

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Seven

Complete Shame of Sin

In the 12th chapter of Numbers Aaron and Miriam had spoken against Moses and claimed that God had also spoken to them. God's anger was kindled against Aaron and Miriam. To show his anger, Miriam was stricken with leprosy. Num. 12:9 "And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed. 10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. 11 And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. 12 Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. 13 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. 14 And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. 15 And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again."

Miriam had to bear the shame of her sin for seven days. This represented the complete shame of her sin. There is a shame to all sins. When Adam and Eve had transgressed in the Garden of Eden, they saw their own nakedness and were ashamed. It is a shame to sin. When we are convicted of sin, we become ashamed of our sins. Yet in all of our sins, to which we should be ashamed, Christ bore the shame of our sin as we read in Heb. 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Just as Miriam had to bear the complete shame of her sin for one week, Jesus bore the shame of our sins for us on the cross of Calvary.