

Acts 7:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

Analysis

After forty years, God's timing arrived. The 'angel of the LORD' appeared in the burning bush - understood in Reformed theology as a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ (Christophany). God's sovereign election is seen in choosing this specific time, place, and means to call Moses. The wilderness of Mount Sinai would become the location of covenant-giving, linking Moses' call to his future ministry. Divine initiative, not human readiness, determines the moment of calling.

Historical Context

Mount Sinai (also called Horeb) is traditionally identified with Jebel Musa in the southern Sinai Peninsula. This theophany occurred circa 1446 BC, marking the beginning of Moses' eighty-year ministry as deliverer and lawgiver.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Why did God wait exactly forty years before revealing Himself to Moses?

2. What is the significance of the Angel of the LORD appearing rather than God directly?
3. How does God's perfect timing in calling Moses encourage us in seasons of waiting?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	πληρωθέντων	ἐτῶν	τεσσαράκοντα	ᾧφθη	αὐτῷ			
And	were expired	years	when forty	there appeared	to him			
G2532	G4137	G2094	G5062	G3700	G846			
ἐν	τῇ	ἐρήμῳ	τοῦ	ὄρους	Σινᾶ	ἄγγελος	Κυρίου	ἐν
in	G3588	the wilderness	G3588	of mount	Sina	an angel	of the Lord	in
G1722		G2048		G3735	G4614	G32	G2962	G1722
φλογὶ	πυρὸς	βάτου						
a flame	of fire	in a bush						
G5395	G4442	G942						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Acts 7:35 (Parallel theme): This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

Isaiah 63:9 (Parallel theme): In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

Acts 7:32 (Parallel theme): Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.

Acts 7:17 (Parallel theme): But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

Psalms 66:12 (Parallel theme): Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

Mark 12:26 (Parallel theme): And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

Exodus 3:6 (Parallel theme): Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

Exodus 7:7 (Parallel theme): And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh.

Deuteronomy 4:20 (References Lord): But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.