

Acts 7:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

God identifies Himself through covenant relationship with the patriarchs, emphasizing continuity of His promises. The use of 'I am' (Greek ego eimi) points to God's eternal, unchanging nature - the same phrase Jesus used in John 8:58. Moses' trembling response demonstrates appropriate fear before the holy God. Reformed theology sees the covenant faithfulness of God displayed: though Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God remained their God, implying their continued existence and God's commitment to fulfill promises made to them.

Historical Context

This declaration occurred circa 430 years after God's covenant with Abraham (Galatians 3:17), demonstrating God's faithfulness across generations. The patriarchs had died centuries before, yet God's covenant remained in force.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does God's self-identification as 'God of the fathers' teach about covenant faithfulness?
2. How does this passage demonstrate the continuing existence of believers after death?
3. Why is fear and trembling an appropriate response to encountering the holy God?

Interlinear Text

'Εγὼ	ό	Θεὸς	τῶν	πατέρων	σου	ό	Θεὸς
Saying I	G3588	am the God	G3588	fathers	of thy	G3588	am the God
G1473		G2316		G3962	G4675		G2316
Ἄβραὰμ	καὶ	ό	Θεὸς	Ἰσαὰκ	καὶ	ό	Θεὸς
of Abraham	and	G3588	am the God	of Isaac	and	G3588	am the God
G11	G2532		G2316	G2464	G2532		G2384
ἐντρομος	δὲ	γενόμενος	Μωσῆς	οὐκ	ἐτόλμα	κατανοῆσαι	
G1790	Then	trembled	Moses	not	and durst	behold	
	G1161	G1096	G3475	G3756	G5111		G2657

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:6 (References God): 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.

Matthew 22:32 (References God): I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.