

# Deuteronomy 18:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

## Analysis

**According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb**—This recalls the theophany at Sinai (Exodus 19-20; Deuteronomy 5:23-27) when Israel, terrified by the direct divine presence, begged Moses to serve as mediator. **Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not**—The people's fear was appropriate reverence (Hebrews 12:18-21), recognizing that sinful humanity cannot directly encounter God's holiness and survive.

This verse establishes the theological rationale for prophetic mediation. God accommodates human weakness by speaking through prophets rather than overwhelming direct revelation. This foreshadows the ultimate Prophet-Mediator, Jesus Christ, through whom God speaks His final word (Hebrews 1:1-2; John 1:18). The incarnation is God's supreme accommodation—the Word made flesh, God's presence mediated through humanity, making the unapproachable approachable.

## Historical Context

The Horeb/Sinai theophany (circa 1446 BC, traditional dating) was Israel's defining covenant moment—thunder, lightning, thick darkness, earthquake, trumpet blast, and the audible voice of God (Exodus 19:16-19; 20:18-21). The

terror was so overwhelming that even Moses trembled (Hebrews 12:21). This experience shaped Israel's understanding that encountering the holy God required mediation. Moses functioned as the archetypal mediator, prefiguring the greater mediation of Christ who brings believers into God's presence without terror (Hebrews 10:19-22).

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does the terror of Sinai help you appreciate the grace of approaching God through Christ's mediation?
2. What does Israel's request for a mediator teach about the necessity of Jesus as the one mediator between God and humanity (1 Timothy 2:5)?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲשֶׁר	כִּכְלִים	שָׁא	לִפְנֵי	מַעַן	יְהִי	אֱלֹהִים
H3605	H834	According to all that thou desiredst	H7592	H5973	of the LORD	my God
בְּחִרְכֵּר בְּ	בַּיּוֹם	בְּקָרְבָּן	לֹא	לְאִמְרָא	אַסְרָא	לְשָׁמֶן עַ
in Horeb	in the day	of the assembly	saying	H3808	again	Let me not hear
H2722	H3117	H6951	H559	H3254	H8085	
אַת	קֹול	יְהִי הָ	וְאַת	אֱלֹהִים	פָּאָשׁ	הַזְּ אֶת
H853	the voice	of the LORD	my God	H853	fire	this great
H6963	H3068	H430		H784		H2063
לֹא	אָרְאָה	תִּרְאָה	לֹא	עַד	אֲמֹת:	
H3808	neither let me see	H7200	H5750	H3808	any more that I die	H4191

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 20:19** (References God): And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

**Deuteronomy 9:10** (References God): And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

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