



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

MAY 2024

In chapter 16 of the Old Testament book of Numbers, we find a group of people rebelling against Moses and Aaron, causing God to intervene and take action against those who did so. In the latter part of the chapter God sends a plague on the people. As Moses and Aaron witnessed the people dying, they had a choice to make. They could step back and allow God's judgement to continue or do something about it. Because of their love for the people, their hearts broke, and Moses sent Aaron into the crowd to seek atonement before God.

In Numbers 16:46-48 we read, Then Moses said to Aaron, take your censor and put incense in it, along with burning coals from the altar, and hurry to the assembly to make atonement for them. Wrath has come out from the Lord; the plague has started." So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly. The plague had already started among the people, but Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them. He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped.

Aaron, holding his censor, stood between the living and the dead, and through his intercession, the plague stopped. This provides us with a powerful picture of what happens when someone cares enough to stand in the gap between sinful people and a holy God to plead for mercy. Aaron's actions are significant for a few reasons:

Aaron was a faithful intercessor and a model for future Christians. He exemplified compassionate, forgiving intercession. His actions paint a symbolic picture of God's servants intent on reaching and caring for others. In this same way, Aaron was a foreshadow of Jesus Christ, pointing to how Jesus would stand in the gap between us and our sins and a Holy God as he took on our sins through his death on the cross to provide us with forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.

Moses and Aaron responded by standing in the gap and the judgement halted. What about today? It doesn't take much to look around and see the condition of the world around us. This verse calls us to stand in the gap. Are we willing to do so?

Our world is in desperate need of gap-standers; people of passion who want to serve God by serving and interceding for others. Jesus stood in the gap for us, and He continues to intercede on our behalf before the Father.

Sir Knights, as we begin our new chivalric year, may we be a people who are willing to stand in the gap interceding for others around us. And in doing so, we will see God work through us in mighty ways.

Always and All Ways in Christ
Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate