

Deuteronomy 4:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.

Analysis

Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.

Moses states the purpose of Israel's extraordinary experience: lada'at (לָדַעַת, 'that you might know'). The Exodus and Sinai were not divine spectacle for its own sake but pedagogical revelation—God teaching Israel His identity. The verb hor'eta (הִרְאֵה, 'it was shown to you') indicates demonstrative proof, not theoretical argument. Israel learned God's uniqueness through experienced reality.

The declaration Yahweh hu ha'Elohim (יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים, 'the LORD, He is God') identifies Israel's covenant Lord with the one true God. This is not henotheism (Yahweh is our god among many) but monotheism (Yahweh is the only God). The emphatic ein od milvado (אֵין עוֹד מִלְּבַדּוֹ, 'there is none else beside him') excludes all competitors absolutely.

This radical monotheism would soon collide with Canaanite polytheism. Israel must understand: Baal is not a regional deity with legitimate claims in agricultural matters; Asherah is not a fertility goddess who complements Yahweh. There is no divine division of labor. Yahweh alone is God over all creation, all nations, all aspects of life. This foundational truth shapes all biblical theology and finds its fullest expression in Christ, 'the image of the invisible God' (Colossians 1:15).

Historical Context

Moses declares that Israel's experiences at Horeb and during the Exodus were designed to reveal that Yahweh alone is God. In the polytheistic Ancient Near East where each nation had patron deities, Moses' monotheistic declaration was radical, preparing Israel to reject Canaanite polytheism across the Jordan.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the exclusivity of biblical monotheism challenge contemporary religious pluralism and the assumption that all paths lead to God?
2. In what areas of life do you functionally live as though there were other 'gods' with legitimate claims alongside the Lord?

Interlinear Text

אָתָּה

H859

הָרָאָהְךָ

Unto thee it was shewed

H7200

לָדַעַת

that thou mightest know

H3045

כִּי

H3588

יְהוָה

that the LORD

H3068

וְהוּא

H1931

he is God

H430

אֵין

H369

there is none else

H5750

עוֹד

מִלְבָּדוֹ

beside him

H905

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 45:18 (References God): For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

1 Samuel 2:2 (References God): There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

Isaiah 45:5 (References God): I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

Isaiah 44:8 (References God): Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

Deuteronomy 4:39 (References God): Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

Isaiah 44:6 (References God): Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Isaiah 45:22 (References God): Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Psalms 83:18 (Parallel theme): That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Deuteronomy 32:39 (References God): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

Exodus 15:11 (References God): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?