

Stand Between the Living and the Dead

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God is a Holy God and sin must be judged.

Aaron Stands Between the Living and the Dead:

Korah and 250 others try to take the place of God's plan of redemption.

Korah and his family are swallowed by the earth.

The 250 Levites, who tried to stand in the High Priest's office, are consumed by the fire of God.

The rest of the people gather against Moses and blame him.

Numbers 16:44-49 – And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces. So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a sensor and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the Lord. The plague has begun." Then Aaron took it as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped. ⁴⁹ Now those who died in the plague were 14,700, besides those who died in the Korah incident.

God judges them and they begin to die (14,700).

Aaron runs and offers a sacrifice and stops the plague.

Jesus Stands Between the Living and the Dead:

John 3:16-17 – "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Hebrews 7:27 – Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Jesus was the High Priest and the offering!

Jesus was the living coal from the altar of God as he sacrificed himself.

Isaiah 53:7-8 – He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he never said a word. He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he stood silent before the ones condemning him.⁸ From prison and trial they led him away to his death. But who among the people of that day realized it was their sins that he was dying for—that he was suffering their punishment?

John 19:1-11 – Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe³ and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they struck him in the face.⁴ Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."⁵ When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."⁷ The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,⁹ and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"¹¹ Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above."

You Stand Between the Living and the Dead:

Mark 16:15-16 – He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

II Corinthians 5:17-21 – Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new person altogether. The past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.¹⁸ From first to last this has been the work of God. He has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and he has enlisted us in this service of reconciliation.¹⁹ To tell all that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting man's sin's against him. And has committed to us the word of reconciliation that God is at peace with man!²⁰ We are ambassadors therefore for Christ, God as [it were] beseeching by us, we entreat for Christ, be reconciled to God.

Jude: 22-23 – Try to help those who argue against you. Be merciful to those who doubt.²³ Save some by snatching them as from the very flames of hell itself. And as for others, help them to find the Lord by being kind to them, but be careful that you yourselves aren't pulled along into their sins. Hate every trace of their sin while being merciful to them as sinners.