe that their motive for doing this had already been with them for quite a time; it was not something new that originated at this juncture.

1. Moses Having Married a Cushite Woman

Numbers 12:1b tells us that Moses had married a Cushite woman. We are not told when Moses did this; neither do we have a way to find out where or why he did it.

**2. Miriam and Aaron Speaking
against Moses, the Deputy Authority of God**

It seems that, in Numbers 12, the children of Israel were in the season for murmuring, gossip, and rebellion. Thus, "Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married" (v. 1a). For some reason, they were not happy with Moses concerning this. However, the Bible does not tell us that God was bothered by this marriage or that He condemned it.

Moses, Aaron, and Miriam were blood relatives. They were all over eighty years old. Moses had been called by God, and Aaron also had been called by Him. We are not told that Miriam was called, but

the Bible does speak of her as a prophetess (Exo. 15:20). She had been ordained by God, and when the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, she took the lead in praising God (Exo. 15:21). All three of them were quite distinctive among the people. They were well-educated, they were close to God, they were knowledgeable in the things of God, and they were considered leaders among the people of Israel. Nevertheless, there were "germs" hidden within Miriam and Aaron that were stirred up by the "winds" blowing with the tide of turmoil. From this we need to learn that in the service of the Lord we should not allow anything negative to remain hidden within us. Any such thing that is not rooted out of our being will come out sooner or later. We need to be alert and aware of any germs that may still be in us. We may seem to be very good, but when certain winds begin to blow or when a particular "storm" or turmoil arises, we may be affected and involved. Then, like Miriam and Aaron, we will be exposed.

a. Because of Jealousy

One of the germs hidden within Miriam and Aaron was jealousy. Both Miriam and Aaron were older than Moses, with Miriam probably being the eldest. Being older than Moses, in their heart they regarded themselves higher than Moses and were jealous of the greater respect that Moses received.

Miriam and Aaron said, "Has Jehovah indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" (Num. 12:2). Miriam might have said, "I am a prophetess, one who speaks for God. God has spoken not only through Moses but also through me." Hence, the real issue here concerned the question of who had God's oracle. You may be used by God to speak for Him, but you may not have God's oracle.

At Moses' time the oracle of God was with Moses. According to the Pentateuch, God spoke to Moses many times. Whenever Jehovah wanted something to be done, He first spoke about it to Moses. Actually, neither Aaron nor Miriam was God's spokesman; only one, Moses, had the oracle of God. The jealousy concerning this was the germ that caused the "sickness" in Numbers 12. Throughout the generations, the germs of jealousy and rivalry regarding speaking for the Lord have existed among God's servants.

In speaking against Moses, Miriam and Aaron were speaking against the deputy authority of God. Although Moses was younger than Miriam and Aaron, God had appointed him to be His deputy

authority, His representative authority. God had called Aaron and had raised up Miriam, but there is no hint that God charged them to be His representative. But God told Moses clearly that He had chosen Him to be His representative authority on earth (Exo. 3:10-17; 7:1). Because of Moses' timidity, God gave Aaron to Moses as his helper (Exo. 4:10-16; 6:30—7:1). However, this does not mean that He appointed Aaron to be His authority. According to God's governmental administration, Miriam and Aaron should have submitted themselves to Moses. But they rebelled.

Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Leviticus*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, November 18 th	Acts 27:27 – 28:10
Monday, November 19 th	Acts 28:11-22
Tuesday, November 20 th	Acts 28:23-31
Wednesday, November 21 st	Rom 1:1-2
Thursday, November 22 nd	Rom 1:3-7
Friday, November 23 rd	Rom 1:8-17
Saturday, November 24 th	Rom 1:18-25