

Numbers 12: Miriam and Aaron

- Miriam and Aaron complain against Moses
 - What is motivating their complaint?
 - Moses' Cushite wife
 - Where is the land of "Cush"?
 - What *might* this imply about the motivation of the complaint?
 - What is the meaning of their complaint?
 - Has God *really* spoken through them, or is this just hubris?
 - Exo. 7:1, Exo. 15:20, Num. 11
- The humility of Moses
 - Who wrote Numbers?
 - Is this claim an oxymoron?
 - What is the background (and foreground) of this statement?
 - Moses experiences with theophanies
 - Exo. 3, Exo. 20, Exo. 24, Exo. 33, Exo. 34
 - The directness of God's revelation to Moses
 - Exodus 33:11 ("...as a man speaks to a friend")
 - Isaiah response to God's revelation (Isa. 6)
- God's response to Miriam and Aaron
 - Reiteration of the clarity of God's revelation to Moses
 - Sets the stage for clear of revelation to future generations of prophets
 - Deut. 18:18, 1 Sam. 3:21
 - "The word of the Lord came to me..."
(Jer. 1:11, 13; 2:1, 13:3, etc... contrasted against Jer. 14:14)
(Ezk. 3:16, 6:1, 7:1, etc...)
 - What does this imply about the authority of scripture as a whole?
 - Perhaps a different process for the "inscripturation" of historical books. (However, note that these books are located in the "prophets" section of the Hebrew canon)
 - This implies Miriam and Aaron were *really* complaining against the Lord
 - "...Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" (Num. 12:8b)
- Consequences for their complaints
 - Miriam struck with (temporary) "leprosy"
 - A punishment which fits the crime? (Recall where Cush is located)
 - Moses' intercession on Miriam's behalf
 - Aaron's consequences
 - What gives?!
 - Perhaps related to the need for continual priestly service